



out with the old...



...and in with the new

photos Anne Budd

Many hands make light work of village hall facelift

The village hall has had an interior decor upgrade in line with the new kitchen and furniture acquisitions of last year. The management committee decided in January that the 10-year-old jade and plum colour scheme had had its day. The floor too was in need of sanding and re-varnishing.

Prior to painting the parish council accepted an offer of free teenage labour (supervised) from the Church of Latter-Day Saints. On two afternoons separate teams of boys and girls cleared and tidied the grounds.

Lanie Allen did the rounds of local firms with a begging bowl and sourced the following:

- a donation of paint from *Brewers of Newbury*
- a donation of materials from *Jewsons*
- a discount for scaffold hire from *Newbury Tool Hire*
- a team of volunteer painters from the staff of *Newbury Building Society*.

Preparation and ancillary work was carried out by a large number of village volunteers who turned out on several occasions during August. Work is now complete in time for the autumn term.

Earlier in the year the village hall received a £200 donation from Sovereign Housing trust as part of its community enhancement programme. The grant had originally been offered to support the village market, but as the market is self-funding the money was used (with Sovereign's permission) for maintaining the recreation field instead. This summer the field has benefited from fortnightly cutting by Bob Warwick. Thus it was in good condition for the Parish Party on 20 July.

See the refurbishments and judge for yourself at

the **Village Market** on Saturday 13 September, when in addition to the usual array of local produce there will be a manned information display about local broadband

the **Harvest Supper and Auction** on Friday 17 October - good food, wine and company. See What's On for booking details.



Village hall hire rates have been raised for the first time in eight years. The new charges take effect from 1 September.

general hire

1 - 4 hours at £6 per hour
4 hours + at £5 per hour

community use

1 - 4 hours at £3 per hour
4 hours + at £2.50 per hour

plus utility charges

May - Oct at £1 per hour
Nov - Apr at £2 per hour

The hall also has a supply of crockery, chairs, tables, tea urn, clothes rails etc which may be hired for use elsewhere.

To book the hall or equipment ring Anne Budd on 01488 657022.

Hamstead Hornet



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Record number of village houses for sale

North Lodge, pictured left, is one of seven village properties being advertised on agents' websites, together totalling £5.7 million in asking-price value. One is under offer, three have been on the market for over three months during which two of them have dropped in price, and one has changed agent.

North Lodge is being advertised by Knight Frank of Hungerford at £2.8 million. The former home of Lady (Williamina) Craven in the 1970s, this house has been in the same hands since the mid-1980s when the Craven estate was broken up. The main house is being advertised with various outbuildings, a separate studio/dwelling and fishing along 257 yards of the river Kennet. Most if not all of its 12.5 acres constitute a scheduled historic monument, because the garden contains the earthwork remains of William Marshall's medieval castle.

Two flats are currently being advertised for sale at Hamstead Mill. The larger has three bedrooms on the three floors of the octagonal tower, and is currently under offer with Knight Frank at a guide price of £375,000. Chancellors is offering a ground floor, two-bedroomed flat, also at the mill, for £249,950.

Waverley, a three-bedroomed bungalow in one-third of an acre near Ash Tree Corner is being advertised by Haines Residential at £465,000. Next door to the White Hart Mansard is in the hands of Hillier and Wilson at £475,000. Merrowmead at Chapel Corner has dropped from £675,000 earlier in the summer to £599,000, and is now with agents Rural Scene of Collingbourne Ducis. Barn House in Holtwood (formerly the barn of Holtwood Farm) has five bedrooms and 2.79 acres including another unconverted barn, for which agents Henry George are now seeking £750,000, having been looking for £825,000 earlier in the summer.

Tenants are also being sought for a one-bedroomed flat at Chapel Corner for £550 pcm, and for Masons Farm (advertised by Dreweatt Neate as Hamstead, but now in Kintbury) for £2,500 pcm.

BROADBAND a solution in prospect?

Significant progress has been made by the broadband committee in developing a solution to Hamstead's broadband problems using mobile telephony. A small number of installations have been running successfully for several weeks, but attempts to extend these trials have revealed the Vodafone 3G broadband signal to be unpredictable in the locations it favours. Testing for a signal on each potential site would be ideal to avoid the risk of wasted expenditure.

The committee hopes soon to be able to offer a testing service to individual households. Full details can be found in the committee's latest report, enclosed with this issue of the *Hornet* and on <www.hamsteadmarshall.net/broadband>.

If you are interested in obtaining broadband you should to read the report carefully, and be sure to register your interest by email to <frankellis@hamsteadmarshall.net> if you have not already done so.

There will also be a manned display of information on broadband options at the village hall market on Saturday 13 September.

The *Hamstead Hornet* is posted on <www.hamsteadmarshall.net> which also carries story updates and detailed village information.

The *Hamstead Hornet* is edited and published by Penelope Stokes at
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What's on

19.30-21.30 Thu 4 Sept	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall Maureen Iggleden will talk on flower remedies	Sue Watts 01488 658932
Fri 5 to Sun 7 Sept	beer festival at White Hart with hog roast and live music on Sat 6th	01488 658201
14.00 Sat 6 Sept	Enborne & Hamstead Marshall Garden Soc flower show at Hazel Paddock (opp Enb Sch)	01635 48701
14.00 Sun 7 Sept	guided walk around Elm Farm as part of National Organic Fortnight	01488 658503
20.00 Sun 7 Sept	White Hart quiz £2 per person - all proceeds to charity	01488 658201
10.00-13.00 Sat 13 Sept	monthly market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
20.00 Mon 21 Sept	parish council meeting in the village hall	Jo Wheeler 07766 692235
19.30-21.30 Thu 2 Oct	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall poetry evening with local writer	Sue Watts 01488 658932
20.00 Sun 5 Oct	White Hart quiz £2 per person - all proceeds to charity	01488 658201
10.00-13.00 Sat 11 Oct	monthly market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
19.30 Fri 17 Oct	Harvest Supper and Auction at village hall £7/£5 benefit St Mary's Church	book with 01488 658048, 01635 44868, 01635 47181
20.00 Sun 2 Nov	White Hart quiz £2 per person - all proceeds to charity	01488 658201
19.30-21.30 Thu 6 Nov	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) at Plumbs Farm making flower remedies	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-13.00 Sat 8 Nov	monthly market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
20.00 Mon 17 Nov	parish council meeting in the village hall	Jo Wheeler 07766 692235
19.30-21.30 Thu 4 Dec	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall Christmas party	Sue Watts 01488 658932
regular term-time activities in the village hall		
10.00-11.30 Weds	yoga classes	Inga Craven 01488 658744
13.30-16.00 Mons	oil painting classes for beginners & improvers	Newbury College 01635 42824
weekdays	Little Sunflowers nursery school	Teresa 01635 253201 Trudy 01635 255363

Sue Watts is organising a trip to see the Ballet Russe performance of *Swan Lake* at the Arlington Arts Centre, Mary Hare School, at 19.30 on Friday 18 December. Tickets are £12 each, with the possibility of a reduction if enough people are interested. Shared car travel may also be organised. Contact Sue by 20 September if you are interested, on 01488 658932.

Beer festival



at
the White Hart
**Fri 5, Sat 6, Sun 7
September**

Many real ales

**Hog roast and live music
Saturday evening**

Ring 01488 658201 for more details

news in brief

It has been suggested that next year's Parish Party should be on a Saturday evening rather than a Sunday afternoon, and that the entrance fee should be nominal to encourage better attendance. This year £212 was taken on the gate, but more was spent on food and drink.

The parish precept for 2007-08 yielded £1,746. Annual accounts show fixed assets of £1,400 (presumed to be the recently converted bus shelter). A balance of £1,771 was carried forward to 2008-09.

Watch the village noticeboards for information on a possible bonfire party at the recreation ground in early November, and a families' Christmas party in December.

Planning applications

The application to redevelop the site of Holtwood House has been refused, primarily on the grounds that the "design, size, scale and prominence [of] the proposal would represent disproportionate and unsympathetic dwelling in the countryside". It is believed that a revised proposal may be in preparation.

Templegate Properties has been refused a second application to build a two-storey house on the former Sovereign garages site near Ash Tree Corner. WBC found the proposal "detrimental to the rural character of the area and street scene". Templegate's first application was withdrawn in November 2007.

No 4 The Village has been granted permission for vehicle access to the property.

The application for demolition and replacement of an extension at Craven Keep still awaits decision. The parish council has raised no objection.

Enborne & Hamstead Marshall Garden Society

FLOWER SHOW AND FETE

**2pm Sat 6 September
at Hazel Paddock
(opposite Enborne School)**

**dozens of produce classes
tombola & other stalls
tea and cakes
East Woodhay silver band**

**a traditional country
afternoon for
all the family**

Village Design Statement teeth drawn by central government

Hamstead Marshall's Village Design Statement (VDS) may have been robbed of its power to influence local development before it even reaches its final draft.

Initially promoted by central government as "produced by communities to identify local character and set out design guidance to help guide new development" VDSs have now been cast into limbo. Whereas they were once defined as a "material consideration" in the statutory planning process, their role is now unclear, following central government's decision earlier in the summer to streamline the planning process. This has been widely interpreted as a wish to reduce the power of local communities to stand in the way of unpopular projects.

Hamstead's VDS has been painstakingly drawn up on the basis of responses to the parish plan questionnaire, and it has been monitored throughout its compilation by Paula Amorelli, senior planning officer with WBC.

However even WBC has not yet decided to what use the VDS will be put, or how much weight it will carry in the planning process. There has been talk of combining it with the parish plan, despite the original insistence of local and central government that the two documents served entirely different purposes. Crucially, it is not known whether a VDS will still be included in the appeals process.

Richard Benyon MP has been approached on Hamstead's behalf, and has expressed concern at the general weakening of VDS influence. He believes a change in the law is required, and has said that he is investigating this possibility.