

Local crime

Overnight between 9-10 February there was an attempted break-in to a shed and garage in Hamstead Marshall. The locks to the shed and the garage door were found damaged.

A chainsaw and pressure washer were stolen overnight between the 26-27 February from two garages in Marsh Benham.

Information such as this is supplied by Thames Valley Police

a) in monthly neighbourhood policing reports posted online.

A link to the latest for Kintbury, covering Hamstead, can be found on <www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard>

b) through the Ringmaster messaging system, alerting NW co-ordinators. To be included on the distribution list for local information from this source send a request to <admin@hamsteadmarshall.net>

Parish precept must go up two years running

At the January meeting the parish council was informed that parish coffers require an increase in the precept in order to balance the books. Spending is currently higher than income. To yield the £2,750 which is the council's estimated expenditure for the coming year the precept must go up 7.5% both this year and next.

Speeding

The TVP online neighbourhood update for Kintbury January 2010 reported:

Speeding in Hamstead Marshall is our second neighbourhood priority [the first was house burglaries]. We have now had an initial meeting with local residents and we will be setting up the Community Speedwatch Programme through the village to combat the speeding. In the next few weeks we will be undertaking some speed enforcement in the village and are looking at other options to make the roads safer.

The February update reported:

In support of the local priority of speeding in Hamstead Marshall, we undertook a Speed Indication Device (SID) operation in the village. It was disappointing to see excessive speeds being recorded. Along with Hamstead Marshall Community Speed Watch we will be sending out letters to those identified as speeding advising them of the risks and dangers. We have also run a Speed Enforcement Operation with the laser speed gun in the village and two drivers were given strong words of advice about their speed.

The community speed watch initiative launched in Hamstead Marshall by Robin Tandy now has a team of volunteers ready for training, and is awaiting support action from Thames Valley Police.

Chapel Corner update

Just before Christmas the council installed reflective marker posts on the troublesome bend at Chapel Corner. Within 48 hours one of these was demolished, and a week later another motorist took out another marker post and the fingerpost on the grass triangle. Since that date the damage has been repaired by WBC and.....whisper it not..... there have been no further accidents.

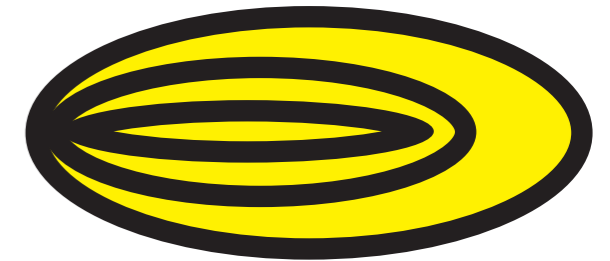
Picture from the past: Edwardians at play



Copse Lock, Hamstead

I feel in perfect harmony with my surroundings here

Hamstead Hornet



Issue no 53

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March 2010

Best feet forward on 28 March

With this issue of the Hamstead Hornet parish residents will receive copies of two new leaflets describing walks in the parish.

The leaflets have been produced as part of the Parish Plan, and their printing has been funded by the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Each leaflet details two walks, each of about three miles, which can be linked to make a longer figure-of-eight walk for more serious walkers.

In addition to delivery to every household in the parish, the leaflets will be stocked and displayed at Elm Farm, the White Hart, St Mary's Church, the Dogs Trust at Plumb's Farm, the village hall and the tourist office in Newbury.

To celebrate publication of the leaflets locals are invited to join a group walk on Sunday 28 March, ending with tea at the village hall. The route will depend on numbers and weather, but is likely to be about three miles. Meet at 2.30pm at the village hall (stout footwear recommended). Those who do not wish to undertake the walk are welcome to join the group for afternoon tea, which will be served from 3.30 to 5.00pm at the village hall.



The four walks take in Irish Hill, the canal towpath, Hamstead Park and Holtwood. All are on public rights of way, with minimal roadwork.

Red House woos custom

The Red House in Marsh Benham is seeking to tempt diners from Hamstead Marshall with a special offer of a £10 main course and drink, Mondays to Thursdays, detailed in the flyer enclosed with this copy of the *Hornet*.

The offer is valid until the end of June, on production of the card (one card per table).

Power to the people if they want it, that is...

Never mind the general election, 6 May could be the day on which Hamstead Marshall chooses its parish council for the next three years.

Except that, almost certainly, no nominations will be made, and self-selection will operate as it always has done. The village has been fortunate in having a quorum of residents who volunteer to serve as parish councillors.

The *Hornet* would however be remiss if it failed to point out (as it does every three years) that anyone who fulfils the residency qualification may step forward as a candidate. Should these brave souls number more than five, an election would be required.

News stories from the *Hamstead Hornet* are posted and updated on www.hamsteadmarshall.net which also carries detailed information about the village.

The *Hamstead Hornet* is edited and published by Penelope Stokes at The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW T 01488 658759 E admin@hamsteadmarshall.net

What's on February - June 2010

19.30-21.30 Thu 4 Mar	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall: Helen Cubitt's adventures in Antarctica	Sue Watts 01488 658932
20.00 Sun 7 Mar	White Hart quiz £2 per person - all for charity	01488 658201
10.00-13.00 Sat 13 Mar	Community Market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
20.00 Mon 15 Mar	Parish council meeting in the village hall All welcome	Jo Wheeler 07766 629235
19.30 Sat 20 Mar	Curry and quiz night in village hall	Lanie 01488 658168
14.30 Sun 28 Mar	Village walk (14.30) and tea (15.30-17.00) <i>meet at village hall</i>	Penny 01488 658759
19.30-21.30 Thu 1 Apr	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall: June Hiscock and her humorous poems	Sue Watts 01488 658932
20.00 Sun 4 Apr	White Hart quiz £2 per person - all for charity	01488 658201
10.00-13.00 Sat 10 Apr	Community Market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
20.00 Sun 2 May	White Hart quiz £2 per person - all for charity	01488 658201
19.30-21.30 Thu 6 May	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) Evening bluebell walk	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-13.00 Sat 8 May	Community Market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
19.00 Mon 17 May	Parish council meeting followed by annual parish assembly in the village hall	Jo Wheeler 07766 629235
Sat 29 May	Barn dance	see website and noticeboards for details
19.30-21.30 Thu 3 Jun	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall: life coach talk	Sue Watts 01488 658932
20.00 Sun 6 Jun	White Hart quiz £2 per person - all for charity	01488 658201
10.00-13.00 Sat 13 Jun	Community Market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
12.00-16.00 Sun 27 Jun	Open day and family fun dog show at Dogs Trust, Plumb's Farm	01466 658391
19.30-21.30 Thur 1 Jul	Circle of Friends summer party champagne & strawberries	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-11.30 Weds termtime	yoga classes	Inga Craven 01488 658744
13.30-16.00 Mons termtime	oil painting classes for beginners & improvers	Newbury College 01635 42824
weekdays termtime	Little Sunflowers nursery school	Teresa 01635 253201 Trudy 01635 255363

On the wild side

The joint exhibition of artwork by Jonathan Pointer and Angela French opened with a private view on the evening of Friday 26 February, and continues open to the public until 28 March at the Thatcham Discovery Centre, Lower Way.

Jonathan also has an exhibition of wildlife and sporting art running at the Wykeham Gallery, Stockbridge until 13 March.

New clergy appointment

The vacancy created by the departure last year of Ian Blyth from the team serving St Mary's Church has finally been filled. A new minister, the Rev James Cook, is expected to take up duties at the beginning of June, living in the house for duty at West Woodhay. *The united benefice of Hamstead Marshall, Enborne, West Woodhay, Inkpen, Combe and Kintbury has a new name; it is to be called the Walbury Beacon Benefice.*

Lt Douglas Dalzell

The death was announced on 19 February of Lt Douglas Dalzell, killed in an explosion in the Babaji area of Helmand. Douglas Dalzell, who served in the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, was taking part in Operation Moshtarak. He died on his 27th birthday, and his body was returned to the UK on 25 February.

Lt Dalzell's family home is in Holtwood. Funeral details have not been made public, but prayers were said at St Mary's. Personal tributes from Lt Dalzell's regimental comrades can be seen by visiting www.mod.gov.uk and searching on *Dalzell*.

Planning applications

Applications which were pending consideration by planning officers and/or the Downslands planning committee, according to <www.planning.westberks.gov.uk> on 1 March:

Carter Jonas (on behalf of KKH Accumulation and Maintenance and Settlement) seeks permission to use land between Morewood and New Copse for access and parking in connection with the (already approved) horse-walker installation.

Hamstead Growers has applied for temporary re-siting of a mobile home, and in a separate application seeks, retrospective permission for works connected to equestrian events. This follows refusal in 2009 of another retrospective application for works related to the expansion of equestrian activities on the site.

Whitehill Farm wishes to replace a faux window with a timber balcony and French windows.

Two Holtwood House applications regarding roof materials, fencing and landscaping have been approved.

The Foxlee Farm application for erection of a replacement dwelling has been refused on grounds on scale and visual impact.

The Rickety Gate application of 2009 for poultry pens, housing and runs has been withdrawn.

Holtwood Farm's 2009 application for change of use of an existing agricultural/equine building to a dwelling house has been withdrawn.

Come for a curry

A Curry and Quiz Night is being organised in the village hall by Lanie Allen for Saturday 20 March.

There will be a variety of home-made dishes on offer spanning mild, medium and hot, and there will be vegetarian options. After the meal there will be a light-hearted quiz devised by Gail and Dennis Winter.

Numbers must be limited because of the size of the hall. Tables should be booked as soon as possible with Lanie Allen on 01488 658168.

A barn dance is also being organised, and it is hoped that the the newly converted barn at Elm Farm may be able to host it. Saturday 29 May is the projected date: watch the website and village noticeboards for further details.

Parking at Ash Tree Corner

Gordon Fisher reported to the parish council in January that parking congestion at Ash Tree Corner is exacerbated by residents not using their driveways to park vehicles. He is to ask Sovereign Housing to write to tenants asking for them to co-operate in this.

Might the village hall help?

Sue Watts and Lanie Allen attended the meeting as representatives of the village hall, and were asked if the committee would make the village hall car park available to ease the problem. There was an obvious possibility of conflict with village hall customers, and Sue Watts made clear that local residents might only use the car park at certain times and with prior permission.