

Check your oil tank security

A fire outside North Lodge during the early hours of Friday 5th November is believed to have been caused by thieves targeting the heating-oil tank near the entrance.



Such thefts, often followed by a deliberate firing of any surplus oil, are becoming increasingly common, according to the police. The thieves follow tankers on their delivery rounds to identify likely target premises. Householders are urged to consider enhanced security such as controlled access or CCTV to protect exterior tanks.

At North Lodge the fire, which damaged out-houses, trees, roadside vegetation, telephone lines and the road surface itself, was spotted by a resident at Hamstead Mill, who called the fire brigade at 4.30am. Ironically the burning of the leaking oil prevented any serious ground contamination.

See the Hamstead Marshall firework party on YouTube

<www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JZkuFkbfq0>

Following a very wet set-up in the afternoon around 200 people attended the village bonfire party on 5th November, and the barbecue sold out. Four guys were entered for the competition: one made by the Glover children, one by Little Sunflowers, one by Cara Brincat, and an anonymous one, the maker of which has not come forward. Prizes included a yard of Jaffa cakes, a yard of chocolate fingers and a box of jelly babies. Donations were collected at the end of the evening, yielding a small surplus which was split between Children in Need and Enborne School.

The Harvest Supper in October raised £1,200 for St Mary's Church.

Enborne & Hamstead Marshall Garden Society

Christmas meeting

at Hamstead Marshall Village Hall
7.30pm Wednesday 8th December

Jams & chutneys (Susie's Preserves)

a talk and tasting session

Mulled wine & mince pies

(non-alcoholic drinks also available)

Raffle (donations of prizes appreciated)

Membership for 2011 will be available (now £5)

Dawn Taylor 01635 32006, Penelope Lake 01635 48701

Hamstead Marshall & Enborne Community Market

at Elm Farm, Sat 11 Dec, 10 to 2pm
Local produce and Christmas crafts

Home-made cakes, jam, marmalade & chutney, free-range eggs, Christmas Farm, Hethertons' Bread, local game, goats' milk & cheese, Ilze's hand-made chocolates, bespoke metalcraft, wood crafts, Phoenix Cards, jewellery & Lin's pearls, Laura's framed pictures, Christmas trees & wreaths, BB's doggie coats

and the raffle, refreshments, etc as usual

Scottish Country Dancing

Liz Harris will be holding four practice sessions in the village hall on Tuesdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th January 2010 from 8 to 10pm, followed by a

Burns Night Supper on Saturday 29th January

Experience not necessary, but you must be willing to attend classes in order to enjoy Burns Night. Cost of course and supper £12 per head. 16 people needed as minimum.

If you are interested and able contact David Harris on 01488 658330

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 <admin@hamsteadmarshall.net>

Hamstead Hornet



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White Hart - a sorry state



as reported by Thames Valley Police

Thames Valley Police have arrested three men in connection with a burglary in Hamstead Marshall on the 22nd September. At around 11.15am a white van entered the rear of the White Hart Inn and drove out leaving two men on the premises. The men were seen carrying a large metal tool. The van drove up and down the road a few times and the two men made off across a field. A boiler had been removed from the premises and was found in the yard. A 46-year-old man and a 19-year-old man both from Aldermaston and 35-year-old man of no fixed abode have been arrested on suspicion of burglary of a non-dwelling. The van has also been seized.

The White Hart continues to be offered for sale by Peter Brunnsden Associates, now at £600,000. The heavily runoured interest of local restaurateurs has seemingly failed to materialise at least at this price, and it is believed that the pub has now been repossessed. If so, the creditors apparent indifference to recouping what is owed with a quick, low-price sale, perhaps at auction, is unclear.

Local residents are worried that if the pub continues to deteriorate to the point of becoming a total eyesore, a property developer might have little difficulty in obtaining permission to demolish it and redevelop the site as housing. Despite its age and history the White Hart is not a listed building.

Meanwhile the pub's near-derelict appearance has already attracted unwanted attention. Police were alerted by a local resident who spotted three men with a white van behaving suspiciously, with the result described in the police report opposite.

All change around the houses

Property transactions over the last few months have seen no fewer than nine village houses sold or on the point of new occupancy.

Holtwood Corner, the large new house on the site of the now demolished Holtwood House, has been occupied by new residents to the village since the late summer.

Redhill House (now reverting to its former name of **Redhill Cottage**) changed hands around the same time and is undergoing major refurbishment.

Hobsons Cottage / Hillside (also apparently

using both old and new names) and **Meadow View** have new occupants.

The **North Lodge Studio** has sold as a separate dwelling to a family who are expected to move in very soon. The main house, **North Lodge**, is under offer.

No 8 Salters and **Harvest Cottage** are also believed to be under offer, as is the five-bedroomed **Dower House** in Hamstead Park, which has been advertised as available since last summer to let at £4,000 per month.

What's on in the village

19.00 Wed 8 Dec	Garden Society Christmas meeting talk on preserves, in village hall	Dawn Taylor 01635 32006 Penelope Lake 01635 48701
10.00- 14.00 Sat 11 Dec	Christmas Fair at Elm Farm organised by the Community Market food, crafts, gifts etc	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
16.30 Sun 19 Dec	Carol service at Elm Farm	Jamie Gladstone 01635 44868
19.00 Wed 22 Dec	Carol singing around the village meet at Craven Hill (with torches)	Sarah Ward 01488 658817
10.00- 13.00 Sat 8 Jan	Hamstead Marshall & Enborne Community Market in village hall food, crafts, gifts etc	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
20.00 Mon 17 Jan	parish council meeting in village hall	Jo Wheeler (parish clerk) jowheeler43@aol.com
19.30 Thu 3 Feb	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall Lorraine Jordan talking about Neal's Yard Remedies	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00- 13.00 Sat 12 Feb	Hamstead Marshall & Enborne Community Market in village hall food, crafts, gifts etc	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
19.30- 21.30 Thu 10 Mar	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00- 13.00 Sat 12 Mar	Hamstead Marshall and Enborne Community Market in village hall food, crafts, gifts etc	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
20.00 Mon 21 Mar	parish council meeting in village hall	Jo Wheeler (parish clerk) jowheeler43@aol.com
regular events		
5 evenings in Jan	Scottish dancing: 4 classes leading to Burns Night celebration (class attendance required)	David Harris 01488 658330
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

Not many people know that...

Marshall Street [off Broadwick Street in Soho, London W1] almost certainly takes its name from Hamstead Marshall, the Berkshire seat of the Earl of Craven, the ground landlord, who allowed the land on which it was built to be used for pesthouses and burial grounds in 1665 [the year of the Plague]. It was built in 1733-36.

The London Encyclopaedia Macmillan, 1983

Vote for better broadband on <www.racetoinfinity.bt.com>

Hamstead Marshall residents have good reason to be cynical about any BT promise with regard to broadband, having learned the hard way that our community is too small to warrant investment by BT in the necessary infrastructure. Indeed, a few years ago the BT director for the south-east region came to the village in person to impart this unwelcome news.

However there is now a plan to instal fibre optic lines in some rural areas, and BT is inviting subscribers to vote for their home patch on a dedicated website.

Most households with 01488 numbers in the village will have their votes registered for Kintbury, rather than specifically for Hamstead Marshall, but if Kintbury were to obtain fibre optic it would also improve landline broadband speeds in Hamstead Marshall.

Michael Kaye and Lucy Dawson are aiming to obtain votes from 75 per cent of households in the area served by the exchange at Halfway (one vote per address). Voters need not be BT customers. Those who don't have or wish to give an email address may enter <kintburyrti@gmail.com> on the online form.

The same logic of voting for the larger neighbouring settlement in order to get a knock-on improvement in Hamstead Marshall also applies to subscribers served by the 01635 Highclere exchange.

It's very easy to vote on the above website (which can also be reached by direct link from <www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard>) and voting carries no obligation whatsoever.

The joint benefice of West Woodhay, Inkpen, Enborne, Hamstead Marshall and Combe, together with Kintbury, now has a website up and running on <<http://w-woodhay-and-kintbury-benefices.org.uk>>. There are separate pages for each of the churches, including St Mary's, Hamstead Marshall. Comments and suggestions are welcomed by the webmasters Phil Ireland and Cathy Pynn, who can be contacted directly from the site.

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING 2010

will be on Wednesday 22nd December, meeting at 7pm at Craven Hill and finishing at Sarah and Mick's home at Gully Cottage for something to eat and drink. This year the money raised will go to West Berkshire's Alzheimer's Society.

All are welcome and are requested to wear bright coloured clothes and bring a torch.

More info from Sarah and Mick Ward on 01488 658817 or sarahward1000@hotmail.com

Planning applications

The new owners of Redhill House, which is now reverting to its former name of Redhill Cottage, have applied for permission to extend.

In the application the house is described by architects Gotelee Orchard-Lisle as formerly a pair of eighteenth-century cottages, and there was indeed a building marked on the site on the John Rocque map of 1761. It was named as Redhill Cottage on the 6-in Ordnance Survey map of the 1880s. The house was last extended in the 1990s, before which it had been unaltered since the 1930s.

The application is pending consideration.

The Old Post Office application to create a new pond was withdrawn in September at the same time as an objection to the application was lodged by the WBC trees officer, on the grounds that the proposed pond would be too close to a mature oak tree on the boundary.

The Foxlee Farm application mentioned in the September *Hornet* is still pending consideration.

Do you sell/supply/offer a service from within the village?

If so, you may be eligible for free listing on <www.hamsteadmarshall.net/suppliers>

and also to have your details included in the welcome pack given to new arrivals in the village. Send your details to <admin@hamsteadmarshall.net> or drop a business card into The Holding, RG20 OHW (Chapel Corner).

Sometime between 8pm and 10pm on the 29th November a garage in Hamstead Marshall was broken into. Entry was gained by forcing the door. Nothing is believed to have been stolen, and police believe that the offenders may have been disturbed.