

**Hamstead Marshall & Enborne  
Christmas Market**

**Elm Farm**  
(next to Dog's Trust)  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
10 am - 2 pm

**Local Produce & Christmas Crafts**

Home-made Cakes & Refreshments  
Jam, Marmalade, Honey & Chutney  
Local Bread, Cheese & Eggs  
Christmas Farm & Rita's Oils  
Hand-made Chocolates & Wine Tasting  
Mulled Wine, Apple Juice & Cider  
Wood Crafts, Candles, Rugs & Ceramics  
Handbags, Crocheted Hats & Scarves  
Skincare Products, Jewellery & Cards  
Christmas Trees, Wreaths & Table Decorations  
Children's Lucky Dip & Tombola  
Jody's Raffle in aid of Cystic Fibrosis  
and much more!

**Lots of Ideas for Christmas Presents!**

www.facebook.com/pages/Hamstead-Marshall-Enborne-Village-Market/173105976103182

## Cracker of an evening

The fourth village bonfire night party at the recreation field attracted record numbers to a superb firework display organised by Mike Allen, Denis Winter and Geoff Watts. Robin Tandy judged the Best Guy competition, which was won by Carla Brincat. Lanie Allens vegetable soup, hotdogs, burgers, mulled wine and beer were dispensed by Jeremy, Lynette Winter, Avril Chaffey and Gail Winter. Thanks were expressed by the organisers to all those who volunteered behind the scenes.

As in previous years, entrance was free, but donations on the night went to Cystic Fibrosis, Enborne School and the Organic Research Centre at Elm Farm.

## What will Hamstead Marshall be doing to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee?

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated over an extended weekend of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th June 2012. The late May bank holiday is to be moved to Monday 4th June, and an additional Jubilee bank holiday will be on Tuesday 5th June 2012. The official website, including a link to pages with suggestions for local communities, can be seen on <www.direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/DG\_197517>.

The parish council is seeking ideas for a village celebration, and an open meeting will be held at the village hall early in the New Year.



This official Jubilee badge was designed by a 10-year-old girl from Chester.

Copies of the Hamstead Hornet are posted online at <www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard>. News stories are updated between issues on the same page. The Hamstead Hornet is edited and published by Penelope Stokes at The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW 01488 658759 <admin@hamsteadmarshall.net>

## Monthly quizzes and more

The first of a new series of quiz nights at the White Hart Inn in November resulted in a win for Judy's Gems, the Woolton Hill team which was so often victorious in the previous series. Village know-alls should be sharpening their wits for the coming contests, which are scheduled for 8.15pm on the first Wednesday of each month. There are no cash prizes – all entrance fees go to charity. November's quiz, including donations collected at the bar during the week, raised over £200 for Children in Need. The nominated charity for 7th December is the Dogs Trust, and for 4th January the Organic Research Centre at Elm Farm.

Entrance is £1 per head. There is no fixed rule on team sizes, which are at the quizmaster's discretion. Snack plates of crisps, nuts, wedges, wings and dips are available for £5.

Also in November the White Hart held a wine-tasting supper, to be repeated in January.

## Broadband update from Frank Ellis

There have been reports, all so far from the Chapel Corner end of the village, that the Vodafone broadband speed has recently increased. When this system was first installed locally 0.6 - 1Mb was the usual range obtained, but more recent tests have recorded 1 - 2Mb, and occasionally even 2.5Mb. There can of course be wide variation depending upon time of day (reflecting general usage of the signal) and perhaps also weather conditions.

When asked, Vodafone had no explanation for this other than a general assurance of continual service improvements.

We are not sure that the improvement applies across the whole village. If Vodafone system users would like to check their speeds on <www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk> and email the results to <frankellis@hamsteadmarshall.net> an overall assessment of the service to the village can be made.

# Hamstead Hornet



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December 2011

## Meet Andrew

### the new general manager at the White Hart Inn

Andrew North has recently taken over management of the White Hart Inn, four months after its rebirth last summer.

He hails originally from Essex, where as a school-leaver he gained City and Guilds qualifications in panel-beating and welding, with a view to going into the family business. However, it was not long before metalworking lost him to the hospitality trade, which he found more suited to his talents. He now has specialised experience in the sector of smaller, independent hotels and restaurants. Most recently he has been working in Bedford, from where his wife Andrea and two sons aged three and five will shortly be coming to join him living at the White Hart.

His sons have been enrolled at Kintbury school for next term, and Andrea, a sales manager in hotels, has yet to decide where to employ her talents locally but, says Andrew, She is unlikely to be a lady of leisure for long.

A flyer is inserted with this issue of the Hamstead Hornet, inviting local residents to meet the new general manager and to enjoy a complimentary drink (see terms). The White Hart Inn has made a donation to the village hall in return for circulation of this flyer.



If Andrew himself finds any leisure time it is likely to be spent fishing, which is his chief interest outside work. He is also a black-belt judo instructor, although work demands have more or less eliminated this from his timetable these days.

Andrew's plans for the White Hart centre on continuing to re-establish it as a genuine community pub, welcoming drinkers and diners equally, and serving good, straightforward food.

## Ash Tree Corner parking no more Mr Nice Guy...

At the November meeting of the parish council it was confirmed that Thames Valley Police will soon start ticketing cars which park at the Ash Tree Corner junction obstructing motorists' sightlines. This issue has been a safety concern for many months, during which it seems that common sense has failed to resolve the problem.

Meanwhile the parish council is in contact with Sovereign Housing Association to push for more parking provision, in particular to compensate for the places which local residents lost when the Kintbury Road garages site was sold.

## New parish clerk

Joanne Wheeler, who has served as Hamstead Marshall's parish clerk since 2007, has submitted her resignation. The parish council's advertisement for a new clerk attracted 10 applications, which have been whittled down to a shortlist of three. Interviews are currently taking place to make the final selection.

It is hoped that the new clerk will be in post in time for the January meeting, which will be Joanne's last.

## What's on in the village

|                             |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 19.30<br>Thu 1 Dec          | Circle of Friends (ladies' group)<br><i>Christmas party at White Hart</i>                              | Sue Watts<br>01488 658932                               |
| 18.00<br>Sun 4 Dec          | Christingle service at St Mary's Church  | www.w-woodhay-and-kintbury-benefices.org.uk             |
| 19.30<br>Wed 7 Dec          | Garden Society Christmas meeting in the village hall<br><i>Christmas decorations demo</i>              | Dawn Taylor 01635 32006<br>Penelope Lake 01635 48701    |
| 20.15<br>Wed 7 Dec          | Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart Inn<br><i>£1 per person; Dogs Trust benefit</i>              | 01488 657545  |
| 10.30-14.00<br>Sat 10 Dec   | Christmas Market at Elm Farm barn<br><i>food, crafts, gifts etc</i>                                    | Sue 01488 658932<br>Lanie 01488 658168                  |
| 10.30-12 noon<br>Wed 14 Dec | Cyber café at Elm Farm barn<br><i>learn to design and print your own Christmas cards</i>               | 01488 668901 or<br>Cathy Pynn<br>01488 658243           |
| 16.30<br>Sun 18 Dec         | Nine lessons and carols at St Mary's Church  | www.w-woodhay-and-kintbury-benefices.org.uk             |
| 19.00<br>Thu 22 Dec         | Carol singing around the village<br><i>meet at Chapel Corner</i>                                       | Sarah Ward<br>01488 658817<br>sarahward1000@hotmail.com |
| 20.30<br>Sat 31 Dec         | New Year's Eve at the White Hart Inn<br><i>dinner and entertainment</i>                                | 01488 657545  |
| 20.15<br>Wed 4 Jan          | Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart Inn<br><i>£1 per person; Organic Research Centre benefit</i> | 01488 657545  |
| date tba<br>Jan             | Public meeting in the village hall to discuss village celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee       |   |
| 10.00-13.00<br>Sat 14 Jan   | Community market in the village hall<br><i>food, crafts, gifts etc</i>                                 | Sue 01488 658932<br>Lanie 01488 658168                  |
| 20.00<br>Mon 16 Jan         | Parish council meeting in the village hall   | Jo Wheeler<br>07766 692235                              |
| 10.00-13.00<br>Sat 11 Feb   | Community market in the village hall<br><i>food, crafts, gifts etc</i>                                 | Sue 01488 658932<br>Lanie 01488 658168                  |
| 20.15<br>Wed 1 Feb          | Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart Inn<br><i>£1 per person; charity benefit</i>                 | 01488 657545  |
| 19.30<br>Thu 2 Feb          | Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall  | Sue Watts<br>01488 658932                               |
| 19.30<br>Thu 1 Mar          | Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall  | Sue Watts<br>01488 658932                               |
| 20.15<br>Wed 7 Mar          | Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart Inn<br><i>£1 per person; charity benefit</i>                 | 01488 657545  |
| 10.00-13.00<br>Sat 10 Mar   | Community market in the village hall<br><i>food, crafts, gifts etc</i>                                 | Sue 01488 658932<br>Lanie 01488 658168                  |
| 20.00<br>Mon 19 Mar         | Parish council meeting in the village hall   | Jo Wheeler<br>07766 692235                              |

## Planning applications

Information taken from <<http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk>> on 29 November 2011

### Land adjacent to 23 Hamstead Marshall

Application 11/01857/FUL to create off-road parking and (temporary) access to Sunnyside field on scrubland within the curtilage of Elm Farm has been approved.

**Red Hill Cottage** Application 11/01721/HOUSE to build a new garage and adjoining store has been approved.

**The White Hart Inn** Two applications 11/01207/FUL and 11/01188/FUL for conversion of existing outbuildings to provide disabled accommodation have been approved.

**50-51 Craven Hill** Applications 11/02140/HOUSE and 11/02142/LBC2 to extend the existing brick boundary wall and instal a timber gate are pending consideration.

**White Hart Cottage** Application 11/02299/HOUSE to extend an existing garage to accommodate a living room, bedroom, WC

and bathroom is pending consideration.

**Ash Tree Cottage** Application 11/02191/HOUSE to demolish a single-storey extension on the western side of the house, and to replace it with a new extension and summer house, is pending consideration.

**The Old Post Office** Application 11/01327/LBC to build a new single-storey garage and out-building has been refused on the grounds that successive modernisations to this Grade II listed property have reached its maximum potential.

**East Gate Cottage** Application 11/02356/HOUSE for a single-storey extension and other alterations was received on 3 November, but the usual documents have not yet been posted on the WBC website. This application follows the withdrawal of an application made in August for a two-storey replacement dwelling.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

The Harvest Supper and auction, attended by more than 40 at the village hall at the end of October, raised the record sum of £1,373 for St Mary's Church.

Henrietta Buckwell and Julie Althaus, who between them have clocked up half a century as caterers for the Harvest Supper, have announced their wish to step down. Grateful thanks were expressed by the supper organisers.

The White Hart Inn is advertising in the local press and online for a general assistant, bar and waiting staff.

Lanie Allen's oil group has been held up as a model by the Citizens Advice Bureau in its advice to people seeking the best deal on heating oil purchase. A CAB press release on the subject was taken up by

BBC News, as a result of which Lanie was interviewed. Lanie's club, which she set up six years ago, now has more than 400 members subscribing £10 a year to benefit from bulk-buy prices.

Sue Watt's trip to see *The Snow Queen* ballet at Arlington Arts Centre in December has now sold out. The 32 ticket-buyers are mostly from the village, and span three generations.

Carol-singers have three opportunities this Christmas: at 6pm on 4th December there is a Christingle service in St Mary's Church; at 4.30pm on Sunday 18th December there is a service of nine lessons and carols, also in St Mary's; and on Thursday 22nd December from 7pm you can go carol-singing around Chapel Corner with Sarah Ward's group.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### regular events in the village hall

|                              |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| 13.30-16.00<br>Mons termtime | Oil painting classes<br>for beginners & improvers | Chris Turner<br>01488 658587              |
| 17.00-18.30<br>Weds          | Yoga classes                                      | Inga Craven<br>01488 658744               |
| weekdays<br>termtime         | Little Sunflowers nursery school                  | Teresa 01635 253201<br>Trudy 01635 255363 |