

## Local councillor secures police post

which went to a second-preference count, beating Labour's Tim Starkey by around 4,500 votes. The

Anthony Stansfeld, one of Hamstead Marshall's two WBC councillors, was elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley on 15th November.

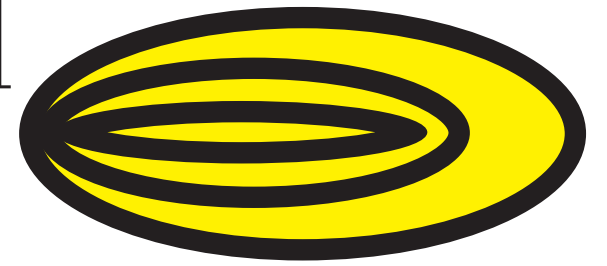
As the Conservative candidate, he gained 18,227 votes in a poll

electorate of West Berkshire's wards excelled themselves by turning out at 15.7% within an overall TVP area rate of 13.3%. National turnout was a record low of 15%. Councillor Stansfeld will continue to serve on West Berkshire Council as one of the Kintbury ward representatives because the police commissioner's £80,000-a-year post is part-time. He has however withdrawn from the Executive, which is the WBC cabinet.

The Christmas market at Elm Farm on Saturday 8th December enjoyed some crisp sunshine and a good turnout of sellers and buyers. Charitable fundraising included a *Guess the weight of the cake* competition, benefiting PALS, a charity providing short holidays for youngsters, and the Parkinson's Disease Society stall took £175. The arrival of a TV camera crew caused a brief flurry of excitement, but this turned out to be for the Christmas Farm stand only: Phil and Michael are due to feature in Channel 4's *Grand Designs*.



# Hamstead Hornet



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## Chapel Corner taking hits again

Chapel Corner residents are despairing of the council's apparent inability to slow traffic on the bend which incorporates the turn-off to Marsh Benham. Speeding eastbound drivers have been crashing into the hedges and residents' parked cars here for decades, but without generating the death or serious injury which might secure more attention from the police or WBC's highways department.

Following nine crashes in late 2008 WBC beefed up the road markings, but the reflector posts were installed on the eastern side of the bend. This is apparently in line with departmental policy although, as can be seen from the picture, the reflector posts are almost out of sight of drivers who may be approaching at speed from the Kintbury side.



A vehicle-activated sign (VAS) was installed – inexplicably at the opposite end of the village, which has no comparable accident record. Continuing accidents at Chapel Corner (three more vehicles skidded off the road in recent months) have prompted renewed requests from local residents for this VAS to be moved west to Chapel Corner. Andrew Garrett of WBC highways department replied on 22nd October that such devices quickly lose impact (raising the question of why, therefore, they are installed at all). He did however agree that the road surface was below standard and should be treated (which has not yet happened), and that existing speed limit signs were obscured by vegetation (which remains uncleared), and he promised more speed limit signs (yet to appear.)

Jon Phillips of Whitehill Farm, whose roadside hedge has been destroyed and replanted several times, has notified the council of his intention to invoice them for the latest round of costs incurred, in view of the now official admission that the road surface is below standard, a liability which the council appears to have accepted. He has also installed defensive measures to protect his hedge from future impact. Another Chapel Corner resident who has suffered car damage on three occasions has now made arrangements to park his car on farmland beyond reach of the reckless drivers.

The new 30mph limit outside Enborne School took eight years to implement. Andrew Garrett first promised to look into the problem of cars speeding past the school in 2004. The mandatory speed limit was finally introduced – in autumn 2012.

## Would you prefer to read your Hamstead Hornet online?

The *Hamstead Hornet* is already published online, and several villagers have asked to stop having printed copies in order to save on ink, paper and petrol.

If you would be happy to read your copy online, please ask for your name to be added to the emailing list, and you will be notified as soon as each issue is posted. Send your request to <pennystokes@hamsteadmarshall.net>. The editor will be grateful.

## News in brief

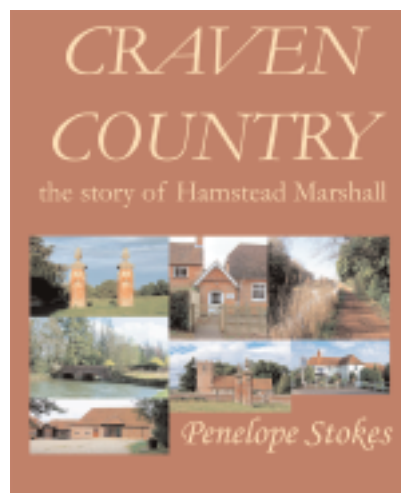
Sue Watts' excursion to see the ballet *A Christmas Carol* at Arlington Arts on 21st December is now sold out.

The Christmas meeting of Enborne and Hamstead Marshall Garden Society was held in the village hall on Wednesday 5th December. Members and guests gathered to for a talk and demonstration of wood-turning by Steve Giles. Subscriptions for 2013 fall due at the turn of the year, and anyone who was unable to renew at the meeting should contact Penelope Lake on 01635 48701.

The village Bonfire Party on 5th November attracted record crowds for another stupendous firework display. Donations and profits from the sale of refreshments enabled the organisers to make donations to First Responders, the British Legion Poppy Appeal and ORC Elm Farm.

The annual Harvest Supper was held in the village hall on Friday 26th October. Around 50 people attended the buffet supper and bid for donated lots auctioned by Robin Tandy. The evening raised £1,250 for St Mary's Church.

This year it is the turn of Craven Hill to enjoy the dulcet tones of the village carol singers, who will meet there at 7.30 on the evening of Thursday 20th December. Torches are recommended, and musical instruments welcome. As in previous years the carollers will end the evening at Gully Cottage, to enjoy the hospitality of Sarah and Mick Ward.



**The second edition of Craven Country is now available. It has been privately published in a limited edition, available only from the author, Penny Stokes, at £12. Contact details in the yellow box below.**

Copies of the *Hamstead Hornet* are posted online at <[www.hamsteadmarshall.net/hornet.htm](http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net/hornet.htm)>. News stories are updated between issues on <[www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard.htm](http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard.htm)> The *Hamstead Hornet* is edited and published by Penelope Stokes at The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW 01488 658759 <[admin@hamsteadmarshall.net](mailto:admin@hamsteadmarshall.net)>

## What's on in the village

10.00-14.00 Sat 8 Dec	Christmas community market at Elm Farm <i>special food, crafts, gifts</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.30 Thu 13 Dec	Ladies Who Brunch, at the Halfway Inn <i>Jan Brincat to speak on First Responders</i>	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
19.00 Thu 20 Dec	Carol singing around the village <i>meet at Craven Hill, finish at the Wards for refreshments</i>	Sarah & Mick Ward 01488 658817
09.45 Sun 23 Dec	Carol service at St Mary's Church	
Tue 25 Dec	Christmas Day lunch at the White Hart	01488 657545
Mon 31 Dec	New Year's Eve at the White Hart <i>normal menu with seasonal specials, and live music no ticket or cover charge but booking essential</i>	01488 657545
20.00 Wed 2 Jan	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart	01488 657545
10.30 Thu 10 Jan	Ladies Who Brunch, at the Halfway Inn <i>quiz to benefit Maureen Church Fund</i>	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 12 Jan	Community market at village hall <i>food, crafts, gifts</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658 932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
20.00 Mon 21 Jan	Parish council meeting in the village hall	parish clerk 07974 655210 parish_clerk@hotmail.co.uk
20.00 Wed 6 Feb	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart	01488 657545
19.30-21.30 Thu 7 Feb	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall <i>Barbara Flynn on the Bowen Technique</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932

<b>regular events in the village hall</b>		
13.30-16.00 Mons termtime	Oil painting classes for beginners & improvers	Chris Turner 01488 658587
17.00-18.30 Weds	Yoga classes	Inga Craven 01488 658744
weekdays termtime	Little Sunflowers nursery school	Teresa 01635 253201 Trudy 01635 255363

## Planning applications

taken from <<http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/>> 1st December 2012

### Pending consideration

12/02921/HOUSE and 12/02922/LBC2

#### Craven Hill Lodge, no. 50-51 Hamstead Marshall

To demolish a 1980 garage and rebuild a three-bay car port with utility accommodation. No comment from the parish council appears to be on file.

12/02785/HOUSE (Nov 2012)

#### East Gate Cottage

Single-storey extension. No objection from the parish

council has been posted. WBC Archaeology department recommends archaeological supervision of works due to proximity of listed sites and buildings (St Mary's Church, Hamstead Park and the gatepiers.)

### Withdrawn

12/02336/HOUSE and 12/02337/LBC2 (Sept 2012)

#### The Old Post Office

To realign the front boundary... and build a single-storey extension.

## New chef at the White Hart

Colin Westal has joined the team in the White Hart's kitchen as development chef. He brings 25 years of experience to the role, having trained under the Roux brothers, worked with Rowley Leigh at Kensington Place, and later worked as head chef at Le Café Anglais, both of which are in Notting Hill. More recently he was head chef at Soif, a fashionable restaurant in Battersea. Colin's post at the White Hart will be mentoring on a part-time basis, as he continues also to work in London.

**Festive celebrations at the White Hart include a Christmas Day lunch at £58.50 a head (£29.50 for 11-year-olds and under) for three courses, followed by coffee and truffles.**

**New Year's Eve sees the pub opening to offer the regular menu and some seasonal specials, and live music from the rock band *Lucky To Be Alive*. There is no ticket or cover charge, but book your table now.**

**For full details see <[www.whitehartinn-hamsteadmarshall.co.uk/](http://www.whitehartinn-hamsteadmarshall.co.uk/)>.**

## Christmas cookery courses

Keppelworth Cooks have recently launched a series of home-based, half-day cookery courses in the village. The brainchild of Vicki Keppel-Compton and Emma Wordsworth aims to offer fun, friendly and informative cookery demonstrations, new ideas, different techniques and hints and tips for culinary inspiration, all in the homely atmosphere of their own kitchens.

The Christmas sessions have been taking place in a Hamstead home from late November through to early December, with the two organis-

ers presenting different recipes using their own styles of cooking. Sessions run from 9.30am to 12.30pm, for £40 per person, and attendance is limited to eight people to ensure that all can clearly see the ingredients and methods.

Vicki and Emma plan to launch a Spring programme of courses, which will be held in Hamstead Marshall and Inkpen. Watch out for announcements on <[www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard.htm](http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard.htm)> or email <[keppelworthcooks@gmail.com](mailto:keppelworthcooks@gmail.com)>.

## Ladies who brunch

Lanie Allen is the organiser behind another village venture which has swiftly caught on. **Ladies Who Brunch** combines good food, friendly company and a spot of charitable fundraising, and is open to anyone. The event is hosted at the Halfway Inn on the A4, and usually features a speaker from the charity which is designated to benefit.

Tickets cost £13.95, which covers a glass of bubbles on arrival, a two-course brunch and plenty of tea or coffee. There is also a raffle, the proceeds of which go to charity along with £1 from each brunch ticket. The October brunch raised money for Buddies, a local charity which aims to give children equal access to leisure activities. In November Bee Barnhill was the beneficiary, and December's brunch will benefit First Responders. In January the brunchers will have a quiz set by David Church to benefit the Maureen Church Fund, a hospital charity which he founded in memory of his wife.

Anyone wishing to attend should book with Lanie on <[laonee@btopenworld.com](mailto:laonee@btopenworld.com)> or 01488 658168.