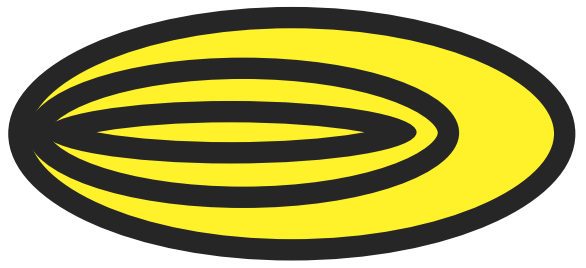


Hamstead *Hornet*



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Hamstead Marshall's online quarterly newspaper
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December 2013

Past mysteries uncovered at East Gate Cottage

Builders working on the extensive re-building of East Gate Cottage are continually stumbling upon evidence of the site's past occupation dating back to medieval times.

Their most startling discovery has been a brick-lined tunnel, barely four feet below the surface of the garden. Wide and high enough to take an adult, it runs for about 150 feet roughly north/south. Both ends have caved in, but it appeared to have started in the area of the first Lord Craven's mansion, and probably ended near the river. However the tunnel may well pre-date the Craven mansion of the 1660s, as there was a Tudor house on the site a century earlier, built by Sir Thomas Parry. The builders have come across numerous Tudor bricks scattered around the site, and also used in the walling of the supposedly Victorian building which is all that remains of the former East Gate Cottage.

There are at least two tunnels on the site, the first having been discovered and explored many years ago. Their purpose is unknown. The most recently discovered tunnel was clearly for human use, being too narrow for carted goods, and with insufficient fall for drainage.

Both tunnels have now been made safe and closed up. A time capsule (the contents of which included copies of the *Hamstead Hornet* and the church newsletter) was buried into the recently discovered tunnel.

Another excavation on site revealed a ditch and floor line which the site manager, Matt Sansum, believes may have been a medieval long-house. Fragments of medieval pottery have also been found on site, and will be passed over to the archaeologists who monitor the site regularly.



Inside the second tunnel



East Gate Cottage site

East Gate Cottage was put up for sale after Alison Oldland's death in 2011. The buyers applied for a two-storey redevelopment of the house, but withdrew their application following heated objections; the house itself is not considered historically sensitive, but the surrounding area and its sight-lines most certainly are. Another sale followed, and the house is now being extensively re-developed as a single-storey dwelling for its new owners, and is expected to be finished in June 2014.

What's on in the village

20.00 Wed 4 Dec	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry - to charity</i>	01488 657545
19.30 Wed 4 Dec	Enborne & Hamstead Marshall Garden Society Christmas meeting village hall talk by Jill Cockerton of Doozle Natural Skin Care mulled wine - mince pies - raffle - membership renewal members and visitors welcome	Dawn Taylor 01635 32006 Penelope Lake 01635 48701
19.30 Thu 5 Dec	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) Christmas party at Audley Inglewood	Sue Watts 01488 658932
18.00 Sun 8 Dec	Christingle service at St Mary's Church	
10.30 Thu 12 Dec	Ladies Who Brunch, at the Halfway Inn, £15	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-14.30 Sat 14 Dec	Christmas community market at Elm Farm <i>gift ideas - mulled wine served</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
evening Fri 20 Dec	Trip to see Ballet Theatre UK's performance of <i>The Nutcracker</i> at Arlington Arts	Sue Watts 01488 658932
16.00 Sun 22 Dec	Carols in St Mary's Church	
19.00 Mon 23 Dec	Village carol singing meet at Chapel Corner - finish at White Hart	Sarah Ward 01488 658817
20.00 Wed 1 Jan	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry - to charity</i>	01488 657545
10.30 Thu 9 Jan	Ladies Who Brunch, at the Halfway Inn, £15	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00 - 13.00 Sat 11 Jan	Community market at the village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
20.00 Wed 5 Feb	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry - to charity</i>	01488 657545
19.30 Thu 6 Feb	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-13.00 Sat 8 Feb	Community market at the village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.30 Thu 13 Feb	Ladies who brunch, at the Halfway Inn, £15	Lanie Allen 01488 658168

regular events in the village hall

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

Property on the market

estate agents' websites checked 3rd December 2013

West Barn Bothy in Craven Hill is being offered by Carter Jonas at £1.6m. The five-bedroom, Grade II listed, converted barn stands in nearly one acre of grounds. According to Zoopla it last changed hands in 2006 for £1,290,000.

The two-bedroom flat at **Hamstead Mill** offered in June by Atkinson Keene at £309,950 has been sold subject to contract.

Merrowmead at Chapel Corner, offered by Hampsons for £579,950 in the summer, can no longer be found on the Hampsons website.

Carol singing for all around the village

Monday 23rd Dec

It's Chapel Corner's turn this year

Meet by the post box at 7pm

Sing to raise money for the Bruce Trust

Finish at the White Hart

Planning applications

taken from <<http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/>> 3rd December 2013. To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

Pending consideration

13/01991/CERTP

East Gate Cottage RG20 oJD

Minor alterations to the existing dwelling including the addition of three rooflights, the enlargement of existing windows and addition of windows to the cottage building, a minor bin storage area, the extension of the existing vehicular entrance, the reduction in height of a small section of the existing

brick boundary wall.

Refused

13/0290/LBC2 and 13/0289HOUSE

Old Post Office RG20 oHW

Single-storey extension to create utility room.

Refused, and gone to appeal

13/01008/FULD

Rickety Gate Farm RG20 oJH

See separate article below.

Rickety Gate dog-breeding Inspector's decision awaited

The deadline for letters to the Planning Inspectorate about the Rickety Gate dog-breeding application closed on 21st November. The inspectorate is thought to have been deluged with objections after Rachel Paul took her rejected application to appeal in October.

The proposal first surfaced in a 2012 application, refused by WBC in the wake of 70 letters of objection citing concern about noise, effluent, traffic and animal welfare. A second application in May this year, ref 13/01008/FULD, generated 100 letters of objection according to Kathy Clarke of Gore End, who has been leading the opposition. These 100 letters, many of which came from residents all over Hamstead, not just those living close to the site, can be seen on <<http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/online-applications>>. When this second application too was refused by WBC the applicant went to appeal, and Kathy Clarke mobilised her troops for another wave of letters, this time to the Planning Inspectorate. Campaigners have also produced flyers, lobbied Sir George Young, Hamstead and East Woodhay parish councils and taken the issue onto Facebook.

Arguments against such an establishment at Rickety Gate major on the unsuitability of the site, with 200 homes within 1,000 metres (Holtwood, Gore End and Ball Hill), the scale of the operation, which is thought likely to run to 60 adult dogs breeding 21 litters a year, lack of economic merit, the inadequacy of staffing plans, light pollution, increased traffic and potential contamination of groundwater and the river Enborne by effluent.

Rachel Paul has said that she bought the Rickety Gate site in 1995 with the aim of building facilities for just 36 dogs. Her business, called Shadowsquad, was founded by her mother, who died in 2002. Her German Shepherd, Labrador and Jack Russell dogs are bred either as pets, or are sold to the police and the army. They are currently housed at her father's scrapyard at Ivory Farm, Old Burghclere.

- N** • 25 villagers have taken up Sue Watts' offer of tickets to see Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* performed by Ballet Theatre UK at Arlington Arts later this month.
- E** • Walbury Computer Group is taking three weeks off over Christmas, from 12th December to 7th January. Before and after those dates you can request a one-to-one free session of computer help by ringing Patricia Poyton on 01488 668901.
- W** • The new schedule of services for St Mary's Church 2014 has been published. On the first Sunday of each month a benefice service will rotate around the parishes, coming to St Mary's in May and August. On the third Sunday of each month there will be a family service, and on the fourth holy communion, both at 9.45am. Details on <<http://w-woodhay-and-kintbury-benefices.org.uk>>.
- Elm Farm land sales, announced in June of this year, are still uncompleted.

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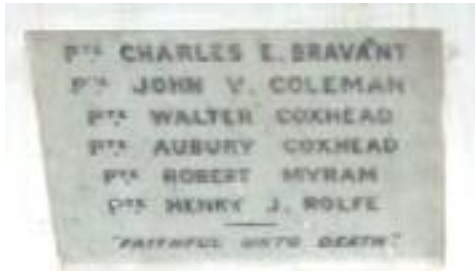
Change at Plumb's Farm

The management of the Dogs Trust kennels at Plumb's Farm changes hands this month with the arrival of Nicola Barrow, who will replace Maureen Iggleden. Nicola is expected to arrive within a couple of weeks.

In September Maureen celebrated 30 years of rehoming thousands of dogs from Plumb's Farm. She moved to Hamstead with her husband and children from Boxford in 1983, and is believed now to have retired to Burghclere.

Earlier this year Jenny Hopkins, the assistant manager, celebrated 25 years at the kennels, having started working there straight from school.

Remembrance



Jamie Gladstone is seeking help from anyone with a connection to Hamstead's First World War fatalities. To mark next year's centenary of the outbreak of the war, he has researched the military background of each of the six names on the memorial in St Mary's Church, and would now like to find out more about their family backgrounds and occupations. If you can help contact him on 01635 44868 or email him on <jamiegladstone17@gmail.com>.

**Christmas
Community Market
at Elm Farm
10 till 2.30
Saturday 14th Dec**

Bench bought with "seven years of cups of tea"



Bonfire night marked the unveiling of this striking new oak bench in the village hall recreation field.

Commissioned by the community market, the 4.5-metre long bench was created from a single oak tree, grown in West Woodhay. Alun Jones, the manager of Hamstead Park, constructed it using the natural contours of the tree trunk. As the bench took shape in situ he videoed the process, and posted the clip on YouTube. See it on <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-63SZVwxOEk>>.

The bench was paid for by "seven years of cups of tea" according to Sue Watts, summing up the doughty fund-raising activities of the community market in its first seven years.

The bonfire night party raised £150 for the Ark (cancer centre charity), £50 for the British Legion and £50 for ORC Elm Farm.

Recent crime

- Overnight on 15/16 November: Offender(s) cut through two fences to access a Hamstead Marshall property between Park Lane and Skinners Green Lane, but failed to gain access.
- 30 October: A green Land Rover Discovery stolen from West Woodhay was later found burnt out in Andover.
- 30 October: Five men were disturbed at a property between Park Lane and Skinners Green Lane, trying the a barn door. They ran off when shouted at. They were in a red Range Rover SD54X**.
- 29/30 October: Fuel was stolen from two cars in Weston by drilling into tanks.
- 28/29 October overnight : Damage was caused to fields on a farm in Weston by hare-coursers driving on the land.
- 28 October: In Hamstead Marshall a tipper truck was broken into and items stolen. Ditto a Land Rover. Three garages had padlocks broken off and hedge trimmers, hedge cutter, chainsaws and other tools were stolen.
- 27/28 October: Overnight in Kintbury someone crossed fields, cut through a barbed wire fence, cut the padlock off a stable door and stole a hedge trimmer and chainsaw.
- 17/18 October overnight: A Hamstead Marshall business workshop was broken into and chainsaws were stolen.

Hamstead Hornet

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