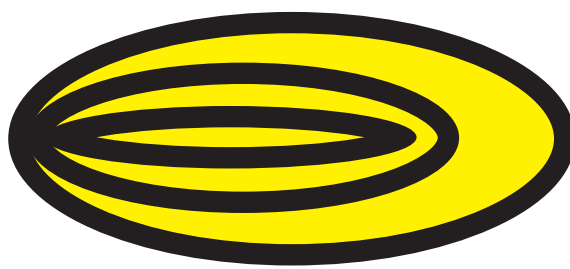


Hamstead Hornet



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December 2014

Royal award for local sailor

David Harris, resident of Ash Tree Corner, received an award from the Princess Royal in November for his voluntary work with the Gwennili Trust, which provides people with disabilities the opportunity to go sailing with experienced yachtsmen.

David was nominated by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), which is the national body for all forms of boating, and which seeks nominations each year for outstanding voluntary contribution to its charitable aims. David was one of 47 winners honoured this year for their exceptional generosity and dedication. He has served the Gwennili Trust for 11 years as trustee, and regularly takes the trust's clients on sailing expeditions around the south coast.

In conversation with the Princess Royal David Harris mentioned that 15 years ago his mother received an award for her services to the Save the Children, also from the Princess Royal.

"I took with me a photo of my mother receiving her award, which I was able to show the Princess Royal when we had a chat before lunch," he said. "She suggested that I must have been well brought up!"



Third car crash this year at Chapel Corner

Another speeding motorist piled into the hedge at Chapel Corner on 5th December, bringing this year's total to three. The first was a Ford Ka in March, shown right. The second, and by far the most serious, was a VW Golf which spun round just beyond the corner and smashed in the front wall and a window of a cottage and knocked down a newly rebuilt barn, causing many thousands of pounds' worth of damage. The resident was obliged to move out temporarily and, three months on, extensive repairs are still in hand.

In 2009 there were a record nine crashes, and there have been several more since, all caused by motorists speeding into the corner from the west. As far as is known there have been no prosecutions resulting, although the driver of the Golf is expected to appear in court in the New Year. After the 2009 series the warning signage was enhanced, and some work has supposedly been done to the surface, but the impression gained locally is that the problem will not be taken seriously by the highways department or the police until someone is badly hurt or killed.



March 2014

What's on in the village

<i>time</i>	<i>day</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>event</i>	<i>venue</i>	<i>more info/booking</i>
10.30	Thu	11-Dec	Ladies who brunch	Halfway Inn	book on 01488 658168
10-14.30	Sat	13-Dec	Christmas market	Elm Farm	01488 658168, 658932
19.00	Mon	22-Dec	Carol singing around the village (meet at the village hall)		01488 658817
	Wed	31 Dec	NYE party	White Hart	website or 01488 657545
20.00	Wed	07-Jan	White Hart quiz	White Hart	website or 01488 657545
10.30	Thu	08-Jan	Ladies who brunch	Halfway Inn	book on 01488 658168
10-13.00	Sat	10-Jan	Community market	village hall	01488 658168, 658932
20.00	Mon	19-Jan	Parish council meeting open to all	village hall	parish_clerk@hotmail.co.uk
20.00	Wed	04-Feb	White Hart quiz	White Hart	website or 01488 657545
19-21.30	Thu	05-Feb	Circle of friends	village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.30	Thu	12-Feb	Ladies who brunch	Halfway Inn	book on 01488 658168
10-13.00	Tue	17-Feb	Community market	village hall	01488 658168, 658932
20.00	Wed	04-Mar	White Hart quiz	White Hart	website or 01488 657545
19-21.30	Thu	05-Mar	Circle of friends	village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.30	Thu	12-Mar	Ladies who brunch	Halfway Inn	booking 01488 658168
10-13.00	Sat	14-Mar	Community market	village hall	01488 658168, 658932
20.00	Mon	16-Mar	Parish council meeting open to all	village hall	parish_clerk@hotmail.co.uk

regular events in the village hall

13.30-16.00 Mons termtime	Oil painting classes for beginners & improvers	Chris Turner 01488 658587
19.00 and 20.00 Mondays	Suzi Moores' exercise class £5	Suzi Moores 07900 518652
weekdays termtime	Little Sunflowers nursery school	Teresa 01635 253201 Trudy 01635 255363

Christmas Community Market
at Elm Farm
Saturday 13th December
10am until 2.30pm
24 stalls loaded with
Christmas goodies

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING
Mon 22nd December
7pm meet at the village hall,
finish at Gully Cottage for light
refreshment. Wear bright
colours & bring a torch. All are
welcome. Details from Sarah
or Mick Ward on
01488 658817 or
sarahward1000@hotmail.com

Planning applications taken from <http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk> 4 December 2014.

To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

APPROVED

Enborne Equestrian Centre RG20 OJL

13/03174COMIND 20 Dec 2013

Demolish greenhouses and remove poly tunnel. Erect wooden stableyard of 20 stables, feed and tack room.

20 Oct 2014: approved.

50 Hamstead Marshall RG20 OJQ

14/01522CONDI Jul 2014

Materials ref 13/1094HOUSE: demolition and replacement of garage.

2 Oct 2014: approved.

Old Post Office RG20 OHW

14/01808/HOUSE and 14/01810/LBC2 Jul 2014

New chimney to south-east. Removal of recent chimney in similar location.

5 Sept 2014: approved.

REFUSED

Enborne Equestrian Centre RG20 OJL

14/00301/FULD 31 Mar 2014

Dwelling to replace existing mobile home and retention of existing mobile home for a further

three years. Parish council expressed concerns about height of proposed building, conflict with the Village Design Statement and overlooking of neighbours.

20 Oct 2014: refused on grounds of size, insufficient justification and lack of an appropriate scheme of works.

Enborne Equestrian Centre RG20 OJL

14/02306CERTp

External lighting to two arenas to allow evening classes.

5 Nov 2014: refused because application failed to accord with permitted development.

PENDING

Chapel Cottage RG20 OHP

14/02908HOUSE 4 Nov 2014

Demolish timber garage, concrete garage and timber outbuilding. Replace with single building containing double garage and garden room.

West Barn Bothy RG20 OJQ

14/02613HOUSE & 14/02614LBC2

Insertion of a wood burning stove and flue.

Property There appear to be no properties for sale in the village at present.

Volunteers clear SSSI

Probably few villagers are aware that Hamstead Marshall contains the most extensive and best preserved river terraces on the Kennet. Work to maintain that standard was carried out by volunteers on 8th November.

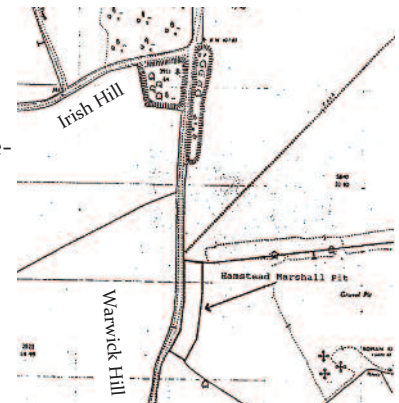
The terrace, known and marked as Hamstead Marshall Pit on the map right, is a protected Site of Special Scientific Interest in the former gravel pit quarry field. It measures 100 by 20 metres and is a relic of Ice Age geomorphology, which raised the land 47 metres above the present-day river course.

SSSIs are managed by Natural England, in this case through the Berkshire Geoconservation Group, who mustered seven able-bodied volunteers (including one from the village, David Harris) to hack back nettles, brambles and small trees, clearing the terrace for scientific observation.

The field in which the terrace lies was the subject of controversy in the 1990s when Earth-line sought to revive a long extinct gravel extraction licence.

The Hamstead Marshall Pit is the most important of three SSSIs in Hamstead Marshall, the others being:

- Irish Hill Copse, as ancient coppiced woodland;
- Redhill Wood, as ancient woodland;
- the River Kennet itself.



The Parish News, compiled on behalf of the churches of Hamstead Marshall, Enborne and West Woodhay will become two-monthly from 2015, and will be issued December/January, February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September and October/November. The magazine needs a new editor. Anyone with a few hours to spare is asked to contact Kay Tuersley on 01635 226064 or parishgoodnews@gmail.com

**Park Lane will be closed from
08.00 to 17.00
Thursday 11th December.
A diversion will be set up via
Warwick Hill and Chapel Corner.**

What's going on at Hamstead Crossing?

Local concerns have been strongly expressed with regard to the unsightliness of the Network Rail installation under construction at Hamstead Crossing, which occupies the site of Hamstead's former signal box.

The site is within Speen parish, on land thought to have been formerly owned by the Benham estate and since acquired by Network Rail.

A planning application for the work (ref 14/00504FUL) was submitted to WBC in February 2014, validated in June, but not approved until 23 October, some months after Network Rail started work on site.

This anomaly may be connected to the change of land ownership. Network Rail, as a statutory body, does not have to seek planning permission, but this would not

explain why the application continued to proceed. A call to the WBC planning department was less than illuminating.

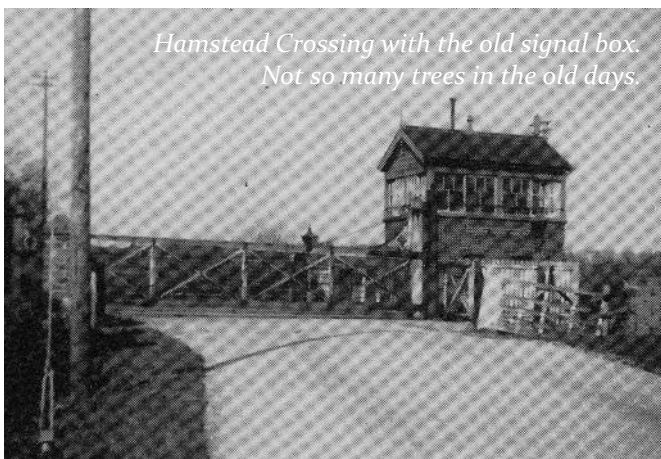
The planning application was for signalling equipment (including auxiliary supply point), access supply point and associated works, and change of use of land to operational railway use. It mentions parking provision for one vehicle, but the lack of sewerage provision suggest that the installation will not be regularly manned. It was also claimed that there were no trees or hedges on the site, and that there were no trees or hedges adjacent which might be of important local character. In the associated documents the WBC ecology officer expressed concern about the destruction of hedgerow, and asked Network Rail about plans for restitution. The Network Rail reply was vague. The WBC tree officer expressed concern about visibility and asked for landscaping conditions to be applied.

The approval notice of 23 October 2014 details various conditions concerning highways access, and asks Network Rail to submit a landscaping plan.

An enquiry has been made by the *Hornet* to Network Rail with regard to the date scheduled for the completion of the works and the landscaping plan prescribed by planning approval. The reply to that enquiry will be published on [www/hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard.htm](http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard.htm) if and when received.



The site in November 2014



*Hamstead Crossing with the old signal box.
Not so many trees in the old days.*

The works at Hamstead crossing are directly linked to Network Rail's plan to electrify the GWR line between London and Bristol, including Newbury. This is scheduled for completion by 2016, but new Intercity Express Programme rolling stock will not be running on the line until 2017.

The system chosen is overhead line electrification (OLE), which means contact wires at 4.7 metres height along the track, rising to 5.6 metres at crossings. There may be more clearance of track-side vegetation, because the new system requires 6.6 metres free on either side to avoid leaves and twigs falling onto the overhead lines and to avoid sparks igniting dry vegetation.

Passenger benefits of electrified rail are said by Network Rail to be: more reliability; lower carbon emissions; faster speeds; more seats; less noise and vibration. Lower running costs are also envisaged although there is no mention of the savings being passed on to ticket-buyers.

Hamstead Hornet

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Readers who have supplied their email addresses to the editor receive notification with a link as soon as each issue is posted.

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