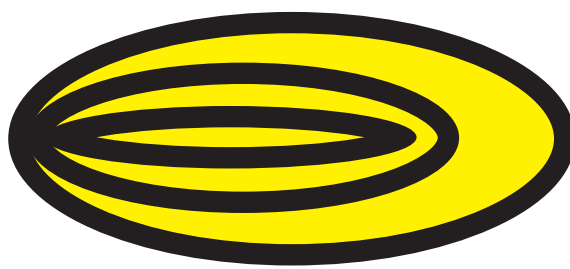


Hamstead Hornet



Issue no. 81

Hamstead Marshall's quarterly newspaper
published since 1996

March 2017

White Hart fate hangs in the balance again



Stella Coulthurst, the owner of the White Hart, has filed a second planning application to turn the former pub into four dwellings, which she has said she intends to let.

This follows refusal of her previous application last April, when the Western Area Planning Committee attempted to put the application on hold for six months to give local campaigners a chance to come up with a viable plan for running the pub. After the meeting it was ruled by council officers that, without such powers, the committee had essentially refused the application.

Since then the pub has continued to be let for residential accommodation. Local campaigners have fought to save it with the establishment of a working group and some recent vigorous publicity. Last summer the White Hart was granted ACV status, ie, officially recognising that it is an asset of community value. Two independent assessments arranged by the campaigners have declared that the pub has the potential for commercial viability.

The pub has been offered leasehold by Christie & Co since its closure in September 2016. The current terms (a reduction on the terms initially offered) include an initial rent of £35,000 in the first year, rising to £42,250 in the second year and then £50,000 in year three followed by a rent review. Several pub companies have shown interest but, according to the owner, usually decide against it on account of the location.

Since the submission of the second planning application Debra Inston, WBC's principal conservation and design officer, has requested an historical impact assessment and a visit to the site to assess its historical importance.

The WBC planning website displays around 150 letters of objection from within and well beyond the village. The website also says (as of 6th March) that the application is still open for comment.

The next meeting of the Western Area Planning Committee is at 6.30pm on Wednesday 15th March, but at the time of writing no agenda had been published, so it is not certain that the application will be discussed at this meeting. The agenda should be published a week in advance.

Statement by John Handy on behalf of the Save The White Hart Inn Group

The Save the White Hart Inn Group has revitalised its campaign to oppose the current application for change of use into dwellings and get the inn into the hands of an experienced operator.

As far as the group is concerned nothing has changed, and we are back at square one.

The pub closed through poor management and subsequent lack of business. The viability of the inn is not in question, two studies have proved this, and the building is not redundant.

We view the White Hart as the social centre of the village, and this has been confirmed by its listing as an Asset of Community Value and the high numbers of letters of objection (150+) submitted to the West Berkshire planning department.

All planning policy recognises the importance of pubs to rural communities, and there is no justification for the planning authority to grant the owner change of use.

Save the White Hart Inn Group can be followed on its website and on Facebook and Twitter

What's on in the village

for St Mary' Church services see here

10.00 Thu 9 Mar	Ladies who Brunch £16, booking essential	Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 11 Mar	Community Market artisan bread, local produce, secondhand books, refreshments, crafts	village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00 Sat 25 Mar	Hamstead Park Fun Run & Hog Roast ring for confirmation	Hamstead Park	Sarah Stevenson 07802 235169
19.30 Sat 25 Mar	Quiz & Ploughman's Supper <i>booking essential</i>	village hall	Penny Stokes 01488 658759
19.00-21.30 Thu 6 Apr	Circle of Friends informal women's group Sugarcraft flowers with Alicia	village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-13.00 Sat 8 Apr	Community Market artisan bread, local produce, secondhand books, refreshments, crafts	village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00 Thu 13 Apr	Ladies who Brunch £16, booking essential	Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
19.00-21.30 Thu 4 May	Circle of Friends informal women's group usually with a speaker or demo	village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00 Thu 11 May	Ladies who Brunch £16, booking essential	Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 13 May	Community Market artisan bread, local produce, secondhand books, refreshments, crafts	village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
17.30- Sat 20 May	Barn Dance with Caper <i>BYO food and drink</i>	Elm Farm	Sue Watts 01488 658932
17.00 Sat 27 May	Watership Cantabile Choir	St Mary's Church	Sarah Stevenson 07802 235169
19.00-21.30 Thu 1 Jun	Circle of Friends informal women's group plant swap and cuttings to share	village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00 Thu 8 Jun	Ladies who Brunch £16, booking essential	Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-14.30 Sat 10 Jun	Summer Community Market artisan bread, local produce, secondhand books, refreshments, crafts	Elm Farm	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
Frti 30 Jun	Jazz in the Park <i>details tba</i>	Park Lodge garden	Sarah Stevenson 07802 235169

regular events in the village hall

13.30-16.00 Mons termtime	Oil painting classes for beginners & improvers	Chris Turner 01488 658587
18.00-19.00 & 19.00-20.00 Mons from 3 Apr	Ballet fit with Olivia Stott	07766 404984 olivia@balletfit.com
18.00 Tues from 14 Mar	Puppy and dog training classes with Andrea Capewell of Field & Homedog Training	Andrea Capewell 07783 583212
weekday mornings termtime	Jane's House Montessori pre-school	Jane Doyle 07738 969358

Railway crossing closure

11:30pm on Saturday 18th March to
8:30am on Sunday 19th March
Diversion via Kintbury

QUIZ

and
PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER
Hamstead Marshall Village Hall
7.30pm Sat 25th March 2017

teams of up to 6
£7.50 per person includes the meal
BYO drinks (glasses provided)
profits to the village hall

numbers limited -- booking essential

Penny Stokes at The Holding

01488 658759

pennystokes@hamsteadmarshall.net



Holtwood Corner, built in 2010, continues to be offered by Strutt and Parker at £3,950,000. The house has six bedrooms, all ensuite, a swimming pool, tennis court, stabling, pony paddocks and a three-bay garage with staff accommodation above.

Phased by your phone?

Confused by your computer or camera?

Walbury Computer Group offers free* one-to-one tuition with an expert, at Inglewood on the first Wednesday of the month, St Mary's hall in Kintbury on the other Wednesdays. Ring Patricia Poyton for an appointment on 01488 668901.

*small donations gratefully accepted

Planning applications

taken from <http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk> on 4 March 2017. To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

APPROVED

16/03064/FUL
Validated 3rd November 2016
The Old Pound, belonging to no. 24 Chapel Corner RG20 0HR
Change of status for the bottom 25 per cent (closest to the road) to residential use, ie, off-road parking, including re-erection of a brick shed. Remainder of The Old Pound to continue to be used as agricultural land.

AWAITING DECISION

17/2727/FULD
Validated January 2017
White Hart Inn, RG20 0HW
Change of use from public house (Class A4) to 4 dwelling houses (Class C3) and associated external alterations, landscaping and car parking (following refusal of 15/02727/FULD)

17/00221/FUL
Morewood RG20 0JD
All-weather riding arena

17/00258/FUL
Elm Farm RG20 0HR
Rear two-storey extension to farmhouse

Remember these?

These two local walks leaflets were produced under the parish plan of 2008. They are about to be reprinted by St Mary's Church.



Two circular walks of 3-4 miles each, which can be enjoyed separately or linked to make a figure of 8 walk of nearly 7 miles over farmland, along the Kennet & Avon Canal towpath, past Hamstead and Benham locks, through Enborne Wood and Hamstead Park



Two circular walks of 3-4 miles each, which can be enjoyed separately or linked to make a figure of 8 walk of nearly 7 miles over farmland, woodland, country lanes, and Hamstead Park

In the meantime, see here for more suggestions for walks around and beyond the parish.

Barn Dance

to
Caper

at Elm Farm Barn
from 5.30pm Sat 20 May
£10 adults, children free
BYO food and drink



Coming soon:

Scottish dancing in Elm Farm barn, due to start in October;
An exhibition of Dorothy Aromando's art at Elm Farm, organised by Susie for the charity she set up in memory of her mother last year.

Friends' meeting

About 25 local people gathered at the Red House on 20th February for the launch of a new group, the Friends of Hamstead Marshall and Marsh Benham. The meeting was organised by Johnny and Sarah Stevenson in conjunction with members of St Mary's Church.

Over the last couple of years St Mary's has benefited from a lively social programme organised by the church support team, and it was proposed that this new Friends group devise and co-ordinate more social events within the village for the church and for other charitable fund-raising. Those attending heard presentations from three local charity representatives:

- Susie Aromando described the Dorothy Aromando Art Fund, which she set up in memory of her mother last year, for the purpose of raising money for research into mesothelioma;
- Tor Saunders told the meeting about Swings and Smiles, a West Berkshire charity which organises play centres for special-needs children and their families;

• Paul Fisher introduced Boys Beating Cancer, a local group which organises fun runs in aid of Cancer Research UK;

• Georgina Punter outlined the aims of Time to Talk, which organises free professional counselling for 11 to 25-year-olds in West Berkshire.

Those at the meeting were invited to sign up to help with a wide-ranging programme of events, and to nominate their own local charities which might be beneficiaries in future.

Dates have already been proposed for a fun run in the park, a barn dance at Elm Farm and a Watership Cantabile concert in St Mary's. (See the What's On page overleaf.) Other events in prospect include Scottish dancing and an art exhibition of Dorothy Aromando's work, both at Elm Farm.

To keep abreast of these events and others within the village, keep an eye on:

www.hamsteadmarshall.net/whatson.htm

and

www.hamsteadmarshallchurch.co.uk/future-events.html

To the pointe

If your New Year resolution to keep fit has mysteriously failed to deliver, here comes a new opportunity to shape up for Spring. From 3rd April Olivia Stott is running ballet-fit classes in the village hall on Monday evenings. If you can't get to the 6pm start don't despair: a second class starts at 7pm.

Ballet-fit is based not just on ballet, but also on

yoga and Pilates. The workout is suitable for all ages from 16 years old upwards, and no previous experience is needed. Just bring a yoga mat or something similar to lie on.

Classes cost £8, but you can book a free taster session by contacting Olivia by email, on 07766 404984 or see her Facebook page.

To heel

Puppy and dog training classes begin in the village hall on 14th March. Andrea Capewell of Field & Home Dog Training will be holding sessions from 6pm on Tuesdays. Andrea, who holds a canine psychology diploma, can be contacted by email or on 07783 583212.

Gigaclear: latest

Gigaclear broadband, previously promised for Hamstead Marshall by June 2017, has slipped out to the end of July 2017, but works are still scheduled to start this month.

Keep track of progress on the Superfast Broadband roll-out page.

Carolling for tiny babies

Sarah Ward's carol singers raised £240 (worth £300 with Gift Aid) for New Life, a local charity which supports special-care baby units.

(<https://www.newlifespécialcarebabies.org>)



Hamstead Hornet

The *Hamstead Hornet* is published quarterly online at www.hamsteadmarshall.net/hornet.htm.

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

Printed copies are produced only for those with no internet connection.

News stories are updated between issues on www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard.htm.

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