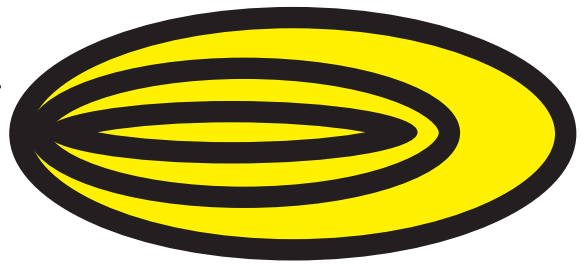


Hamstead Hornet



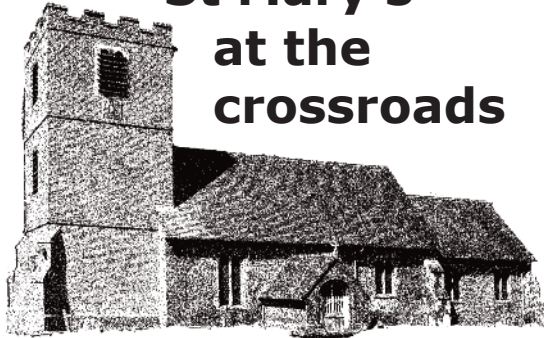
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a brief history

St Mary's was built in the twelfth century as a field church of Kintbury, but gained its parochial independence in 1247. Until the mid-eighteenth century Hamstead's rector lived in a parsonage on the site of North Lodge. From 1816 the village shared a rector with Enborne, and in 1926 the parishes were officially united. The benefice expanded further in 1981, taking in Inkpen, West Woodday and Combe, and in 2000 Kintbury was added to what is now called the Walbury Benefice.



St Mary's at the crossroads

Several villagers attended the first of two open meetings at St Mary's, where the plight of Hamstead's church was outlined in unvarnished terms.

They were told by Peter Benest, speaking on behalf of the parochial church council, that the present financial model under which the church operates is unsustainable, and church will fail financially in 18 months.

Why? St Mary's is currently part of the Walbury Benefice (see left) which falls under the diocese of Oxford, with many intervening layers such as Newbury deanery and Berkshire archdeaconry. (A current diocesan job ad talks of its "c.100 members of staff employed by the Board of Finance".) In total, St Mary's costs £11,000 to £12,000 per year to run, of which diocesan charges are £10,000. This has been unsustainable for some time, and the crunch point is now within sight.

What is the solution? The parochial church council proposes that St Mary's withdraw from the benefice and diocese, and place itself in one of two trusts: either the Churches Conservation Trust or the Friends of Friendless Churches. Both of these exist to take on churches in difficulty. If St Mary's joined one of them, dues would no longer be payable to the administrative church superstructure. St Mary's would have no minister, but could hire one for up to six communion services a year, and for any number of weddings, christenings and funerals. The church would remain open for visitors, social events, and lay-led services.

As might be expected, the benefice and diocese are not in favour of this solution.

Whether or not you are a churchgoer, you probably feel that St Mary's is an essential element of Hamstead's village identity. If you would like to know more about the present dilemma come to **the next meeting, 11am, Sunday 8th September**. It would be a way of showing that you care, at least about the future of Hamstead's oldest building.

**Win
dinner for
two at the
White
Hart Inn
see back
page**

Elm Farm: sales under way, but under wraps

All of the eight lots of Elm Farm land are currently under offer, according to Carter Jonas, although as yet no contracts have been exchanged. Andrew Chandler, of Carter Jonas Newbury, confirmed that more than one buyer is involved but declined to say how many. Stuart Rogers, interim CEO of ORC, is equally reticent. The ORC website posted a statement about the sale on 17th June, but gives no indication of the organisation's likely next home.



What's on in the village

for St Mary' Church services see [here](#)

Monday afternoons	Chris Turner's oil painting class	Village hall	01488 658587
17.15-18.15 Mondays	Hatha Flow yoga class with Neeta Madahar	Elm Farm	Neeta Madahar
12.30-13.30 Tuesdays	Lunchtime yoga class with Neeta Madahar	Village hall	Neeta Madahar
18.00-18.45 Thursdays	Tai Chi class with Paula Chandler TBC	Village hall	Paula Chandler
20.00 1st Thursdays of month	Monthly Mindbender Quiz <i>winner's choose next month's charity beneficiary</i>	White Hart	01488 657545
* starred items are detailed on back page			
19.00-21.30 Thu 5 Sep	Circle of Friends <i>informal ladies' group £3</i>	Village hall	Sue Watts
14.00 Sat 7 Sep	Garden Society Flower Show & Fete* <i>craft stalls, band, tombola, barbecue</i>	Hazel Paddock	Penelope Lake
10.30 Thu 12 Sep	Ladies who brunch <i>Bubbles & two-course brunch. £15 inc charity donation. Newcomers welcome. Booking essential</i>	Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.15-10.45 Thur 12 Sep	Mobile library	Village hall	WBC library service
10.00-13.00 Sat 14 Sep	Community market <i>home-made cakes, preserves, cheeses, eggs, refreshments, crafts, second-hand books</i>	Village hall	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
20.00 Thur 19 Sep	Parish council meeting <i>all welcome</i>	Village hall	parish clerk
18.00-21.00 Tue 1 Oct	Saviour Pennies Beer Club Night* <i>special brews, live music, brewery tours and some local history</i>	White Hart	01488 657545
19.00-21.30 Thu 3 Oct	Circle of Friends <i>informal ladies' group £3</i>	Village hall	Sue Watts
19.00-22.00 Fri 4 Oct	Harvest supper* <i>£10 sit-down buffet, bar/BYO, booking essential</i>	Village hall	Sue Watts
10.30 Thu 10 Oct	Ladies who brunch <i>Bubbles & two-course brunch. £15 inc charity donation. Newcomers welcome. Booking essential</i>	Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 12 Oct	Community market <i>home-made cakes, preserves, cheeses, eggs, refreshments, crafts, second-hand books</i>	Village hall	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.15-10.45 Thur 24 Oct	Mobile library	Village hall	WBC library service
18.00 Tue 5 Nov	Bonfire party, fireworks* guy competition, bar & barbecue	Village hall	Sue Watts
19.00-21.30 Thu 7 Nov	Circle of Friends <i>informal ladies' group £3</i>	Village hall	Sue Watts
10.00-13.00 Sat 9 Nov	Community market <i>home-made cakes, preserves, cheeses, eggs, refreshments, crafts, second-hand books</i>	Village hall	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.30 Thu 14 Nov	Ladies who brunch <i>Bubbles & two-course brunch. £15 inc charity donation. Newcomers welcome. Booking essential</i>	Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
20.00 Thur 18 Nov	Parish council meeting <i>all welcome</i>	Village hall	parish clerk
19.00-21.30 Thu 5 Dec	Circle of Friends <i>informal ladies' group £3</i>	Village hall	Sue Watts
10.15-10.45 Thur 5 Dec	Mobile library	Village hall	WBC library service

Planning applications taken from <https://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk> on

27th August 2019. To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

APPROVED

Plumbs Farm, RG20 0HR

19/00703/FUL validated 17th April 2019

Wire frame steel sculpture of a dog on concrete base below ground.

REFUSED

Hamstead Park RG20 0HE

19/01734/CERTE validated 4th July 2019

Stationing of a caravan within residential curtilage to be used as ancillary staff accommodation. (Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use or operation or activity, including those in breach of a planning condition)

Refused 14th Aug 2019 on grounds that "There is no factual evidence to demonstrate that the mobile log home is for residential use as ancillary staff accommodation and also the history of the mobile log home."

AWAITING DECISION

9 Salters, RG20 0HH

19/01624/HOUSE validated 20th Jun 2019

Proposed two-storey side and rear extension to house. Demolish garage and summer house and erect new detached timber frame garage.

Site of former Park Lodge, RG20 0JD

19/01928/COND1 validated 1st Aug 2019

Approval of details reserved by condition 5-materials 6-eaves and fascias 7-landscaping of approved application 18/00845/FUL.

Enborne Equestrian Centre, Holtwood, RG20 0JL

17/02878/FULD validated 18th Oct 2017

Section 73A: Variation of Conditions 3, 4, 5 & 7 of planning permission reference 16/00775/FULD (Proposed dwelling to replace existing mobile home) No objection from parish council.



Only one village property (other than Elm Farm) is currently being advertised for sale: Holtwood Corner, vacated by its owners some years ago and believed currently to be tenanted, has returned to the market with Knight Frank at a guide price of £3,750,000 for its six bedrooms and six bathrooms, in nearly 18 acres, with swimming pool. (The price with Strutt & Parker in 2016/17 was £3,950,000.)

Parish action plan with WBC

The parish planners have finalised a draft action plan which is currently with WBC pending approval. Main points in the plan are:

- improve mobile phone reception;
- reduce impact of traffic on safety and quality of village life;
- improve pedestrian/equestrian/cycle access;
- hedge/verge trimming (for visibility/pedestrian safety);
- pedestrian/road user safety in winter (salt bins);
- litter and fly tipping (renew actions, eg, litter pick events);
- improve/maintain communication of village news;
- refurbish bus shelter information board;
- historic sites information (William Marshal/permanent feature).



William the Marshal was a medieval knight who served five kings of England, in the course of which he became Earl Marshal. With this title came the manor of Hamstead Marshall. 2019 is the 800th anniversary of his death.

Following the re-appointment of three parish councillors and the addition of Susie Aromando as a new councillor in May's uncontested election, the PC has been seeking a fifth member to bring it up to full complement. Rob Manser of Chapel Corner has volunteered to join, and will be co-opted at the September meeting unless anyone else comes forward to contest the place.

Parish council meetings have moved from the third Monday (of alternate months) to the third Thursday.

Local listing status sought for hall



An application for "local listing" of the village hall has been submitted to West Berkshire Heritage Forum by the parish council. The hall was built by the local architect James Money as a parish school, and the foundation stone dated 1895 can still be seen on the north wall. If successful the designation will be the second within the village. For further information contact Anne Budd.

The village hall has been spruced up over the summer with sanding and waxing of the floor.

Win dinner for two at The White Hart Inn

two courses and a bottle of Prosecco or house wine

To enter, identify these four dishes from The White Hart Inn menu. They look unfamiliar, because they've had all their vowels and spaces removed.

1. hmhck&mstrdtrrn
2. chckpspnch&btrtrntsqshcrry
3. brbttrdfsh&chps
4. strwbrrychsck

When you've worked out the full names of the four dishes*, email your answer to info@saviourwhitehart.co.uk with "menu competition" as the subject line, to arrive no later than 30th September 2019.

*A visit to the website may help.

Please include a phone number (which will be used only if there is a need to contact you about this competition).

Terms & conditions

- Only one entry can be accepted from any one email address.
- The winner will be selected at random from the correct entries received, and notified by email within 48 hours of the closing date (see above). If the winner's acceptance has not been received within 48 hours of notification another winner will be selected, to whom this condition will also apply.
- The winner will be put in touch with The White Hart Inn directly to make the reservation. The reservation date must be within 12 months of notification.
- Unless your email indicates your preference otherwise, your email address will be added to the database to receive news of upcoming events and promotions at the White Hart Inn.

Not just for beer-drinkers
Saviour Pennies Beer Club Night
6pm, Tuesday 1st October
will feature
local pub history and live music
as well as (of course)
special brews & brewery tours

Speakers' Corner
returns to St Mary's Church in October
see www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard
or email Venetia Dunlop for details

Slumped all summer? Get back into shape with Paula's Pilates Monday mornings in the village hall. Ring her on 07825 664296

Hamstead Hornet

The Hamstead Hornet is published quarterly online at <http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net/social-life/hamstead-hornet/>. Readers who have supplied their email addresses to the editor receive notification with a link as soon as each issue is posted. News stories are updated between issues on <http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net/social-life/noticeboard/>. The Hamstead Hornet is edited and published by Penelope Stokes at The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW 01488 658759 admin@hamsteadmarshall.net

Enborne and Hamstead Marshall Garden Society FLOWER SHOW AND FETE

Saturday 7th September from 2pm
at
Hazel Paddock, Enborne
(opposite the village school)

More than 100 show classes for local fruit and veg, flowers, cakes, preserves, handicrafts and children's classes as well as tombola, grand draw (1st prize £150), East Woodhay Silver Band, craft stalls, barbecue and refreshments



Anyone can enter their garden produce or handiwork

For a copy of the show schedule ask either Dawn Taylor (01635 32006) or Penelope Lake (01635 48701)

H A R V E S U P P E R



7pm Friday 4th October
in the village hall
£10 per person

Sit-down buffet, with bar or BYO drink, and raffle

Tickets to be booked in advance with Sue Watts on soosy.watts@gmail.com or 01488 658932

Numbers strictly limited so preference will be given to village residents

Bonfire Night party with

fireworks

guy competition, bar & barbecue from 6pm Tuesday 5th November on the village hall recreation field.
To help with bonfire building contact Sue Watts