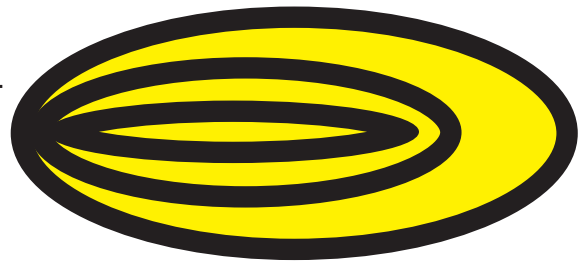


Hamstead Hornet



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June 2020

In the 12th week of lockdown... ...how's Hamstead doing?

Within a day or two of the lockdown announcement Hamstead's Community Support Hub was up and running, thanks to Sarah and Johnny Stevenson, John Handy, Sue Watts, Vicki Keppel-Compton and Anne Budd. The WhatsApp group on which it is based now has over 80 subscribers in the village and adjoining parishes, and has formed the launch pad for a wide variety of initiatives.

Team Scrubbers

Team Scrubbers was set up in April by Katie Wallis when a friend at the Great Western Hospital in Swindon told her they were short of scrubs. A team of volunteers with sewing machines was swiftly raised through WhatsApp, but it also became immediately apparent that scrubs must conform to stringent professional standards of material and construction. This wasn't a job for bungling amateurs.

Patterns and fabric had to be sourced. With support from the John Lewis Partner-



Scrubs from
Team Scrubbers

ship, S & C Slatter, Fowler Architecture and Planning, Cutting Edge Newbury and Colefax & Fowler, Katie's team of up to 40 volunteers had produced more than 100 sets of scrubs by mid-May.

Still sewing, the seamstresses have expanded also to produce face masks for the West Berkshire Community Hospital, and Katie now has production outposts in Lambourn and East Garston.

To volunteer, donate or learn more see Team Scrubbers' facebook page.

Team Bakers



Cakes for carers

Fonny Morton of Marsh Benham volunteered as a Scrubber but, realising that sewing wasn't her forte, switched to baking. On learning from Jenny Hall at the community hospital that care home workers badly needed a morale boost, Fonny recruited her friends to bake cakes for them.

In the first week 33 cakes were delivered to the hospital and about 15 local care homes. Thereafter the scheme snowballed to 47 bakers, producing 76 cakes a week. Fonny has also been delivering an additional 20 or so cakes per week produced by the Baptist Church.

Problems in getting supplies of ingredients, particularly flour, were aired on the WhatsApp group, prompting a raft of donations from other subscribers. Deliveries have been carried out mainly by home-based student offspring of Fonny's friends.

"The scheme has brought a lot of people together," said Fonny. "Some of our bakers included lovely little notes to the carers. We started to see smiles and waves as morale improved."

The project has closed with its last delivery this week, on the grounds that care homes are now struggling a little less, but Fonny will be back in action if needed again.

"If there's a second spike, we'll be ready," she says.

Thursday pop-up shop

The monthly village market at the village hall swiftly morphed into a weekly pop-up shop.

Hetherton's Bakery in Bartholomew Street has long been a supplier to the monthly village market, and Lanie Allen wanted to support them through hard times in return. She now takes weekly texted orders from all over the village (and beyond) for Hetherton's bread, cakes and pasties, which John Handy collects and delivers to the village hall for the Thursday morning pop-up shop.

Sue Watts continues to take orders for Beechwood Farm eggs, and John Handy collects Ramsbury Brewery beer and copies of the *Newbury Weekly News* to order. Sue sorts and assembles the consignments for customers to turn up and collect from the village hall on Thursday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30, with Geoff Watts outside marshalling arrivals and departures according to strict distancing rules.

Food to go -- where it's needed

Vicki Keppel-Compton got involved via the Community Support Hub in gathering and delivering four or five boxes of donated food each week to vulnerable village families.

Following her appeal through WhatsApp, locals have been bringing donations of food to the village hall.

"The community have been so generous with produce and cans and frozen meals," she says. "We wouldn't have been able to do this without them."

She describes the boxes as "by no means a week's shop", but they contain store-cupboard basics and frozen meals. Other local donors have been steady financial supporters, enabling Vicki to add fresh fruit and veg each week.

Lanie Allen is running a similar service in Kintbury, part-funded by the parish council.

"Kintbury villagers and residents of Audley Inglewood have been incredibly generous," she says, "sending money and grocery donations. We store groceries at the former butchers in Kintbury, thanks to Steve Cook, who intends to set up shop when things improve."

Some of what she collects has been shared with Vicki for the Hamstead parcels. Any surplus of fresh produce is frozen for later.

Fonny delivering cakes to a care home



Food laid out for collection at the village hall

But it takes more than food to survive lockdown

Lanie is also involved with the Kintbury Volunteer Group, for which she monitors calls from home, organising volunteer drivers for local people who need to attend surgeries and hospital appointments. Some of the drivers are also collecting prescriptions in the area.

As part of her various activities, she came into contact with family support workers who put her in touch with young families needing additional support. From this sprang a toy collection initiative, sparked by an offer from someone in Hamstead of a trampette. An appeal went out on the Hamstead WhatsApp. A local arborist threw in a fort and a Wendy house, and offered to deliver.

Since then, sacks, boxes and bags of more clothes, shoes, toys, teddies, books and games have been collected, for which Lanie has had quite emotional thank-you messages from the pre-school group and the family worker at Kintbury St Mary's School.

One of the 750,000 NHS Volunteer Responders

When the appeal went out for an NHS volunteer army under the government's scheme, Tom Lane was quick to sign up, offering to shop or collect medication for local people shielding with serious health conditions.

The scheme was organised through the Royal Voluntary Service, an organisation with long experience in handling volunteer effort, but even they were initially somewhat swamped by a response three times greater than the target of 250,000.

However, after a mildly delayed

start, Tom was called out by GoodSAM, the volunteer app which alerts him to someone local in need. His first customer was astonished to be contacted within a couple of hours, having been told response might take 48 hours.

Tom's local area stretches from Ball Hill to around Stockcross, and the app shows the number (but not the id) of volunteers who have logged in as available at any given time.

Since that first alert there have been several more call-outs from

SAM, but most of Tom's requests come from directly from the people needing help, having got his number through friendship contacts (although GoodSAM volunteers are advised to mask their mobile numbers.) Word-of-mouth, it seems, moves faster than software.

Between his mercy missions, Tom is now studying an online course in Test and Trace with Johns Hopkins University.

According to www.goodsamapp.org/NHS recruitment is now on hold.

Stevenson family on the ropes

The bells of St Mary's rang out loud and clear across the village during the 10 weeks of Clap-for-the-NHS-and-carers each Thursday evening, and especially for the VE Day anniversary, thanks to the efforts of the Stevenson family.

Pictured here are Tom and Alfie Stevenson taking their turn.



One consequence of the lockdown which is abundantly clear is that village people are getting to know each other in a wholly new way.

Lanie Allen sums it up:

"I've had some great conversations, and learnt more in these few weeks about Kintbury and Hamstead Marshall "old" families than in the almost 30 years I've lived here. I can't wait to go and have a cuppa with Sheila, Joan, Judith and many others, to put faces to names, and learn more of the stories they tell. I'm also looking forward to meeting the young families. I'll recognise most of the children, as mums have sent me photos of them, usually eating something messy or playing with their new toys."

News in brief

Three proposals for new houses in Hamstead have been refused by WBC planning (one has gone to appeal), and three more proposals for conversion of allegedly redundant barns are awaiting decision.

Stella Coulthurst and John Trueman are contesting WBC's refusal to award the White Hart a Small Business Support Grant in respect of business lost by covid-19 restrictions. Although the pub has been closed over the winter, John's Saviour Brewery had brewed 1,200 pints in expectation of re-opening on 27th March. Stella has launched a petition at change.org to attract support for the grant.

The parish council held its first Zoom meeting in May, having been schooled in advance by the parish clerk, Sarah Bosley. Matters were kept to a minimum

for this first online meeting (mainly planning applications). Three parishioners attended. Anyone wishing to attend future meetings, or to see updates on parish council matters, should visit the council's own website.

Carter Jonas continues to advertise lot 7 (47 acres) of Elm Farm land, together with the cottage, inviting offers in excess of £650,000. Local rumour suggests that offers have been made both for the combined package, and for the cottage and land separately.

Marc Allen of Hungerford is offering Hawthorn Cottage, also known as no. 27, at an asking price of £875,000. The three-bedroom cottage comes with nearly half an acre and planning permission for an extension.

The death of Tim Gwyn-Jones at the age of 82 was announced in early April. He moved into Hamstead Park in 1987, having bought the last remaining portion of the Craven estate in 1984. When Hamstead Lodge was vacated by its tenant, he moved in, but he also spent time at his estates in Ireland.

His career in property development began in London around 1970, and the Companies House beta website currently lists him as director of more than 40 active companies registered at Hamstead Park.

A keen fox-hunter, he was for a while master of the Vine and Craven Hunt, and was described in the Irish press as the saviour of the East Galway Hunt.

He is survived by his second wife, Tzaraine Cope, and three sons.

Planning applications taken from <https://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk> on 3rd June 2020. To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

APPROVED

51 (Park Lane/Craven Hill) RG20 oJG

20/00358/LBC2 validated 10th Feb 2020

Applicant: S Tyzack

Enlargement to an existing window and internal alterations.

Approved 9th April 2020.

Elm Farm RG20 oHR

20/00196/FULD validated 3rd Feb 2020

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Douglas Oppenheim

Conversion of former research lab and offices to single dwelling house.

Approved 9th April 2020

20/00997 and 8/COND1: details relating to

20/00196/FULD approved 5th May 2020.

Park Lodge RG20 oJD

20/00742/FUL validated 24th Mar 2020

Applicant: J & S Stevenson

Vary conditions relating to 18/00845/FUL

Approved 26th May 2020.

REFUSED

"Land west of Park Lane"*

19/02274/FULD validated 31st Oct 2019

Applicant: E & D G Stevens

Erection of rural workers dwelling for key worker.

Objection from Hamstead Marshall Parish Council.

**more specifically, at the top of the road north from*

White Hill Farm, beside the cattle sheds.

Former garages site next to no. 1 The Village, RG20 oHN

19/03076/OUTD validated 11th Dec 2019

Applicant: Dreamlodge Ltd

Outline application for demolition of existing garages and erection of a two-storey detached dwelling with three parking spaces.

Gone to appeal 5th May 2020 ref 20/00027/WR

Barrs Farm RG20 oHS

19/02271/FULD validated 28th Jan 2020

Applicant: E & D G Stevens

Additional dwelling for rural worker

AWAITING DECISION

Fishery Cottage RG20 oJD

20/00320/FUL validated 11th Feb 2020

Applicant: Richard White

Demolition of current dwelling, replace with larger dwelling.

Objection from Hamstead Marshall Parish Council.

Oak Tree Barn, Holtwood RG20 oJH

20/00901/FULD validated 16th Mar 2020

Applicant: Chris Moss

Conversion of redundant barn into dwelling and garage.

Barn between Salters Yard and Spicers Copse

20/01059/PACOU validated 11th May 2020

Applicant: Tzaraine Cope

Change of use to form 2 dwelling houses.

Objections from Dreamlodge Ltd, John Stevenson and John Handy.

withdrawn/application not needed

Land at Foxlee Farm RG20 oJH

20/00557/AGRIC validated 28th Feb 2020

Applicant: Patrick Early

Agricultural barn to replace storm-damaged barn.

Watery La Fm adjacent to Holtwood Farm

20/00770/AGRIC validated 26th Mar 2020

Determine if prior approval required for a proposed agricultural building.

Hamstead Hornet

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News stories are updated between issues on the village website noticeboard.

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