

# Hamstead *Hornet*

Hamstead Marshall's quarterly newspaper since 1996

December 2021

**100<sup>th</sup> issue**

**Bumper edition *with* 25 years of village stories**

## LOCAL LINKS

### Parish council

**White Hart Inn:**  
[website](#); [FB](#)

**St Mary's Church**  
[website](#); [FB](#)

**Dogs Trust at**  
[Plumb's Farm](#)

**Community**  
[market](#) [FB](#)

**Hamstead**  
**Marshall Wildlife**  
**Group** [FB](#)

*Whatsapp groups*

**Community** chit-  
chat, news, tips,  
advice, requests.  
Contact [Sarah](#)  
[Stevenson](#)

**HM Growing Tips**  
gardening  
triumphs and  
disasters. Contact  
[Lanie Allen](#)

## Rowdy complaints at parish council meeting

Rarely do Hamstead's parish council meetings attract 30 attendees, but when they do it generally bodes discontent, as proved to be the case after the general business of the November meeting had been concluded. The village hall gathering ended in a barrage of complaint, accusation and personal insult directed to the chair from a group of residents with assorted grievances related to planning applications.

The meeting began quietly... *see page 2 for more*

## Wildlife Group inaugural meeting

and plans for more

## Recreation renewal

## School governor sought

Could it be you?

## Seeding success at Good Hope Farm

## Planning applications and property

## What's on

Post-lockdown the village is coming back to life

**and a 5-page supplement looking back a quarter of a century**

## Rowdy complaints at parish council meeting

The meeting began quietly. One of the main items on the agenda was the **election by the three parish councillors** of a new member to take the place of Susie Aromando, who recently resigned. Three candidates were standing: Kevin Barbey, Liz Copas and Maryn Oppenheim. A fourth candidate, Stella Coulthurst, had withdrawn just before the meeting. Maryn Oppenheim was elected and will join the council at the January 2022 meeting.

**Co-option of at least one more** parish councillor was suggested, but the chairman, John Handy, advised that this would require changes to standing orders and regulations. The matter was postponed.

**Speeding through the village** was discussed yet again, and on the suggestion of WBC councillor James Cole, it was agreed that the council would investigate new technology and procedures for the involvement of parishioners in monitoring through traffic. Three people raised their hands in response to a call for volunteers.

Also on the agenda was discussion of **WBC's refusal (on grounds of insufficient justification) of the parish council's application to renew ACV status for the White Hart**. Stella Coulthurst and John Trueman of the White Hart, who contest claims made in the application, were present for this item, but the chairman postponed it as being still "under consideration".

Updating the **parish council website** is still problematical, and the search for a UK host (in place of weebly.com) continues. A new laptop is also needed.

It was decided to continue **suspension of the parish council's former £50 donation to West Berks library services**. Local usage of library services was not known. (*Nor can it be determined merely from book-borrowing figures, as seemed to be the assumption*).

The clerk reported a yield of £2,250 from the parish precept, and a balance of £8,976 in the bank.

Under **Any Other Business** it became apparent that residents from the Watery Lane area were present to air their dissatisfaction with the chairman and various issues related to planning applications. Particular wrath was engendered by John Handy's recent action in photographing Watery Lane property from a private aeroplane for the purposes of collecting evidence of planning breaches.

Another contentious issue was the assertion by parishioners that Peter Benest, the council's deputy chair, is no longer a parish councillor on grounds of his (albeit involuntary) failure to attend the statutory minimum of meetings. (*The rules in such circumstances are laid out in "Local Council Administration" by Charles Arnold-Baker.*)

The proceedings degenerated into shouting and mayhem for 30 minutes, until parish councillor Anne Budd, responding to charges levelled against the parish council in general, intervened to lower the temperature, whereby the chairman was able to bring matters to a relatively civilised conclusion.

The **next meeting** will be held in the village hall on Thursday 20th January.

### Hamstead's new parish councillor

**Maryn Oppenheim** came to the village with her husband and family in 2020, following their purchase of Elm Farm. She is a solicitor, and most recently worked as the legal & compliance officer at Palladian Investment Partners, a private equity company. She retired from this role last month so that she could spend more time with her family. With a bit more time on her hands she is keen to engage more with the local community and is looking forward to joining the parish council in January.



## Wildlife Group inaugural meeting

The Hamstead Marshall Wildlife Group held its inaugural meeting at the village hall on 23rd September. Thirty-one people attended to hear Simon Claybourn of BBOWT give a talk entitled *Mapping Verges and Needs for Wildflowers*.

The evening raised £98 for the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and £33.80 for the village hall. Anne Budd thanked everyone for their support. The next meeting is being planned for early March 2022.



In October the Wildlife Group made an application to Greenham Trust for five indigenous saplings, with a view to planting them in the village in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The request was granted, and delivery of the saplings is expected shortly.

The saplings will be planted in the village hall field. It is hoped to hold a community day in connection with the event, to which Greenham Trust has asked to be invited.

Hamstead Marshall Wildlife Group can be followed on its [Facebook page](#), where local residents post pictures of recent wildlife sightings in the village. The group is also listed on [aDoddle](#).

The village hall committee is currently gathering quotes for two projects: the replacement of the outer doors of the storeroom, and upgrading the play equipment in the village hall field.





## School governor sought

Enborne C of E Primary School is looking for a new governor: someone with experience and skills in finance and/or safeguarding. The role is voluntary, with an expectation of attending six meetings a year and carrying out other governance duties.

This is a way to make a positive difference to the lives of children in the community. Enborne is rated outstanding by Ofsted, with a proactive, capable governing board. To find out more, email [eclerk@enborne.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:eclerk@enborne.w-berks.sch.uk).

Details of the school can be seen [here](#).



## Good Hope Farm

Karine Giannamore is appealing for donations of gardening materials to help in setting up [Good Hope Farm](#), the newly emerging venture on Park Lane which will benefit adults with learning disabilities.

If you have any unwanted  
**large cardboard sheets**  
**flowerpots**  
**seeds**  
**gardening tools**

please leave them in the large box at the farm gate.

Karine reports that daffodils, tulips and irises have been planted with a view to selling in the spring.



## Village property sales

Marc Allen estate agents of Hungerford are offering No 3 Hamstead Mill at a guide price of £450,000. The flat is described as having two bedrooms, and a basement with conversion potential.

According to nethouseprices.com, No 3 last changed hands in 2012, for £240,000.

Nethouseprices also records Spicers Barn in Hamstead as having changed hands in April 2021 for £450,000.



## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Details taken from the [WBC planning portal](#) on 27th November 2021.  
To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

### **APPROVED**

#### **9 Salters RG20 OHH**

21/02103/HOUSE validated 13th August 2021

Section 73: Variation of Condition 2 re previously approved application 20/02067/HOUSE: proposed two-storey side extension to house. Demolish garage and summer house and erect new detached timber frame garage.

No comments.

### **REFUSED**

#### **The Barn House, Watery Lane RG20 OJH**

21/01534/HOUSE validated 3rd June 2021

Partial demolition of existing dwelling and erection of outbuilding.

Objections from three neighbours, and from HMPC on grounds that "this is an attempt at what is ostensibly the same objective via another route and does not take account of our previous reasons for objecting."

(Two previous applications: 20/01664/FUL was withdrawn, 21/00247/FUL was refused.)

### **AWAITING DECISION**

#### **Craven House RG20 OJG**

21/02856/HOUSE and 21/02858/LBC2 validated 11th November 2021

Greenhouse.

### **WITHDRAWN**

#### **Oak Tree Barn, Watery Lane RG20 OJH**

21/00938/FULD validated 6th April 2021

Removal/variation of conditions 3 (materials) and 9 (permitted development rights) of approved 20/00901/FULD.

Withdrawn 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

### **GONE TO APPEAL**

#### **The Barn House, Watery Lane RG20 OJH**

21/01534/HOUSE refused by WBC 6th October 2021 (see above)

Appeal reference 21/00045/FT

#### **Foxlee Farm, Watery Lane RG20 OJH**

21/00256/FUL refused by WBC 12th April 2021 following nine personal objections.

Appeal reference 21/00027/WR

Agricultural storage barn.

# What's on in the village

## December

**Thu 2nd** 19.00: Quiz night at the White Hart

**Sat 11th** 10.00-13.00: Christmas community market in the village hall: gifts; mince pies and mulled wine

**Wed 15th** Carols in the White Hart from Kintbury's Opus 2 choir



Opus 2 is a small, local chamber choir with a wide repertoire of classical and contemporary music. The choir's director is also Director of Music for the Walbury Beacon Benefice and Music School Manager at Downe House School in Cold Ash.

Once again, there will be no singing of Christmas carols around the village this year, because of Covid. The Enborne and Hamstead Marshall Garden Society Christmas meeting has also been cancelled, for the same reason.

## January

**Thu 6th** 19.00: Quiz night at the White Hart, on events of 2021

**Sat 8th** 10.00-13.00: Community market in the village hall

**Thur 20th** 20.00: Parish council meeting in the village hall

Pilates will resume in January, Tuesday mornings, 09.30 to 10.30. To enquire or join, contact [Jenny Carter](#).

Ladies who Brunch will be reconvening at the Blue Ball in Kintbury. To enquire or join, contact [Lanie Allen](#).

## February

**Thu 3rd** 19.00 to 21.30: Circle of Friends resumes in the village hall  
19.00: Quiz night at the White Hart

**Sat 13th** 10.00-13.00: Community market in the village hall

# The 100<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Hamstead Hornet* reviews 25 years of village news stories

- 1996** WBC Highways agrees to 30mph speed limit through the village.  
Loan to purchase the village hall from the Craven estate is finally paid off.  
Monthly community lunches begin in the village hall.
- 1997** Julie Ramsbottom becomes St Mary's first female rector.  
Proposed burial ground on Red Hill is opposed by local petition.  
Bus service improves with demise of Swansdown.  
30mph village speed limit implemented.
- 1998** Red Hill burial ground application refused by WBC but granted on appeal.  
Action group formed to combat revived gravel extraction near Craven Hill. Plan goes to public enquiry.  
Hoard of silver Roman coins found on Elm Farm land.
- 1999** WBC revokes Earthline permit for gravel extraction above Craven Keep.  
Red Hill's proposed burial ground is granted, but public health issues are raised.  
Food fair at Elm Farm.
- 2000** Millennium celebrated with a new window in St Mary's and a mural in the village hall.  
Gravel extraction delayed by appeal challenges, and Red Hill burials held up by public health concerns.  
Open day and barn dance held at Elm Farm.
- 2001** Foot and mouth closes footpaths.  
Local environment group (LEG) of 40 members forms at Elm Farm.  
Earthline appeals against Inspectorate decision.  
Hamstead Growers changes hands.  
Orange mast proposal for Holtwood refused by WBC.
- 2002** Gravel extraction opponents lose at Court of Appeal.  
First burial takes place on Red Hill and wins High Court case.  
Jubilee barn dance at Elm Farm.
- 2003** Park memorial to wartime US paratroopers unveiled.  
Orange mast granted on appeal, but landowner reluctant.  
Second public enquiry grants gravel extraction.  
Elm Farm land let out to tenant.
- 2004** [www.hamsteadmarshall.net](http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net) goes online.  
Aromando family leaves the White Hart, after 20 years.  
Reillys take over. Quiz series begins.  
Protest shifts Vodafone mast plan downhill From Irish Hill summit to Shepherd's Bridge.  
Sovereign garages demolished.
- 2005** Metal detector rally in the park raises £3,300 for St Mary's.  
WWII bomb found in Ash Tree Corner garden.  
Campaign for village broadband is launched.  
First Party in the Parish at the village hall recreation field.

*church millennium window*



*park memorial*



**2006** First community market in the village hall.  
BT refuses to supply broadband for Hamstead. Publicity in the *Sunday Times*.

**2007** First village bonfire night fireworks party.  
Sovereign sells the former garages site. Row over who gets to live in the Grove.  
49 out of 74 village households want broadband.  
EFRC becomes ORC, and contests parish council objection to lifting the tie on cottages.  
First parish plan adopted.



rebuilding Elm Farm barn

**2008** Record nine car crashes at Chapel Corner.  
Vodafone 3G broadband reaches parts of Hamstead.  
Elm Farm's listed barn is rebuilt, followed by major conversion of farmyard buildings.



a Chapel Corner crash

**2009** Hamstead Growers closes and becomes an equestrian centre.  
Craven Fishery is sold again, reportedly for just under £1m.  
Medieval day on the recreation ground.  
Two more Chapel Corner crashes.

**2010** Lawrence Woodward leaves ORC/Elm Farm, to be replaced by Nic Lampkin.  
White Hart closes and comes up for sale.  
Prince Charles visits ORC at Elm Farm.  
Food festival at Elm Farm and parish party in village hall field.



White Hart awaits rescue



**2011** Village gala day at Elm Farm: food festival, live music, children's entertainment, bar and barbecue.  
White Hart is bought, renovated and reopened. Quizzes resume.  
Rector departs St Mary's.

**2012** Lanie's Ladies start Brunching.  
Jubilee is celebrated with tea and a parish party at Elm Farm.  
More crashes at Chapel Corner.



**2013** Elm Farm sells 10 acres, and launches a biofuel project.  
Mysterious tunnels are discovered at East Gate Cottage.  
After five more crashes WBC resurfaces Chapel Corner.  
BBC TV series on William Marshall features castle mounds.



**2014** Permission is granted on appeal for guard-dog breeding at Holtwood, despite local objection.  
 Floods wash through Ash Tree Grove, and close Milkhouse Road.  
 Booklet on Hamstead's WWI fatalities published.



*comedy night at Elm Farm*

**2015** Summer jazz evening at Park Lodge and a comedy night at Elm Farm raise funds for the church.  
 The White Hart closes, and applies for change of use.  
 Campaign to oppose White Hart redevelopment is launched.  
 4G reaches Hamstead.

**2016** Montessori Preschool opens in village hall.  
 Red Hill cemetery for sale.  
 Another Chapel Corner crash.  
 Campaigners get ACV status for White Hart.  
 Quiz & ploughman's supper at the village hall.



*barn dance at Elm Farm*

**2017** Barn dance at Elm Farm.  
 White Hart redevelopment plan goes to appeal.  
 Dorothy Aromando Art Fund exhibition at Elm Farm.  
 Friends of Hamstead Marshall and Marsh Benham formed.  
 Watership Cantabile concert in St Mary's church.  
 Party in the Parish in recreation field.  
 Gigaclear broadband promised.



*pub night in the village hall*

**2018** Pub nights held in the village hall.  
 Second White Hart proposal fails on appeal.  
 ORC seeks share-farming partner for Elm Farm.  
 Montessori Preschool departs, but woodwork, mini-science classes and puppy training take up hall bookings.  
 Speaker's Corner series begins at St Mary's.

**2019** White Hart reopens as pub and restaurant with microbrewery.  
 Saviour Pennies beer club is launched.  
 Elm Farm is put up for sale in eight lots.  
 Village hall is granted local listing.





Parishioners (not just church-goers) meet in churchyard to consider proposed St Mary's withdrawal from benefice to avoid financial catastrophe.

**2020** Elm Farm house and land are all sold. ORC departs.  
Fourth application to build on Sovereign garages site is successful.  
Priest-in-charge leaves benefice. St Mary's status remains unclear.  
Covid and lockdown prompt

numerous village initiatives: food distribution, pop-up shop, prescription deliveries, Team Scrubbers, Team Bakers, community support Whatsapp.

Eat-out-to-help-out is promoted at the White Hart.

**2021** Hamstead Marshall Wildlife Group is formed, sets up FB page, and holds first meeting.

Sovereign garages site sells for £169,000 and house-building starts.

New Elm Farm owners buy former White Hart bowling alley.

Growing Tips gardening Whatsapp formed.

Good Hope Farm sets up project on former Elm Farm land.

Lockdown eases and village social life resumes.



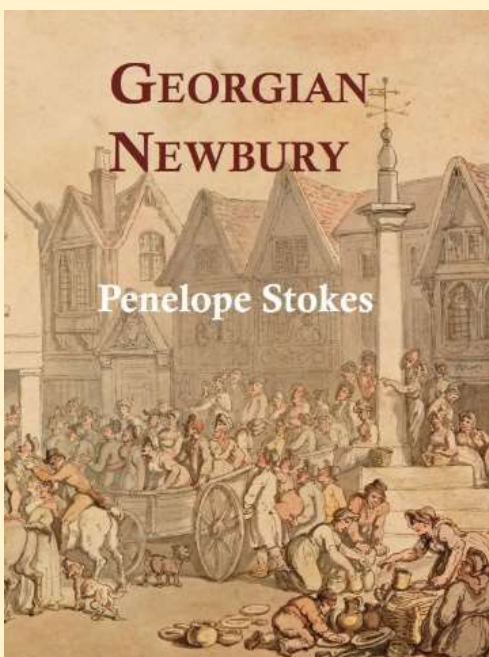
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Readers who have supplied their email addresses to the editor receive notification with a link as soon as each issue is posted.

News stories are updated between issues on the [village website noticeboard](#).

The *Hamstead Hornet* is edited and published by [Penelope Stokes](#) at The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW

## ***A new local history book from Penelope Stokes***



**An illustrated social history of Newbury from 1714 to 1837, describing the everyday lives of bakers, bankers, brewers, coachmen, corn merchants, clergymen, clothiers, doctors, foundlings, gentry, hairdressers, housemaids, iron-founders, lawyers, nobility, paupers, papermakers, peat-diggers, publicans, tanners, teachers...**

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