

Hamstead *Hornet*

Hamstead Marshall's quarterly newspaper since 1996

March 2022

101st issue

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](#)

A first for Hamstead's parish council

A parish council election looms. Possibly Hamstead's first ever

Slowdown on speeding action

What happened to the volunteers?

Jubilee trees and celebrations

Wildlife Group: second event

Action for Ukraine

Could you help either or both of two local initiatives?

Good Hope Farm

Looking forward to spring

News in brief

Plumb's Farm, Gary the postie, Craven Hunt visit and more

Planning applications

What's approved, refused, awaiting decision and appealed

What's on

The White Hart quiz, Circle of Friends, Ladies who Brunch and more

Parish council upheavals

January's parish council meeting was an altogether more decorous affair than its predecessor in November, which was reported in the [December Hornet](#). Around 15 members of the public attended in January, and matters proceeded as posted on the [website noticeboard](#) shortly afterwards.

Subsequently it was announced that the chairman John Handy was standing down, both from the chair and from the council. Two vacancies have thus been created. (Peter Benest is also no longer a councillor).

An extraordinary general meeting was held on 23rd February, at which Anne Budd was formally elected to chair the council, with Maryn Oppenheim as deputy.

These changes are complicated by the lack of a parish clerk, Sarah Jones having resigned early in the year. Anne Budd reports that recruitment of her replacement is under way, but that it may be necessary for WBC to supply a locum clerk in the interim.

FANCY YOUR CHANCES?

Candidates for election to a parish council must be of designated legal status, 18 years old or older, and meet various other requirements detailed on the form. Nominations require a proposer and a seconder both of whom (like the candidate) must be on the current electoral roll.

Applications must be made on paper, and handed in to WBC in person.

A nomination pack with details can be seen [here](#), but official announcement of the election and the pack will be posted shortly on the [parish council's own website](#).

Parish council elections are vanishingly rare events in small villages. Nobody can remember one ever having been held in Hamstead Marshall, because at any one time the number of people willing to serve has probably never exceeded the number of vacancies for councillors.

Nonetheless, more than 10 Hamstead parishioners applied to WBC requesting an election following the January parish council meeting. The date has been set for 28th April 2022. Nominations must be in by 4pm on 30th March.

How many parishioners are putting their names forward as candidates remains to be seen. If there are fewer than three no election can be held, and the parish council will proceed with co-option of two new councillors.

Where have the volunteers gone?

Speeding has been a hot-button village topic since cars were invented, and at the November PC meeting six hands shot up when the chairman asked for volunteers for the Speed Indicator Device, which Hamstead Marshall has registered for use by parishioners.

SID volunteers were asked at the January meeting to apply to the parish council. This message has also been on the www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard for some weeks, but Rob Manser, who leads the project, reports that none have yet come forward.

He adds that WBC has since conducted a speed survey in the village, but not at representative times, and that despite considerable pressure from a parishioner, no further action has been taken.

The option remains open to parishioners to apply to the parish council (through [Rob Manser](#)) to take a short online course, and operate the SID in Hamstead.



Jubilee trees

Five birches and a hazel sapling were planted in the recreation field in December (below left) in celebration of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee. The trees were given to Hamstead Marshall Wildlife Group (HMWG) by Greenham Trust, and supplied through Growing2Gether, a Kingsclere-based charity which supports children through, among other things, horticultural projects.

[Good Hope Farm](#) in Park Lane has also planted broadleaf trees as part of the jubilee celebrations, as shown below right, and it now appears on the [Queen's Green Canopy](#) map.



Jubilee celebrations in June

The four-day bank holiday weekend of 3rd to 6th June will be marked in Hamstead Marshall with:

A screening of the official jubilee concert, the Platinum Party at the Palace, in the garden of the White Hart on Saturday 4th. Enjoy the promised "world's biggest entertainers", along with a White Hart barbecue.

A jubilee tea, organised by Val Russell and Trish Tandy, will be held in the White Hart garden on Sunday 5th. Tickets will be on sale from 1st May at £2.50 from the pub, the community market and from the organisers, Val Russell, and Trish Tandy. More details to come.



Wildlifers to meet again in April

Following a successful gathering last September, Hamstead Marshall Wildlife Group plans a second meeting on Thursday 14th April, at the White Hart.

The meeting opens with a session shared with Enborne Primary School pupils, who will be encouraged to share their thoughts on sustainable living. This will be followed by a presentation entitled *Countryside, waste, and environment delivery* from WBC's environment department, and an address from the WBC leader, Lynne Doherty. After a refreshment break there will be an opportunity for questions and general discussion on the theme of ***How to live gently on the Earth.***

Entry will be free, and all are welcome. Further info from [Anne Budd](#), 01488 657022.

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](#).



UKRAINE *what you can do to help*

Natalie Upton of Crockham House, Church Lane, Enborne, reports an overwhelming response to her appeal via the community WhatsApp for **donations of medicines, antiseptics, first aid kit, baby supplies, sanitary goods, towels and children's clothing**. She will continue to collect, according to any changing needs of Ukrainian refugees, in boxes placed in her driveway. The Uptons' company, Littledata, has links with Romania, and is using free transport offered weekly by Tarsin Londres, a Romanian transport company operating from Wembley.



The Ukrainian flag flies proudly at Craven Hill, home of Ukrainian-born Steph Hawkins, who is also organising relief for her country. Details were not available at the time of going to press, but will be posted on the [website noticeboard page](#).

Gardener wanted for Good Hope Farm

2-3 days a week to help with planting and planning on this organic small-holding.

Ideally with experience/knowledge of permaculture principles, or willing to learn. Also experience with people with special needs.

To start as soon as possible. Contact Karine Giannamore on 07956 833 737

Karine is also grateful for donations of **gardening materials**. If you have any unwanted **large cardboard sheets**

flowerpots

seeds

gardening tools

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

News in brief

The **footpath leading into Hamstead Park from the Kintbury Road** just north of Ash Tree Corner has recently been fitted with a stile, replacing a former gate. David Harris, who lives nearby, believes that this could create access problems for people with limited mobility. Furthermore, such changes should not be made without permission from the local authority (although it is not clear whether local residents should also be consulted.)

He has written to WBC's rights-of-way officer, who commented as follows: "Our policy is always to encourage/facilitate **stiles being replaced by gates**, to improve accessibility wherever possible, so I cannot imagine that we were aware of a stile being used to replace a gate." David Harris' report is being further investigated.

The **Craven Hunt** passed through Hamstead Marshall on 12th February. By mid-afternoon they came to a halt in fields behind Chapel Corner, having lost a couple of hounds.



Newbury MP **Laura Farris** visited the Dogs Trust at Plumb's Farm on 14th February.



Kintbury Volunteer Group needs drivers to take people from around here to medical appointments. Drivers are recompensed for mileage. If you could spare two hours even just once a month to take calls and arrange drives, or volunteer as a driver, contact [Lanie Allen](#) at KVG, 01488 657119.

Village hall hire rates have been increased (for the first time in four years) to £15.00 per hour from October to April, and £12.00 per hour May to September, including use of kitchen equipment and the recreation field beside the hall, although as the latter is a general village facility, usage by hall hirers is not guaranteed to be exclusive.

Gary, **Hamstead's postie** for the last few years, has taken early retirement following a problematic tendon injury. His successor Tom would like to facilitate some kind of local thank-you, but he cannot knock on every door to collect signatures on a card. If anyone would like to help, please have a word with him.

Daisy Wallis and friends from Enborne School will be running a fund-raising stall at the next community market (12th March) to raise funds for the **Izzy Wilson Smile Fund**, set up to commemorate a 11-year-old friend who lost her life to leukaemia in 2019. Her ambition was to create a warm, welcoming hospital environment for other children going to hospital. Daisy's stall will have homemade biscuits, sweets, raffle, and games such as name the teddy and guess the weight of the cake.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details taken from the [WBC planning portal](#) on 3rd March 2022.

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

APPROVED

Garage site adjacent to 1 The Village RG20 0HN

22/00183/NONMAT validated 1st February 2022

Amendment to permission 21/00721/REM: proposed installation of Velux roof windows

Approved 22nd February 2022

REFUSED

Craven House, Park Lane RG20 0JG

21/0256/HOUSE and 21/0258/LBC2 validated 11th November 2021

Greenhouse within the C17th walled garden

Objection from Berkshire Gardens Trust

Refused 25th February 2022 on grounds of location close to "a rich collection of Grade I, II* and II listed buildings, making it an extremely important area of the registered park"

AWAITING DECISION

Fishery Cottage RG20 0JD

21/02912/FUL validated 1st December 2021

Section 73 application to vary/remove conditions 2 (plans) and 3 (materials) of approved application 20/00320/FUL: Demolition of current dwelling to be replaced with larger dwelling. Shortening of the southern fish pool. Demolition of the barn to be replaced with a new barn of the exact design and size

North Lodge, Milkhouse Road RG20 0JD

22/00110/COND1 validated 20th January 2022

Approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (materials), 6 (lighting) and 7 (tree protection) of planning permission 21/01391/HOUSE (first floor extension)

AWAITING APPEAL DECISION

The Barn House, Watery Lane RG20 0JH

21/01534/HOUSE refused by WBC 6th October 2021, appeal reference 21/00045/FT

APPEAL DISMISSED

Foxlee Farm, Watery Lane RG20 0JH

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

Appeal reference 21/00027/WR: dismissed 3rd February 2022

Of the 13 Hamstead Marshall planning applications refused by WBC and taken to appeal since 2009:

5 were allowed

7 were dismissed

1 is still pending

What's on in the village

March

Sat 12th 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall

Wed 30th Closing of nominations for parish council vacancies

April

Thu 7th 19.00: **Quiz night** at the White Hart (tbc)

19.00: **Circle of Friends** at the village hall (Alicia Robinson and sugarcraft)

Sat 9th 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall

Thu 14th 18.30: **Wildlife Group** meeting at the White Hart

Thu 28th Parish councillors **election** polling in village hall

May

Thu 7th 19.00: **Quiz night** at the White Hart (tbc)

19.00: Circle of Friends (tbc)

Sat 14th 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall

Thu 19th 20.00: **Parish council meeting** in the village hall

Jun

Thu 2nd 19.00: Quiz night at the White Hart (tbc)

19.00: Circle of Friends (tbc)

Sat 3rd **Screening of Platinum Party at the Palace** plus barbecue at the White Hart

Sun 4th **Jubilee tea** at the White Hart

Sat 11th 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall

Oct

Sat 15th **Harvest supper** at the village hall

Pilates in the village hall continues on Tuesday mornings, 09.30 to 10.30.

To enquire or join, contact [Jenny Carter](#).

Ladies who Brunch are meeting regularly again although dates and venues at the time of writing are awaiting confirmation. Charities which have featured in the past and may revisit are New Life, Young People & Children First, Alexander Devine Children's Hospice and the Macular Degeneration Society. For details contact [Lanie Allen](#).

Tuesday Specials continue at the White Hart: a special menu of two courses for £15 from a menu [published online](#) the evening before.