

Hamstead *Hornet*

Hamstead Marshall's quarterly newspaper since 1996
issue 102 June 2022

LOCAL LINKS

Parish council

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

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

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

Community
market [FB](#)

Wildlife Group
[FB](#)

Stop the gravel
lorries

Whatsapp
groups

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

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

HM Quarry
opposition to
revival of gravel
quarrying in Park
Lane. Contact
[Vicki Keppel](#)
[Compton](#) on
07808 294162



Hamstead's jubilation

About 60 villagers gathered at the White Hart for a Platinum Jubilee tea on Sunday 5th June.

Organised by Trisha Tandy and Val Russell, the event was moved from the recreation field to the White Hart when an unpromising weather forecast threatened to dampen the occasion. The White Hart had, the previous evening, held its own jubilee barbecue, where huge screens streamed the Party at the Palace.

Sunday's tea featured a staggering quantity of home-made cakes and sandwiches produced by local volunteers, and the jubilee was toasted with Prosecco. Photos were taken by Geoff Watts.

Craven Keep Quarry

Villagers were first alerted to the threat of renewed gravel quarrying in Park Lane in late March, when this notice (right) appeared by the roadside.

Since then local opposition has mounted. Meetings have been held, representations made to WBC, a WhatsApp group formed and a [website](#) (currently under construction) registered.

It appears that the licence which Earthline Ltd holds to extract gravel from these 11 acres is almost certainly still valid, but it cannot be exercised until Earthline and WBC reach agreement on traffic management along the haul route. The licence is unspecific on what these measures might be, other than that the gravel lorries may only use the most direct route to the A4, ie, the narrow lane northwards past the former Craven mansion's grade-listed walls, St Mary's Church, over the canal and river bridges, and over the railway crossing.



The 11-acre quarry field was bought from its former owner, Steven Kirkland Smith, for £80,000 in 2007 by Earthline. Philip Coplestone, one of Earthline's directors, has indicated that the company would sell to a private buyer for £800,000 before work has started, but that the price would rise to well over £1 million later.

Despite warning signs (left) erected by Earthline, the field is still [listed by Natural England as an area in which the public has a right to roam](#).

Households most immediately under threat are those of Park Lane, Craven Hill, Hamstead Mill and Milkhouse Lane. Action to oppose quarrying at Craven Keep field has been mounted by Hamstead Marshall Parish Council on behalf of all concerned residents. A sub-committee has been set up, comprising Kevin Barbey, Martin Bates, David Hadnutt, Sam Keppel-Compton, Maryn Oppenheim, Sarah Stevenson and Katie Wallis.

- A timeline of the controversial history of this field can be seen [here](#).
- To join the WhatsApp group fighting extraction, contact Vicki Keppel Compton on 07808 294162.
- Follow the new website <https://www.stopquarrylorries.com> as it becomes live.
- Keep also watching the [website noticeboard](#) for campaign news.



Two break-ins over the jubilee weekend

The first to be reported was at North Lodge, where extensive building work is underway. The thieves perhaps thought that the house was unoccupied, and that equipment and machinery might be untended. They were wrong. The residents foiled the burglary attempt.

At Good Hope Farm in Park Lane, however, padlocks were broken, and money, tools, gardening gloves, and a first aid kit were stolen.

Parish council meeting 19th May

The regular parish council meeting followed on immediately from the parish assembly. The Craven Keep quarry was a major issue under discussion, but the following additional points were covered:

- New councillors David Hadnutt and Kevin Barbey were welcomed. As the only candidates nominated in March, they joined the council automatically, without election.
- Councillors also welcomed the new parish clerk, Angela Boyce.
- The Relief in Need charity, trustees of which are (ex officio) parish councillors, will be handled separately from parish council meetings for simplicity of administration. The charity field has been let for grazing for 2022.
- Action against speeding continues to be a priority. One member has completed registration and training for use of the SIDs system, and two other parishioners are going through the process. Co-operation with Enborne and Kintbury has since been sought.
- The parish council's website is being redesigned. The council is also concerned to find a solution to the problem of parishioners who cannot join the WhatsApp group, and who are thus excluded from village information and conversations.

Minutes of meetings are published on the [parish council's own website](#), but at present they cannot be posted until they have been signed off at the next meeting.

Wildlifers met again

Hamstead Marshall Wildlife Group held a second meeting on Thursday 14th April, at the White Hart.

The meeting began with Enborne Primary School pupils sharing their thoughts on sustainable living. This was followed by a presentation entitled *Countryside, waste, and environment delivery* from WBC's environment department, and an address from the WBC leader, Lynne Doherty.



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

Village hall improvements



During the summer, work on the village hall will include:

- repair and repainting of window frames
- floor sanding and waxing
- recovering of blue chair seats
- flattening of ruts and ridges in the recreation field
- replacement of the field play equipment

Part of the cost of this will come from West Berkshire Council's parish plan funding.

The village hall committee has vacancies and would welcome some new blood to help the present members maintain the building and grounds to its traditionally high standard. Newcomers need not take on any specific responsibility immediately if they prefer to wait until they have a feel for how the hall operates. Anyone who would like to know more should [contact Sue Watts](#).

Good Hope Farm

Two groups of corporate volunteers are coming to Good Hope Farm in Park Lane to help with preparing the flower beds, and a little shop table at the gate, where produce can be sold. Recently, delicious elderflower cordial and some plants have been offered for sale, and more will be coming soon from the polytunnel.

Karine and her team are still looking for donations: picnic tables, wooden tables for potting, wheelbarrows, any tools or gloves would be welcome.



What is Good Hope Farm?

Extract from <https://www.goodhopefarm.org.uk>

The farm will be a day centre offering work experience for adults with learning disabilities and difficulties, where they can learn and engage in purposeful, stimulating activities while connecting with nature and interacting with peers and the surrounding community.

We intend to offer a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment for adults with special needs: building confidence, self-expression and promoting well-being through outdoor activities and a sustaining connection with the natural world.

New style quiz at the White Hart



The new-style Fone Quiz at the White Hart Inn takes place on the first Thursday of each month starting at 7pm. Entry is £2 per person, and each team needs one smartphone or tablet on which to answer the questions. No paper or pens needed.

There are four rounds in total: three of general knowledge and one of music. The winning team receives £30 of Saviour Pennies to spend on anything they like at the pub, and the runners-up win a bottle of house wine. There's also a special prize for the "nearest wins" question at the end of each quiz.

The quiz master is Julian Swift-Hook, founder and chair of Kennet Community Radio.

If you want an extra 10 VIP points for your team, get the VIP password from [The Fone Quiz website](#), where you can also read more about the format of the quiz.

Dates are listed in the What's On at the end of this issue. To book a table for your team, call the White Hart on 01488 657545.

Home from home



The dog-fostering scheme launched by the Dogs Trust at Plumb's Farm two years ago is going from strength to strength, largely due to two new members of staff who are devoting themselves to promoting the scheme. The increased popularity has come on, said Karla Haines, deputy manager of Plumb's Farm, like "the flick of a switch".

Of 33 dogs fostered so far this year, 25 have gone on to permanent homes, and eight are still with their foster homes.

Home-from-Home is not a backdoor re-homing scheme, but seeks to meet a genuine need of some dogs – because of age or some other vulnerability – to live in a home environment rather than kennels whilst waiting for re-homing. Such dogs are matched with dog-lovers who for various reasons do not want to take on a lifetime dog-owning commitment. Placements may last between a week to several months before the dog moves on to a more permanent home. The Dogs Trust covers all costs of a fostered dog.

If you have a dog-shaped hole in your life, and think you could provide care for a vulnerable animal, contact the Home-from-Home team at Dogs Trust Newbury on 0300 003 0000 or email hfhnewbury@dogstrust.org.uk.

Plumb's Farm in brief

Dogs Trust first came to Hamstead Marshall (as NCDL) in 1975. Now with 37 kennels. Open Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday from 12 to 4pm. Free guided tours of 30-45 minutes by arrangement. More information on <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/our-centres/newbury/>

CAMPAIGNING IN STILE

*Wikipedia: A **stile** is a structure or opening that provides people passage over or through a boundary via steps, ladders, or narrow gaps. Stiles are often built in rural areas along footpaths, fences, walls, or hedges that enclose animals, allowing people to move freely...*

...Some people perhaps, but not all. Disabled people cannot easily hop over stiles. David Harris of Ash Tree Corner has been pursuing a campaign to have a village footpath stile changed back to the gate which it recently replaced.

The footpath in question leads from the Kintbury Road just east of Ash Tree Corner through the new plantation into Hamstead Park.

David has lobbied West Berkshire Ramblers and WBC, politely requesting that the stile be removed and the gate reinstated to allow all, and not just able-bodied, villagers to enjoy what has long been a popular local walk. He hoped that there might be legal obligation on the landowner to maintain the former easy access, but according to WBC this is not the case. WBC's [public rights-of-way information sheet](#) seems ambiguous on the matter.

Matthew Walters, WBC's rights-of-way officer, has promised to write to the landowner, Rollo Gwyn-Jones, requesting but not insisting that the gate be restored.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details taken from the [WBC planning portal](#) on 14th June 2022.

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

APPROVED

Craven House, Park Lane RG20 0JG

22/00714/HOUSE, 22/00715/LBC validated 25th March 2022.

Installation of a 3/4 span greenhouse (revised design following refusal of applications 21/0256/HOUSE and 21/0258/LBC20).

Approved 16th May 2022.

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)

Approved 16th March 2022.

APPLICATION NOT NEEDED

Morewood Farm RG20 0JD

22/00450/AGRIC

Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Formation, Alteration or Maintenance of Private Ways for Agricultural or Forestry use: Proposed new farm road.

Decision: application not required.

AWAITING DECISION

Enborne Equestrian Centre RG20 0JL

22/00652/COMIND validated 14th April 2022.

Conversion of existing barn into habitable visitor accommodation. Remove existing mobile homes and other structures – replace with staff accommodation, various rooms, kitchen, tea room and wcs.

Supported by Hamstead Marshall Parish Council.

Morewood House RG20 0JD

22/01255/LBC2 validated 1st June 2022.

Replacement of existing timber windows which were installed in the 1980s with similar timber windows incorporating slimline double glazing and draught proofing.

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.

APPEAL DISMISSED

Barn House, Watery Lane RG20 0JH

21/01534/HOUSE refused by WBC 6th October 2021.

Appeal reference 21/00045/FT dismissed 10th June 2022.

What's on in the village

July

- Thu 7th** 19.00: **Fone Quiz** at the White Hart
Sat 9th 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall
Thu 14th 19.00: **Circle of Friends** at the village hall
Thu 21st 20.00: **Parish council meeting** in the village hall

August

- Thu 4th** 19.00: **Fone Quiz** at the White Hart
Thu 11th 19.00: **Circle of Friends** at the village hall
Sat 13th 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall

September

- Thu 1st** 19.00: **Fone Quiz** at the White Hart
Sat 3rd 14.00: **Enborne & Hamstead Marshall Garden Society Show**
Thu 8th 19.00: **Circle of Friends** at the village hall
Sat 10th 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall
Thu 28th 20.00: **Parish council meeting** in the village hall

October

- Thu 6th** 19.00: **Fone Quiz** at the White Hart
Sat 8th 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall
Thu 13th 19.00: **Circle of Friends** at the village hall
Sat 15th **Harvest supper** at the village hall

November

- Thu 3rd** 19.00: **Fone Quiz** at the White Hart
Sat 5th **Bonfire and fireworks party** at the village hall field
Thu 10th 19.00: **Circle of Friends** at the village hall
Sat 12th 10.00-13.00: **Community market** in the village hall
Thu 17th 20.00: **Parish council meeting** in the village hall

Ladies who Brunch meet monthly for brunch, bubbles and to support a worthy cause.
Contact [Lanie Allen](#) for details.

Pilates in the village hall continues on Tuesday mornings, 09.30 to 10.30.
Details [here](#), or contact [Jenny Carter](#).

The **mobile library** will stop at Ash Tree Grove from 10.40 until 11.10 on Thursdays 16th June, 7th and 28th July, 18th August, 8th and 29th September.