

Hamstead *Hornet*

Hamstead Marshall's quarterly newspaper since 1996

June 2024

issue no 110

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

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

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Business as usual at Good Hope Farm



The recent raid and arson attack on Good Hope Farm have been brushed firmly into the background by Karine, Sharon and the team as they prepare for a busy and fruitful summer at Good Hope Farm.

Yes, there's an insurance claim to progress, tools and equipment to be replaced, and new security measures to be implemented, but the emphasis is firmly on looking ahead.

Summer plans include workshops in yoga, Bollywood dancing and meditation over June, July and August. Although primarily intended for the special-needs clients of the farm and their carers, these courses are open to all. See the [farm website](#) for details.

Thanks to the generosity of local people, many of the stolen hand tools have been replaced by donation, enabling work to continue. "Genuine, old-school community support" was Sharon's description of the public meeting called shortly after the raid, at which Hamstead villagers offered new and used wheelbarrows, spades, kneelers and suchlike to keep the farm going. The burnt-out ride-on mower has yet to be replaced, but a local farmer has offered to cut the rapidly growing grass.

The farm currently has a funding project on the [Good Exchange](#) (with the Greenham Trust matching donations) to raise funds to pay for a hub space in which volunteers, clients, visitors and staff can gather socially or for talks. However the rules of the scheme do not allow these funds to be diverted to cover other costs.

Good Hope Farm has overcome a number of setbacks to become a respected feature of Hamstead's community. Remember to take the occasional drive down Park Lane to see what organic produce is being offered for sale at the farm gate.

St Mary's: the pace may be glacial, but movement is in the right direction



Five years ago, the parochial church council (PCC) of St Mary's declared that, with a declining congregation, it would soon not be possible to meet the costs of continued operation as an ecclesiastical parish within the diocese of Oxford.

Alternatives were sought, and it was decided that it would be better for the church to be placed in the hands of either the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) or the Friends of Friendless Churches (FFC). (Details of these organisations were given in the March *Hornet*.)

Unsurprisingly, the proposal was not greeted with enthusiasm in Oxford, but the PCC has maintained pressure, and ecclesiastical machinery was set in motion.

The CCF, as part of the established church, had first refusal, but was at first thought likely to decline as it already had a backlog of applications. Now, it appears that the attractions of St Mary's (with its own fabric fund) have cleared the hurdles, and the CCT will start looking at the feasibility of adopting St Mary's.

It's not currently clear whether vesting (as the transfer of ownership of the church building is called) would include the churchyard. If not, responsibility for it would remain with the PCC or transfer to the local authority.

No services are currently being held in the church, but under ownership by the CCF or FFC it would be possible to hold several each year, including baptisms, marriages and burials, with a hired minister.

Independently of the ownership of the actual church building, the Walbury Beacon Benefice continues to hold responsibility for pastoral care (spiritual support and guidance) of parishioners in Hamstead Marshall, and for this purpose the ecclesiastical parish of Hamstead has recently been united with that of Kintbury.



White Hart: closed for over 18 months, but still raising hackles

The parish council held an extraordinary meeting on 24th April to discuss planning application number 24/00582/FUL, filed by the owner of the White Hart, Stella Coulthurst, seeking to turn the former pub into four residential dwellings. Attendance at the meeting included several members of the Save-the-White-Hart campaign who, despite injunctions from the chair, made unsolicited contributions to the discussion.

It's believed that no offer has been made in respect of the asking price of £895,000, but the campaigners maintain that "in the right hands" the White Hart could be viable. By this it's presumed to mean a publican unlike either the present one, or the previous one (under whom the pub failed in 2010).

The interruptions and parallel conversations held at the meeting did nothing to advance the campaigners' cause however, because the parish council resolved to make no objection to the application.

The WBC planning committee is expected to discuss the application on 30th May. At the time of writing the application had attracted three letters of support and 26 against (four of these anonymised, presumably at the writer's request).

Enborne's hot potato

Meanwhile, Hamstead's neighbouring parish of Enborne is vigorously opposing an application by Zippo's Circus to create a site for 24 caravans for travelling circus people on 9.6 acres of land at Long Copse Farm. The site was allocated in 2017, but only now has a specific application been filed. Enborne parishioners fear that any permission granted would be over-reached, and prove unenforceable.

Hamstead Marshall parish council objected to the plan on 23rd December 2023, mainly on the grounds of adverse effect on the people and infrastructure of Enborne. More than half of the objection letters submitted to WBC opted for anonymisation.

Watch this space



The new bus shelter/village information point is now complete, thanks to Chris Moss and Paul Hanson, and a WBC grant of £4,200. The noticeboards now await maps and posters detailing village information. When this is complete there may be an official opening.



The fourth parish café will be held in the village hall from 2 until 4pm on Thursday 30th May, with guests Sue and Jim who will demonstrate some dance routines. All are welcome, and the refreshments are free (donation box available). It would be helpful to let Anne know if you're thinking of coming, by email or phone (07479 986897).

Village hall: could you be a trustee?

The village hall management committee is looking for someone to join them as new trustee. If you think you could help and would like to know more, contact Sue Watts on 07884 004418 or come along to the next meeting, 30th July at 7pm, for a chat.

The hall is undergoing an electrical upgrade. New heaters were installed in April, and new LED lights are to be installed in July.

Points from the last PC meeting

Anne Budd was appointed chair of the parish council for 2024-25, with Steve Masters as vice-chair.

Village Speedwatchers have logged 119 speeding motorists in the past year, and passed their details to Thames Valley Police. Some repeat offenders were noted.

Chris Moss has completed the setting up of the new parish council website, which will shortly be carrying the draft minutes of the last meeting. The previous website will soon be taken down.

If you've been frustrated by WBC's ignorance of local road names, eg, as in announcements that "the unnamed road between X and Y will be closed" then rest assured: Tony Vickers, one of our WBC councillors, is on the case. Perhaps Chapel Corner and the Kintbury Road will finally get the recognition they deserve.

Planning applications

Details taken from the WBC planning portal on 27th May 2024. To see more details visit [this site](#) and search on the application number.

APPROVED

Watery Lane Farm, Holtwood RG20 0JH

23/02799/FUL validated 6th December 2023

Application for a temporary dwelling for a rural worker.

Approved 21st March 2024

AWAITING DECISION

Fishery Cottage, RG20 0JD

23/01928/FULMAJ validated 22nd September 2023

Demolition of current dwelling to be replaced with larger dwelling, to provide storage space near the house. Demolition of the existing barn to be relocated and replaced with a smaller barn, separate for mini-diggers and equipment to maintain the river banks. Shortening of fishpool.

Supported by HMPC.

24/00748/COND validated 11th April

Approval of conditions relating to above.

Elm Farm, RG20 0HR

23/02550/FULMAJ validated 7th November 2023

Demolition of redundant farmstead buildings, new house, relocated barn, change of use of field area for re-location of solar panels and significant landscape/biodiversity enhancement.

Letters of support from 23 neighbours and local walkers. HMPC has commended the application.

Enborne Equestrian Centre, Holtwood RG20 0JL

24/00087/FUL validated 19th January 2024

Conversion of building to three self-contained equestrian-related accommodation letting units, replacement of water tank with conservatory and associated internal and external alterations.

Supported by HMPC.

Morewood House, RG20 0JD

24/00180/LBC validated 22nd February 2024

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

White Hart Inn, RG20 0HW

24/00582/FUL validated 4th April

Change of use to residential.

Three letters of support, 26 of objection, HMPC no objection.

Kintbury Road

24/00693/FORMB

Replacement of electricity poles.

Property on the market

#3 Elm Farm Cottages and land totalling about 46.36 acres (18.76 ha)

Pasture land, agricultural buildings and a three-bedroom end-of-terrace house offered freehold by BCM of Winchester with vacant possession as a whole, or in three separate lots (£405,000, £335,000, £210,000).

Still described on BCM's website as **sold subject to contract**.

Holtwood Farmhouse, RG20 0JH

Previously shown on Hamptons' website as "under offer", this five-bedroom Grade II-listed house appears to be back on the market, now at a guide price of £1,200,000.

White Hart Inn, RG20 0HW

Colliers' website continues to offer the inn, with nine letting bedrooms, for £895,000 freehold, or leasehold.

Crime reports

23rd April: TVP reported a quad bike was stolen from premises in Park Lane/Irish Hill Road.

13/14th May: break in, theft and arson at Good Hope Farm in Park Lane.

14th May: Prowlers reported at the White Hart. Camera showed two middle-aged men and a VW.

What's on in the village

May

Thu 30th 14.00-16.00 Parish café in the village hall

June

Thu 6th 19.00-21.30 Circle of Friends: poetry evening in village hall

Sat 8th 10.00-13.00 Community market in village hall

Thu 27th 14.00-16.00 Parish café in village hall (tbc)

July

Thu 4th 07.00-22.00 General election polling day (village hall)

Thu 4th 19.00-21.30 Circle of Friends strawberries and fizz (venue tba)

Sat 13th 10.00-13.00 Community market in village hall

Thu 18th 19.30 Parish council meeting in village hall

Thu 25th 14.00-16.00 Parish café in the village hall (tbc)

Tue 30th 19.30 Village hall management meeting

August

Sat 10th 10.00-13.00 Community market in village hall

Thu 29th 14.00-16.00 Parish café in the village hall (tbc)

This September will be the 19th anniversary of the start of the Community Market. Over the years the market has supported many charities, and has provided a monthly meeting place for Hamstead Marshall and surrounding parishes. A small number of regular helpers work in the kitchen producing refreshments and running the tombola, but more would be welcome. If you'd like to help, speak to Lanie Allen or Sue Watts.

Pilates in the village hall continues on Tuesday mornings in termtime, 09.30 to 10.30. To enquire or join, contact Jenny Carter.

Ladies who Brunch/Lanie Allen 07775 804143.

Circle of Friends/Sue Watts 07884 004418.

The mobile library will stop at Ash Tree Grove from 10.40 until 11.10 on Thursdays 30th May, 20th June, 11th July, 1st and 22nd Aug, 12th Sept.

The *Hamstead Hornet* is published quarterly online, in March, June, September and December. Back copies can be seen on <https://www.hamsteadmarshall.net/social-life/hamstead-hornet/>. Readers who have supplied their email addresses to the editor receive 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 admin@hamsteadmarshall.net.