

Old village photos wanted



Hamstead's longer-standing residents are being asked to scour their attics and albums for old photos of the village. A handsome new board, hardwood framed, has been made and installed inside the hall by Rob Bowyer, and it will be used to display community memorabilia, particularly material associated with the village hall and its past.

If you have any such memorabilia (which could include posters, programmes, tickets, press cuttings or advertisements as well as photos) please get in touch with Sue Watts, who promises to treat all material with the utmost care, and to return it as soon as it has been copied. Her number is 01488 658932, or you can email her on <soosy.watts@googlemail.com>.

The White Hart has invested in a gleaming new carvery unit sited in the dining room, with accommodation for three roast joints and a selection of vegetables.

From Wednesday 4 March Cam's Carvery will serve a choice of roasts for a fiver from Monday to Friday, lunchtimes (12 to 3pm) and evenings (5.30 to 9pm). Weekend carvery meals are £7.95, served during the same hours on Saturdays, and from 12 to 6pm on Sundays.

Roasts will include beef, pork, lamb, turkey and gammon, as well as a nut roast for vegetarians. There will be a choice of steamed or roasted seasonal vegetables, Yorkshire pudding, stuffing, sauces and gravy, to which you can help yourself. In addition to this there is a full menu of separately priced starters, alternative main courses and puddings.

Cam's Carvery is being promoted in the *Newbury Weekly News* and on the White Hart's new website at <www.thewhitehart.biz>.

White Hart woos diners-on-a-budget with roast dinners for a fiver



West Woodhay House Garden Show

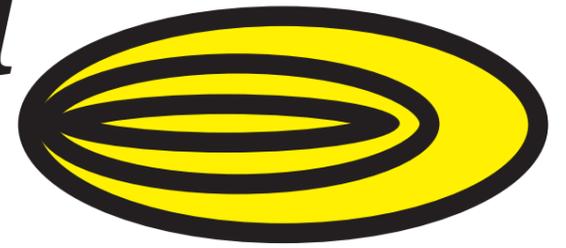
The 2009 West Woodhay Garden Show will take place on 20-21 June. Billed as the largest charity garden show in the Thames Valley, this biennial fundraiser for local churches fielded 10,000 visitors in June 2007. Attractions for this summer include a schools competition entitled "Butterfly Barrel", an art show sponsored by Dreweatts, who will also be providing an antiques and art identification service in the marquee, a silent auction organised by the Rotary Club, 100 trade stands and a balloon rally.

Local support is being sought in the form of plants, homemade preserves, names of possible sponsors, items for the silent auction and offers of help in manning the stalls, parking lot and turnstiles. Donors and volunteers should contact one of the churchwardens: Jamie Gladstone (01635 44868) or Robin Althaus (01635 524346).

The *Hamstead Hornet* is posted on <www.hamsteadmarshall.net> which also carries story updates and detailed village information.

The *Hamstead Hornet* is edited and published by Penelope Stokes at
The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW tel/fax 01488 658759 admin@hamsteadmarshall.net

Hamstead Hornet



Issue no. 49

Distributed free in the Hamstead Marshall area

March 2009

Village hall makeover continues

Smart picket fencing and matching gates complete the external makeover of the village hall. The previous hedge and grass plait had been a long-standing maintenance headache for the management committee. Similar gates have been installed on the recreation field, and a pathway is soon to be built from the back of the hall to the field, for use by the play-group children. The work is being carried out by Mick McGillivray.

A new roadside signboard has been made and installed by Rob Bowyer, such that traffic coming up Park Lane will immediately notice the village hall.

These improvements have been funded by grants obtained by the parish planning group from West Berkshire Council and Vibrant Villages.

Future projects will focus on the recreation field, for



which Sue Watts is obtaining quotes. The aim is to instal some simple, low-maintenance play equipment, a picnic table, and to plant a small orchard and wild flower area. A willow structure is already scheduled for spring planting.

May exhibition at North Lodge



Hamstead artist Bob Brown is opening his studio to the public on 30 and 31 May. Visitors will be welcome to view a varied display of oil paintings, prints and drawings between 11am and 4pm, in the working environment where the artist has been painting for over 20 years.

Bob Brown exhibits regularly in London, Alresford and elsewhere, including the Woodhay Gallery. He is a member of the New English Art Club, and his work hangs in such diverse collections as Unilever plc, Warburgs, the Chinese embassy in London and the British embassy in Athens. Bob travels widely for his subject matter. Past trips have taken him to China, Australia and the USA, and more recently Turkey, Syria, Iran and Moscow. Examples of his work can be seen on <www.bobaugurbrown.co.uk>.

Entry to the exhibition is free and without obligation. Visitors are requested to enter by the studio gate rather than the main house driveway. Anyone unable to visit over the scheduled weekend may make an alternative arrangement by email to <bob.augur@btinternet.com> or ring 01635 47181.

What's on March - June 09		
19.30-21.30 Thu 5 Mar	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-13.00 Sat 14 Mar	village market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
20.00 Mon 16 Jan	parish council meeting in the village hall	Jo Wheeler 07766 692235
19.30 Wed 25 Mar	garden society meeting in village hall talk on veg gardening	Penelope Lake 01635 48701
19.30-21.30 Thu 2 Apr	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
20.00 Sun 5 Apr	White Hart quiz £2 per person - all proceeds to charity	01488 658201
10.00-13.00 Sat 11 Apr	village market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
20.00 Sun 3 May	White Hart quiz £2 per person - all proceeds to charity	01488 658201
19.30-21.30 Thu 7 May	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-13.00 Sat 9 May	village market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
19.00 Mon 11 May	parish council meeting followed by parish assembly at 20.00 in the village hall	Jo Wheeler 07766 692235
Sat 16 May	medieval day fair and banquet at village hall and recreation field	Lanie 01488 658168
11.00-16.00 30 & 31 May	exhibition of art by Bob Brown at North Lodge studio	Bob Brown 01635 47181 bob.augur@btinternet.com
20.00 Sun 7 Jun	White Hart quiz £2 per person - all proceeds to charity	01488 658201
evening Sat 18 Jul	parish party at village hall recreation field - free admission bar - salads - music from Diggin on This & others	
regular term-time activities in the village hall		
10.00-11.30 Weds	yoga classes	Inga Craven 01488 658744
13.30-16.00 Mons	oil painting classes for beginners & improvers	Newbury College 01635 42824
weekdays	Little Sunflowers nursery school	Teresa 01635 253201 Trudy 01635 255363

Property for sale

North Lodge £2.8million, Knight Frank
Hamstead Mill 2-bedroom flat, £249,950, Chancellors
Merrowmead £560,000, Rural Scene

The position on these three properties appeared to be unchanged on the agents' websites on 3 March 2009.

Waverley is now listed with Downer & Co at £399,950.

Mansard and **Barn House** appear to be no longer listed on their agents' websites.

Planning applications

information taken from <<http://ww2.westberks.gov.uk/publicaccess>> on 3 March 09

Holtwood Farm has submitted an application for a hay and straw barn. **No 25 Chapel Corner** has submitted an application for continued use of a garage for residential dwelling. Both these applications are pending.

The second application to demolish and replace **Holtwood House** with a larger dwelling has been approved, as has **The Old Post Office** application to change use of an agricultural outbuilding and small area of paddock to domestic use. **Foxlee Farm's** application for erection of a replacement dwelling has been refused.

Vehicle theft

A vehicle parked in the Ash Tree Corner layby in April was robbed of its indicator assembly and wing mirror unit, estimated value £80.

Enborne and Hamstead Marshall Garden Society

The spring meeting of the society will be held in the village hall, at which James Bunn will talk on starting a vegetable garden. Meetings are usually attended by 30 to 40 people, and include coffee with biscuits, a raffle and a competition of seven classes, this time: daffodils, tulips and flowering shrub in vases, flowering and foliage pot plants, a flower arrangement and a decorated Easter cake. Winners gain points towards the Meadowfresh Cup, which is presented at the flower show in September.

Subscriptions fell due in January, and those who have not yet paid may do so at the meeting. New membership cards will be distributed. New members are always welcome.

Oil co-op: members up, fuel prices down

Lanie's oil-buying customers have been advised that expansion of the group has resulted in increased admin costs, and that subscriptions are therefore being increased to £10. The higher rate will become payable as each individual sub becomes due, at which point Lanie advises members.

Monthly reminders to order are no longer being sent out, so members who require oil should advise Lanie before the end of the month if they wish to be included in the next delivery.

Some members have asked if the scheme could expand to include firewood or coal. Both are still under investigation, but Lanie has asked members to suggest names of coal merchants, because those she has contacted have not shown interest.

Anyone interested in joining the scheme and buying fuel oil at bulk prices should contact Lanie on 01488 658168 or <laonee@btopenworld.com>.

Welcome to newcomers

When the property market eventually starts moving newcomers to Hamstead Marshall can look forward to receiving a welcome pack compiled by the Village Information Group as part of the parish plan.

The pack consists of a binder containing maps, newsletters and information on parish administration, WBC services, police and healthcare contacts, bus timetable, broadband, the village hall, what's on, local societies and details of numerous local businesses.

The group is now working on four leaflets describing local walks, to be distributed free within and beyond the village. A grant for printing the leaflets is being sought from the Greenham Common Trust.

WANTED TO RENT Paddock with water supply and stabling. Please contact Judith Taylor on <jt.mockingbird@tiscali.co.uk>.

Medieval merriment



A medieval day is being organised for 16 May at the village hall and recreation field. There will be a small ticket charge and events will include a banquet and fair. Look for more details in the April church newsletter, and keep watching the noticeboards at Chapel Corner and Ash Tree Corner for further information.

New parish council member

Following the resignation of Kate Gunn from the parish council last year Stuart Morton of Chapel Corner has been co-opted to complete the membership of five. A village resident since the early 1990s, Stuart joins Gordon Fisher, John Handy, Peter Benest and Jon Phillips.

The parish council next comes up for re-election in May 2010 but if (as has always happened in the past) no nominations are received, and the previous councillors are willing, the parish council continues unchanged.