

Hamstead *Hornet*



Issue no. 51

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September 2009

£4,000 for village hall field improvements

Parish plan achievements continue to roll off the line with a further grant of about £4,000 having been made by the Berkshire Rural Access to Services Programme (RASP) for equipping the recreation field beside the village hall. Low-level play equipment and rustic seating are being installed by Playground Services of Hungerford. The field will soon offer a safe and maintenance-free play area both for local children and the

playgroup, together with seating for parents and playgroup staff.

The recreation field was originally Elm Farm land, sold to the village hall charity in the late 1980s for £1,600. Although occasionally used for fetes it was for many years fairly rough ground. Now, with regular maintenance funded by the village hall, it is becoming a true village amenity.

Yet another car was found in the hedge at Chapel Corner on the morning of bank holiday Monday. It is not clear whether other vehicles were involved, although hedge damage over several yards suggests more than one vehicle's careless parking. This is the second time this year that this stretch of hedge has been damaged by cars leaving the road at night.

Chapel Corner was earmarked for traffic-calming measures two years ago by WBC as part of the parish plan. A bid for £5k was said to have been put in to the highway and transport five-year capital programme in 2007, but no more has been heard of the council's intentions.



Another one bites the hedge



Elm Farm barn conversion

Transformation of the eighteenth-century Grade-II listed barn at Elm Farm into a conference and education facility has now been completed. As with phase one of the Organic Research Centre's re-development, priority was given to state-of-the-art environmentalism, and the barn incorporates

ground-source heating, solar panels, sheep's wool insulation and rainwater harvesting. The garden at the back is also to be revitalised.

The main function room in the barn can hold 60 to 100 people, and the ORC envisages a wide range of possibilities for it. When not in use for campaigning, exhibitions, lectures and demonstrations related to organic farming the barn may be hired out commercially, or made available for community events. ORC would welcome suggestions from local people as to how it might be used. Send your ideas to <info@organicresearchcentre.com>.



What's on September to December 2009

19.30-21.30 Thu 3 Sep	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
14.00 Sat 5 Sep	Enborne & Hamstead Marshall Garden Society Flower Show at Hazel Paddock, Enborne	secretary 01635 48701
20.00 Sun 6 Sep	White Hart quiz £2 per person – all proceeds to charity	01488 658201
10.00-13.00 Sat 12 Sep	Community Market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
14.00-16.00 Sun 13 Sep	Elm Farm guided trail walk (part of Organic Fortnight) with education officer Bob Winfield	01488 658298
20.00 Mon 21 Sep	parish council meeting in the village hall	Jo Wheeler 07766 692235
20.00 Sun 3 Oct	White Hart quiz £2 per person – all proceeds to charity	01488 658201
19.30-21.30 Thu 8 Oct	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
19.30 Fri 9 Oct	Harvest Supper and charity auction in village hall tickets £7 adults £5 children	01488 658048 01635 44868
10.00-13.00 Sat 10 Oct	Community Market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
19.00-21.30 Thu 15 Oct	Pamper and shopping evening in village hall stalls, beauty t'ments, massage etc £2 entry	Lynn 07798 701523
19.45 Wed 28 Oct	Enborne & Hamstead Marshall Garden Society AGM and social in village hall	secretary 01635 48701
20.00 Sun 1 Nov	White Hart quiz £2 per person – all proceeds to charity	01488 658201
18.30 Thu 5 Nov	Bonfire and fireworks party at village hall field free admission - bar - barbecue	White Hart or 01488 658168
19.30-21.30 Thu 12 Nov	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall NB DATE CHANGE	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-13.00 Sat 14 Nov	Community Market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
20.00 Mon 16 Nov	parish council meeting in the village hall	Jo Wheeler 07766 692235
19.30-21.30 Thu 3 Dec	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
20.00 Sun 6 Dec	White Hart quiz £2 per person – all proceeds to charity	01488 658201
10.00-13.00 Sat 12 Dec	Community Market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
10.00-11.30 Weds termtime	<i>yoga classes</i>	<i>Inga Craven 01488 658744</i>
13.30-16.00 Mons termtime	<i>oil painting classes for beginners & improvers</i>	<i>Newbury College 01635 42824</i>
<i>weekdays termtime</i>	<i>Little Sunflowers nursery school</i>	<i>Teresa 01635 253201 Trudy 01635 255363</i>

The garden show at West Woodhay House in June raised £60,000 for a number of Berkshire charities, including the united benefice of Hamstead, Enborne, Woodhay, Combe, Inkpen and Kintbury churches. The organisers have expressed their thanks to all who made it possible.

Pamper and Shopping Evening
at the village hall 7pm-9.30pm
Thursday 15 October 2009
Entrance £2. Wine kindly donated by the White Hart. Tea and coffee
also available. Funds raised will be for the village hall.
Details from Lynn 07798 701523

Planning

No. 24 Hamstead Marshall, the middle of the three-cottage terrace at Chapel Corner, has applied for permission to build a rear extension. Decision is pending.

Irish Hill House has withdrawn an application submitted in June 2009 to alter and extend the existing house.

Rickety Gate Farm in Holtwood is seeking permission to erect poultry pens, houses, runs and fencing, following refusal of a certificate of lawfulness earlier in the summer.

Vine Cottage (formerly Maythorne) at Chapel Corner has been granted permission to demolish its existing kitchen in order to create a new bedroom and larger kitchen.

The application relating to materials and landscaping for the new development on the site of the now demolished Holtwood House has been granted.

Foxlee Farm in Watery Lane has been granted a certificate of lawfulness for use as a residential property within Class C of the 1987 use classes order.

Funding for walks leaflets

The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has agreed to fund the printing of two leaflets detailing walks in Hamstead Marshall.

The leaflets were proposed as part of the parish plan, and each will describe two walks which may be done separately (for those who find three or so miles sufficient) or together as a figure of eight (for more energetic walkers). The leaflets are presently under compilation by the Village Information Group (a sub-group of the Parish Plan Steering Group). When printed, a copy of each leaflet will be delivered to every house in the village, and further copies will be displayed for visitors to help themselves at the White Hart, the village hall, Elm Farm and West Berkshire Tourist Office.

Property

Information taken from estate agents' websites 31 August 2009

East Gate Cottage in Craven Hill continues to be offered at a guide price of £850,000 by Carter Jonas.

A ground floor flat in Hamstead Mill is being offered by Russell Marshall at £275,000. Merrowmead at Chapel Corner is said by Rural Scene to be

under offer at a price of £550,000.

North Lodge has been taken off the market.

Waverley has been sold to a new village resident.

The Craven Fishery has been bought from the Eddington estate by Richard White, a member of the Howard de Walden family. He is understood to be a keen fisherman.

ENBORNE & HAMSTEAD MARSHALL GARDEN SOCIETY ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW & FETE

2pm Saturday 5 September
at Hazel Paddock (opposite Enborne School)
stalls, produce competitions, music, tombola, raffle, teas

Broadband instructions change

Some 30 households in the village are currently broadband-enabled through 3G mobile telephony, using equipment tested successfully by the village broadband committee. However a key component of this system has been taken off the market, which means that new installations must use an alternative.

Frank Ellis, chairman of the broadband committee, says: "We've tested a new router using 3G and found it satisfactory. If you want to instal a new broadband system please get in touch with me* for details of this new router and its availability. Unfortunately it's more expensive than the previous solution."

Households currently using the former system are unaffected, provided that they do not at any time need to replace the Option Express card, which is no longer available, or the Linksys router, which is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain.

Redesigned website on the way

Whilst the content of <www.hamsteadmarshall.net> mostly meets with approval, the five-year-old format is looking decidedly clunky. By the end of September a new site (at the same web address) will have replaced the old, looking more up to date.

Content will be expanded, with the addition of a new family history page and many more links. Both *Craven Country* and the A-Z gazetteer of the village will be posted as PDF files, which will make downloading and searching easier.

Park tree carving immortalised in bronze

This handsome bronze casting was taken from a signature carved into a tree in Hamstead Park by Lester Birky, a US soldier about to take part in the D-Day landings in 1944. The casting has been placed in the museum of the Kennet Valley War Trust at Littlecote.



The chance discovery of the carving in 2002 led to the creation of the memorial to the D-Day troops in the park. The group of enthusiasts who organised this were mindful of

the inaccessibility of the tree carving, and its vulnerability to the ravages of time and weather, and they wanted to secure its future in some tangible form. The casting project, which cost £2,000, was funded mostly by Natural England as part of a programme to preserve historical graffiti.

Bonfire Night party 2009

The village bonfire party will be held in the field on Thursday 5 November from 6.30pm. Fireworks will start at 8pm. Soup, barbecued hotdogs and burgers will be on sale, as will toffee apples, beer and wine (mulled and straight). Squash for children will be free. There will be a best guy competition.

Admission will be free, but donations towards costs would be most welcome. They may be handed in at the White Hart, and there will also be a collection on the night.

The event is being organised and sponsored, as last year, by the Community Market and the White Hart. Proceeds from the pub's quiz night on 1 November will go towards the fireworks.

Volunteers are being sought to help build the bonfire and clear up afterwards, as well as to help on the night with the barbecue. If you would like to help please contact Lanie on 01488 658168 or <laonee@btopenworld.com>, or speak to Kevin or Camilla Reilly at the White Hart.

Barrs Farm footpath re-routed

WBC has approved the shift of a Barrs Farm footpath line northwards as shown on the map opposite, in connection with the farm's agricultural redevelopment.



St Mary's Church, Hamstead Marshall Harvest Supper

7.30pm Friday 9th October
at the village hall

Tickets £7 (children £5)
available at the door

Please notify one of the following
by 2nd October if you wish to attend:
Robin Tandy 01488 658048
Jamie Gladstone 01635 44868
Bob Brown 01635 47181

Always an enjoyable evening
with good food, drink and conversation
One of the few chances in the year to meet
all your friends from in and around the village
and of course the traditional

Harvest Supper Auction

Moving house



Following WBC's refusal to grant retrospective planning permission for the summer house in the garden of 25 Hamstead Marshall, a giant crane was called in last month to reposition the structure further from the property boundary.

The death was announced earlier this summer of Alf Coxhead, who lived at Salters. He came from family whose history in this village goes back for centuries and, apart from war service during 1939-45, he worked all his life for the Craven estate. Alf was a familiar and respected figure in the local community, and he will be much missed.

News stories from the *Hamstead Hornet* are posted and updated on www.hamsteadmarshall.net which also carries detailed information about the village.

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