

Education in the garden

ORC Elm Farm has now completed restoration of the Education Garden. The willow arbour donated by the village is now well established, and a bench installed in it overlooks the garden. Enborne School, including several children and parents from Hamstead Marshall, was the first school to use the facility.

ORC plans to expand the range of schools and activities beyond the garden to other features under development behind the barn, and to the farm trail, for which there is now a series of new leaflets for children, sponsored by the North Wessex Downs AONB.

Make a day of it Sat 17 July

ORC at Elm Farm
Hamstead Marshall

Food Festival Saturday 17 July

organic local food, cooking,
wine tasting, gardening
and
a bug hunt on farm trail

Hamstead Marshall Parish Party 2010

19.00 - 22.30
Saturday 17 July
at the village hall field

free admission
bar, food, live music

ORC's founder director hands over the reins



Lawrence Woodward steps down as director of the Organic Research Centre, Elm Farm, at the end of May. His successor is Nic Lampkin, who has been joint director of the ORC since February 2009, and is also Visiting Professor at the University of Reading School of Agriculture, Policy and Development.

A familiar figure around the village, Lawrence Woodward played a pivotal role in putting the Organic Research Centre at the forefront of the organic movement both in the UK and internationally. He was appointed an OBE in 2001 for services to organic farming, and also served as head of the Soil Association.

Got a spare room?

The Organic Research Centre at Elm Farm is looking for local homes willing to take in students as paying guests for various periods. Offers of accommodation need not include catering. To discuss details of what is being sought and terms ring Pam Tibbatts on 01488 658298.

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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Repairs to the tower of St Mary's Church are now complete, having been delayed by the severe winter weather.

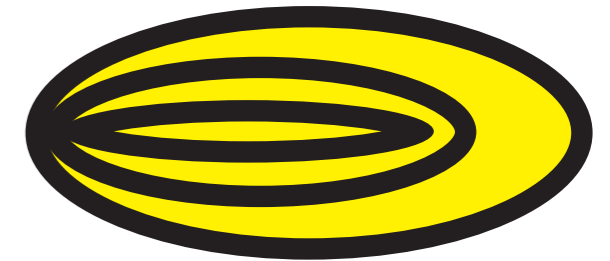
Local crime

There was an attempted burglary at Chapel Corner late evening on 15 May. The residents heard sounds and came downstairs, at which point the intruder fled, unseen and empty-handed. A window lock had been forced. No vehicle was heard, and the police responded with a dog-handler, hoping to pick up a scent trail, but none was found. Nor were fingerprints, so it was assumed that the offender wore gloves, suggesting a degree of forethought.

Two nights later some red diesel was stolen from Whitehill Farm

The new Holtwood House site was broken into on the night of Monday 26 April, and tools were taken from locked containers.

Hamstead Hornet



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End of an era: the White Hart Inn closes

Villagers have cause to mourn this week, as the centuries-old White Hart Inn appears to have closed, possibly never to re-open as a pub.

In 2004 Kevin and Camilla Reilly bought the pub from Nicky and Dorothy Aromando, who had run it for 20 years as a popular Italian restaurant. Under the new owners in 2004 the emphasis moved more towards attracting local beer-drinkers with real ale, whilst still offering a full restaurant service. However a succession of initiatives – happy hour, the £5 carvery, beer festivals, karaoke and quiz nights – failed to beat the recession.

The White Hart is currently being advertised for £650,000 by Sidney Phillips, an agency specialising in selling pubs. (The 2004 sale price was £635,000.) It is however believed that a possible fate of the premises will be conversion to a private house. This will require planning permission, which may be opposed, but if no-one can be found to buy it as a pub the loss to the village will be inevitable.

The true age of the White Hart is not known, although it is likely to go back at least to the seventeenth century. Owned by the Craven estate until 1950, the White Hart has also in its time served as coroner's court, timber saleroom, rent office, auction house and general village meeting place.



Royal visit celebrates ORC's 30th anniversary

The Organic Research Centre (ORC) at Elm Farm celebrated its thirtieth anniversary with a visit by the Prince of Wales on Monday 24 May to open the new and restored buildings and to unveil a plaque in memory of Graham Pye, the centre's long-standing sponsor and patron. The prince praised the achievements of ORC

and its founder director, Lawrence Woodward, wishing it continued success in the next 30 years.

The Prince of Wales last visited Elm Farm Research Centre (as it then was) in the summer of 1996.

Lawrence Woodward steps down as ORC director - see back page.



The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Bob Winfield, ORC's education officer, meets children from Enborne School in the newly completed Education Garden at Elm Farm (see also back page).

What's on June - September 2010

19.00 Sat 29 May	Barn dance at Elm Farm <i>tickets include supper £10/£5</i>	01488 658168 or 658932
19.30-21.30 Thu 3 Jun	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall: life coach talk	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.30-13.00 Sat 5 Jun	Percussion improvisation workshop <i>suitable for teenagers and adults no musical skills needed - £5</i>	Alison Mawdsley 077907 67425 or 01635 821525
10.00-13.00 Sat 12 Jun	Community Market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
14.00 Sun 13 Jun	Guided walk at Elm Farm, to coincide with NFU Open Farm Sunday	Pam Tibbatts 01488 658298
10.00-15.30 Sat 26 Jun	Himalayan singing bowls workshop (for relaxation and health) in village hall	Alison Mawdsley 077907 67425 or 01635 821525
12.00-16.00 Sun 27 Jun	Open day and family fun dog show at Dogs Trust, Plumb's Farm	01488 658391
19.00 Wed 30 Jun	Summer meeting of the Enborne & Hamstead Marshall Garden Society at The Holding, RG20 0HW	Dawn Taylor 01635 32006 or Penelope Lake 01635 48701
19.30-21.30 Thur 1 Jul	Circle of Friends summer party <i>champagne & strawberries</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-13.00 Sat 10 July	Community Market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
Sat 17 July	Organic Food Festival at ORC Elm Farm incl bug hunt led by Jo Smith, probably starting at 10am	Pam Tibbatts 01488 658298
19.00-22.30 Sat 17 July	Parish Party at the village hall field <i>free admission - bar - food - live music</i>	
20.00 Mon 19 July	Parish council meeting in the village hall all parishioners welcome	Jo Wheeler 07766 629235
10.00-13.00 Sat 14 Aug	Community Market in village hall local produce & refreshments	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
19.30-21.30 Thur 2 Sept	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) Alison Mawdsley and Himalayan singing bowls	Sue Watts 01488 658932
14.00 Sat 4 Sept	Enborne & Hamstead Marshall Flower Show at Enborne School <i>stalls, competitions, band, amusements</i>	Dawn Taylor 01635 32006 or Penelope Lake 01635 48701
14.00 Sun 12 Sept	Guided walk at Elm Farm, marking second weekend of Organic Fortnight	Pam Tibbatts 01488 658298
10.00-11.30 Weds termtime	yoga classes	Inga Craven 01488 658744
13.30-16.00 Mons termtime	oil painting classes for beginners & improvers	Newbury College 01635 42824
weekdays termtime	Little Sunflowers nursery school	Teresa 01635 253201 Trudy 01635 255363

Property

Hobson s Cottage (formerly Hillside) on the Kintbury Road between the Craven Arms and Ast Tree Corner is being offered by Strutt and Parker at a guide price of £650,000. The house has five bedrooms and occupies just over one third of an acre.

Hamstead Lodge (formerly called the White House), in Old Lane, is being offered for sale by Jackson-Stops at a guide price of £1,800,000. The seven-bedroomed house has changed hands three times in less than 10 years: at £1,040,000 in 2003 and 2004, and then at £1,850,000 in 2007.

According to <www.nethouse prices.com>:

East Gate Cottage sold in December 2009 for £800,000

No 1 Hamstead Mill sold for £360,000 in January 2010.

Community speedwatch

The Community Speedwatch programme, in which trained village volunteers work with Thames Valley Police (TVP) in logging motorists who speed through the 30mph zone, can now move forward, thanks to insurance arrangements facilitated by the parish council. Training dates are expected to be announced soon by Robin Tandy.

Earlier in the year TVP conducted a 40-minute monitoring exercise in the village, in which 12 drivers were caught over the speed limit. They have received warning letters and have been added to the speed database.

The Curry and Quiz Night held in the village hall on 20 March raised £300 for Sport Relief.

Planning applications

Hamstead Growers application for temporary siting of a mobile home has been refused. A separate retrospective application in respect of equestrian activities was approved in March, subject to conditions, enforcement of which has gone to appeal.

Holtwood House has an application for an enclosed swimming pool with bat loft pending.

Holtwood Farm has two applications pending for:
1) a new hay and straw barn
2) change of use of an agricultural/equine building to a dwelling.

The parish council has opposed the former, invoking the Village Design Statement. It was however decided at the May meeting to support the dwelling application.

No 1 Elm Farm Cottages is seeking a two-storey extension, to which the parish council has no objection.

The application from **No 24** (Chapel Corner) for an obscured-glass window to replace an existing false window has been refused on the grounds that it is a variation from permission previously granted.

No 50-51 (Craven Hill) has permission for a brick boundary wall to replace a hedge.

Hats and handbags wanted

Anne Ree of Craven Cottage is collecting unwanted hats, handbags, jewellery, scarves etc for a grand charity sale to be held at Frank Hutchings Hall in Thatcham on Tuesday 15 June, to benefit Macmillan Cancer Care. If you have items to offer ring her on 07831 608609 re collection/delivery.

Annual parish assembly

The parish assembly held at the village hall on Monday 17 May was sparsely attended, and business was completed in less than 15 minutes. The chairman's report briefly described a quiet year. Gordon Fisher will continue to chair the parish council, with John Handy continuing to serve as vice-chairman.

Correction: the item in the March Hamstead Hornet concerning election to the parish council was a year out. Hamstead Marshall parish council does not fall due for re-election until 2011.

The parish assembly was followed immediately by the end-of-year parish council meeting, at which it was reported that income for 2009-10 (from the parish precept) was £2,300.

Expenditure was as follows:

- £1,560 on clerking fees
- £809 on security lighting at Ash Tree Grove
- £185 on audit fees
- £84 on hall hire
- £43 on membership of BALC.

The parish precept this year increases by 7.5%. This increase averages at around £1.50 more per household.

The parish council bank account also acts as a conduit for parish plan finances. Parish plan expenditure this last year was £8,047.

No time for lunch

PR consultant Avril Chaffey of Ash Tree Corner would like to hear from businesswomen in the village who could benefit from joining a networking organisation, *Ladies who Latte*. An open event is planned for 24 June at the Carnarvon Arms. Contact her on 07765 343565 for details.