

East Gate Cottage application withdrawn

Following an emergency meeting on 8th August at John Handy's barn, the new owners of East Gate Cottage in Craven Hill have withdrawn their planning application to rebuild the house.

The meeting was called by the parish council, and was attended also by Mrs Shanne Boyd (the applicant) and her architect Michael Fowler, Craven Hill residents and John Winckler a local expert on historic buildings conservation.

The Boyds' application (no.11/01023) to West Berkshire Council sought to knock down and replace a single-storey extension to an eighteenth-century agricultural building. The latter is part of the former Craven Stableyard (and is now Grade-II listed). The proposed structure would have expanded the house space from 180 square metres to 320, and would have projected nine feet above the present roofline. This was a major cause for objection; many consider the area to be an historically sensitive landscape, encompassing one of the highest concentrations of listed buildings in the district.

On 10th August the parish council wrote to WBC, drawing attention to the Village Design Statement, which defines the Craven Hill area as an important historical site held in great affection by local residents. The council's view is that no construction at East Gate Cottage should exceed single-storey.

It is not known whether the Boyds will submit a modified application. They bought the house apparently without a survey, planning to extend it to accommodate their family of three children. The house is believed to be let at present.

Food glorious food and much more at Elm Farm on 9th July



Cakes, chocolate, meat, olive oil, cider, cheese and wine were but a few of the artisan foods on sale at Elm Farm's Food Festival. Some intermittently heavy rain did not deter the hundreds of visitors, who stayed to eat, drink, shop and generally to enjoy the entertainments. These included a bouncy castle, bug-hunting, farm animals, face-painting, crafts, skittles and live music. A bar, barbecue and cake stall sustained the crowd, and the day-time event morphed almost without a break into the annual parish party: an evening of a hog roast and dancing, enlivened by the unexpected arrival of a local wedding party, complete with bride in white.



Copies of the Hamstead Hornet are posted online at <www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard>. News stories are updated between issues on the same page. The Hamstead Hornet is edited and published by Penelope Stokes at The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW 01488 658759 <admin@hamsteadmarshall.net>

Hamstead Hornet



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Back in business

The White Hart Inn returned to village life with a stupendous party for around 350 locals on 19th July.

First impressions were obviously favourable, and word quickly spread, because just six weeks later it is rare for the car park to be empty. At busy times cars are lined along the roadside verge.

Under the management of David and Sally Hayle the White Hart now offers hospitality from 10am until 11.30pm, seven days a week. In the elegantly refurbished (but still familiar) bar, two big, flatscreen TVs promise coverage of major sporting events.

The summer menu, with which the restaurant opened, will soon slip into autumn mode, with seasonal specialities, sourced where possible from local suppliers. Food is always available, if not directly from the kitchen then from a chilled deli cabinet stocked with cheeses, pies and charcuterie. Tea, coffee and cheese on toast are always available.

The bedrooms (with wi-fi) are now ready, with some guests already booked in. Christmas party bookings are also filling up. The White Hart plans to offer a Christmas Day festive meal, and a New Year's Eve celebration.

"We are thrilled with our reception by the village," says Stella Coulthurst, the new owner, "and our efforts have been rewarded by lots of customers."

01488 657545

www.whitehartinnhamsteadmarshall.co.uk

Downton Abbey comes to Holtwood

TV crews and the presenter Paul Heiney converged on Little Farm in Holtwood on 24th June after filming a programme in ITV's Countrywise series at Highclere Castle.

The Countrywise episode featured the connection between de Havilland aircraft and Highclere Castle* in the context of the soon-to-be-released second series of *Downton Abbey*. The lure of Holtwood was the Benests' landing strip, upon which a Tiger Moth, piloted by a friend of Peter Benest's, touched down after flying over Highclere. Little Farm then provided the backdrop for a number of interviews.

*In 1910 the aviation pioneer Geoffrey de Havilland (1882-1965) made a short but celebrated flight in a home-made aeroplane, crashing near Beacon Hill. A stone commemorates the event.



Sue Benest

What's on in the village Sept - Dec 2011

19.30-21.30 Thur 1 Sep	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall <i>Sally Pointer's medieval makeover</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932
14.00 Sat 3 Sep	Garden Society Flower Show and Fete at Hazel Paddock, Enborne <i>produce classes, stalls, games, refreshments, band</i>	Penelope Lake 01635 48701
10.00-13.00 Sat 10 Sep	Hamstead Marshall and Enborne Community Market in village hall - food, crafts, gifts etc	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
10.30-12.00 Wed 14 Sep	Technocafé: free computer help at Elm Farm	Rev Cathy Pynn 01488 658243
20.00 Mon 19 Sep	Parish council meeting in village hall	Jo Wheeler (parish clerk) <pclerkoffice@aol.com>
19.30-21.30 Thu 6 Oct	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall <i>Chocolate demonstration</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-13.00 Sat 8 Oct	Hamstead Marshall and Enborne Community Market in village hall - food, crafts, gifts etc	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
19.30 Sat 29 Oct	Harvest festival supper in village hall <i>Book places by phone</i>	Robin Tandy 01499 658048
19.30-22.00 Sat 15 Oct	Chilli and quiz night at village hall <i>£6 pp inc supper; BYO beer & wine; teams/tables of 6</i>	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
19.30-21.30 Thur 3 Nov	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in village hall <i>Ideas for Christmas</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932
Sat 5 Nov	Bonfire party at village hall field <i>Watch the noticeboards for further information</i>	
10.00-13.00 Sat 12 Nov	Hamstead Marshall and Enborne Community Market in village hall - food, crafts, gifts etc	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
20.00 Mon 21 Nov	Parish council meeting in village hall	Jo Wheeler (parish clerk) <pclerkoffice@aol.com>
19.30 Thur 1 Dec	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) <i>Christmas party at White Hart</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-13.00 Sat 10 Dec	Hamstead Marshall and Enborne Christmas Market at Elm Farm - food, crafts, gifts etc	Sue 01488 658932 Lanie 01488 658168
<i>regular events</i>		
13.30-16.00 Mons termtime	Oil painting classes for beginners & improvers	Chris Turner 01488 658587
17.00-18.30 Weds	Yoga classes	Inga Craven 01488 658744
weekdays termtime	Little Sunflowers nursery school	Teresa 01635 253201 Trudy 01635 255363

Tents for events

The village hall owns two marquees which can be hired by contacting Sue Watts on 01488 658932. The hire charge is £40 apiece, and hirers are responsible for collection and return.

Coming soon...

Enborne and Hamstead Marshall Garden Society holds its annual FLOWER SHOW AND FETE at Hazel Paddock, opposite Enborne School, at 2pm on SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER. There are 85 show classes, ranging through veg, fruit, flower blooms, flower arrangements, pot plants, preserves, cakes, biscuits and handi-crafts. Entry fees are nominal, as are the prizes, but the prestige of coming first is beyond calculation. Hamstead Marshall has been under-represented in the ranks of entrants, never mind winners in recent years, so consider whether or not something in your garden might perhaps restore village pride. (Entrants need not be members of the society.)

If you don't already have a show schedule contact Penelope Lake (01635 48701).

A QUIZ AND CHILLI EVENING is being held in the village hall on SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 7.30 - 10.00pm. The entry fee of £6 per person includes supper (meat or vegetarian). Bring your own wine or beer; soft drinks, tea and coffee will be provided. Quiz teams should number six people, but these can be made up the night. Book now with Lanie on 01488 658168 because there is space for no more than nine teams/tables.

St Mary's Church will hold the annual HARVEST SUPPER in the village hall on SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER, at 7.30pm. As usual, supper will be followed by an auction in aid of church funds.

All parishioners are welcome. The £7 (£5 for children) tickets may be bought at the door, but the organisers need to know how many to cater for, so if you are planning to come please tell either Robin Tandy on 01488 658048 or Jamie Gladstone on 01488 44868 at least one week in advance. Auction items and salad contributions to the feast are being sought; if you can oblige, Robin and Jamie would like to hear from you.

Planning applications

HOLTWOOD CORNER: conditions relating to applications no. 11/01341/COND1 (fencing, trees and landscaping) and no. 11/00254/HOUSE (swimming pool with bat loft) have been discharged.

OLD POST OFFICE: applications no. 11/01506/HOUSE and no. 11/01327/LBC for a single-storey rear extension and new two-bay garage or machinery store outbuilding are pending consideration. The parish council is supporting the application. A neighbour has expressed reservations about the visual effect of relocating of the garage.

HAMSTEAD GROWERS EQUESTRIAN: application no. 11/01250/FUL for retrospective change of surface of a manege (*widely but incorrectly described as a menage*) is pending consideration. This application has been opposed by the parish council on grounds that the manege is the subject of ongoing legal proceedings concerning an enforcement notice appeal. WBC highways department has expressed similar concerns.

WHITE HART INN: applications no. 11/01188/FUL and no. 11/01207/FUL to convert an outbuilding to B&B accommodation with disabled access is pending consideration. The parish council is supporting the application.

Information taken from <<http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk>> on 30th August 2011

and in brief...

The church-run technocafé which offers free help with computing to all-comers, has been operating monthly at Elm Farm, but has yet to attract the hoped-for custom. The next session will be held from 10.30 to 12 noon on Wednesday 14th September, but thereafter the Hamstead technocafé may be replaced by courses. The Kintbury technocafé continues every Thursday from 10.30 to noon in St Mary's Church room.

The ashes of Sybil Gates, who died in January 2010, were laid to rest in St Mary's churchyard on 3rd August. The quiet ceremony was conducted by the Rev James Cook and attended by her son Robert and his wife, both over from Australia, and a small number of friends.

There appears to be no property currently being offered for sale in the village. Hamstead Growers, Clareville and no. 23 are all sold subject to contract.

Garden society members gathered for their summer evening meeting on 6th July at Parterre, where they enjoyed the hospitality of Gail and Denis Winter, and viewed an immaculately kept garden. A novelty attraction proved to be the Mowbot, a robot lawnmower.

Another Christmas outing to the ballet may be organised by Sue Watts if she gets enough takers. *The Snow Queen* is to be performed in December at Arlington Arts by Ballet Theatre UK.