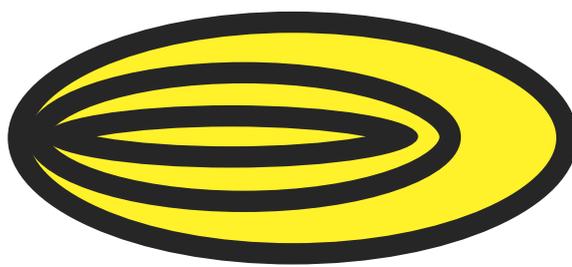


Hamstead *Hornet*



Issue no. 69

Hamstead Marshall's online quarterly newspaper
(copies printed only for those without internet)

March 2014

Milkhouse Road finally clear of floodwater *but not officially open*



The stretch of Milkhouse Road from the railway to the Red House crossroads which has been closed due to flooding for several weeks appears to be back in use, although possibly not with official sanction.

The "road closed" sign has not gone (as of Tuesday 11th March) but the plastic barriers have been pushed aside. Jon Winstanley, WBC's highways and transport projects manager, said today that he was aware that traffic was now using the road, but an assessment should be made before the road is officially reopened. There are huge pot-holes and severe damage to the edges of the road (see left).

However, some of the larger pot-holes appear to have been partially filled with stones and marked with cones, so it would seem that some council action may have already been taken.



WBC's website map of road closures (which did not show the closure until the highways department was contacted by the *Hornet* last week) incorrectly labels the road as Park Lane, stating that roadworks are scheduled to last until 26 March, but this date seems arbitrary.

The inconvenience to local residents of diverting to either Kintbury or Newbury, has been prompting some to ignore the closure even during the flooding. There have been reports of police turning vehicles back.



last week



Towpath improvement

The works site which has been set up opposite the barn beside Marsh Benham House is unrelated to the flooding problem. Land and Water have been contracted by the Canal and River Trust (successor to the British Waterways Board) to carry out improvements to the towpath, and to replace oak piling at the moorings near Hamstead Lock. Around 250 yards of work (pictured left) have been done so far, and the the project is expected to be completed by the end of March.

What's on in the village

10.00-13.00 Sat 8 Mar	Community market at the village hall <i>gifts, produce, crafts, bread, cakes etc</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.30 Thu 13 Mar	Ladies Who Brunch at the Halfway Inn £15	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
19.30 Wed 26 Mar	Garden Society meeting in village hall <i>talk by Dr Paul Sievers on Norway & Iceland</i>	Penelope Lake 01635 48701
10.00-12.00 Sat 29 Mar	St Mary's churchyard clean-up <i>volunteers with tools welcome; refreshments supplied</i>	Robin Althaus 01635 524346
20.00 Wed 2 Apr	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry - to charity</i>	01488 657545
19.30-21.30 Thu 3 Apr	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall £3	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-12.00 Sat 5 Apr	Guided walk around Elm Farm <i>to learn about hedgerows - just turn up</i>	01488 658298
10.30 Thu 10 Apr	Ladies Who Brunch at the Halfway Inn £15	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 12 Apr	Easter community market at Elm Farm <i>usual local produce and additional stalls, children's activities</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
19.30-21.30 Thu 1 May	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall £3	Sue Watts 01488 658932
20.00 Wed 7 May	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry - to charity</i>	01488 657545
10.30 Thu 8 May	Ladies Who Brunch at the Halfway Inn, £15	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 10 May	Community market at the village hall <i>gifts, produce, crafts, bread, cakes etc</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
20.00 Wed 4 Jun	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry - to charity</i>	01488 657545
19.30-21.30 Thu 5 Jun	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall £3	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.30 Thu 12 May	Ladies Who Brunch at the Halfway Inn, £15	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 14 Jun	Community market at the village hall <i>gifts, produce, crafts, bread, cakes etc</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168

regular events in the village hall

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

Property

estate agents' websites checked 7 March 2014

West Barn Bothy in Craven Hill is no longer being advertised on the Carter Jonas website, nor is it listed as sold.

Easter Market at Elm Farm

Saturday 12 April

10am - 1pm

local produce
including
free range eggs,
bread, preserves,
cakes
and many extra
stalls

Monthly Mindbender Quiz

at the
White Hart
first Wednesday of
the month,
starting 8pm

£1 per head entry

flexible team size

all for charity, so no
prizes other than a
bottle of wine and
the choice of next
month's charity

Garden Society
spring meeting
in the village hall
7.30pm Wed 26 March

Paul Sievers talking on
Norway and Iceland

Usual competitions

Nonmembers welcome

Planning applications

taken from <<http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/>> 10 March 2014. To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

Approved

13/03138/FUL
Vodafone mast near Irish Hill
Removal and replacement of existing mast antennae and dishes.

Pending consideration

14/00490/FUL
White Hart Inn
Section 73A Removal of condition 2: materials of approved application
12/03021/FUL: extension and change of use of outbuildings to create an additional four bed and breakfast rooms. Extensions and link to infill area between existing garage and existing outbuildings.

14/00450/AGRIC
Land adjacent to 23 Hamstead Marshall (applicant Nic Lampkin, Progressive Farming Trust, Elm Farm)
Use of this access/road to enter the fields behind by agricultural vehicles. Access/road is already in place and is used for car access and parking.

14/00481/COMIND

Elm Farm Research Centre
Demolish old dilapidated cattle buildings and replace with new building with photo-voltaic roof system.

Refused

13/01991/CERTP
East Gate Cottage RG20 0JD
Minor alterations to the existing dwelling including the addition of three rooflights, the enlargement of existing windows and addition of windows to the cottage building, a minor bin storage area, the extension of the existing vehicular entrance, the reduction in height of a small section of the existing brick boundary wall.

Refused, appeal in progress

APP/W0340/A/13/2206830
arising from 13/01008/FULD
Rickety Gate Farm, Holtwood
The appeals inspector has advised that a site visit to the proposed dog-breeding centre will take place at the end of March or early April.

Parish council chair changes

Gordon Fisher, who for many years has chaired the parish council alternately with John Handy, has left Hamstead Marshall in February to live in Burbage. The parish council presented Gordon and his wife Janet with a DAB radio, and the village hall committee, neighbours and friends gave him a glass-bottomed pewter tankard inscribed with his name. Grateful thanks were expressed for the work that he has done for the village over many years. John Handy will take over the chair until the parish assembly in May.

The consequent vacancy on the parish council has been advertised on the two parish noticeboards (Ash Tree Corner and Chapel Corner). Anyone interested is invited to contact the parish clerk, Sarah Bosley, on 07974 65210 or parish_clerk@hotmail.co.uk.

Eggs from Hayseed Hollow

Val and Simon Russell thank all who buy their eggs from the roadside kiosk, but regret that this has had to be moved closer to the house to deter theft. Around 14 dozen eggs were stolen in a single week.

Eggs can be reserved by emailing Val on valcrussell@yahoo.co.uk, or by ringing 01488 657496.

St Mary's churchyard clean-up

Sat 29 Mar 10.00 - 12.00

volunteers with tools welcome; refreshments supplied
details from Robin Althaus 01635 524346

S'now limit to her ambition

Annabel Chaffey from Ash Tree Corner has been taking part in the British Bobsleigh Championships in Innsbruck, as one half of the two-woman team representing Park House School.

Fifteen-year-old Annabel was selected last year to join the Team GB Future Athletes bobsleigh programme, as a result of which she attended a six-day Ice Camp at Innsbruck in January. Ice Camp offers young athletes the opportunity to train along-

side professionals, and helps to identify rising talent.

A local company has provided sponsorship, and Annabel has also been awarded SportsAid funding. She is setting her sights high, hoping to be part of Team GB at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

An interview with Annabel can be seen on www.sportsaid.org.uk/athletes/profile/annabel-chaffey.

Elm Farm boiler project gets feasibility study funding

Elm Farm's woodfuel boiler project, now known as the Hamstead Marshall Sustainable Energy Co-operative, has gained funding from DEFRA's Rural Community Energy Fund to carry out a full feasibility study, which will look at the technical logistics and costs of connecting individual properties to a central biomass boiler housed at Elm Farm.

Engineers from Oxford Renewables (www.oxfordrenewables.co.uk) will carry out this work, which will cover financial feasibility, operation and management options. Visits to participating properties are scheduled for the week beginning 17 March, and households which have expressed an interest in the project are being contacted for permission and details of availability. No commitment or investment is yet involved, and visits are unlikely to take much more than an hour.

In conjunction with the biomass boiler project, ORC Elm Farm is holding a hands-on workshop looking at all aspects of managing hedgerows for woodfuel.

The event, on Thursday 27 March, is aimed at farmers, landowners, woodland workers and advisors, and will cover hedge management cycles, machinery, harvesting and processing, as well as a guided walk around Elm Farm's hedgerows.

Anyone interested in attending the workshop should contact gillian.w@organicresearchcentre.com or Gillian Woodward, ORC Elm Farm, by Friday 21 March. Places cost £12, and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

ORC will also be holding a guided walk for members of the public at Elm Farm on Saturday 5 April, looking at a range of hedgerows and management methods. No need to book: just turn up at Elm Farm at 10am, suitably shod for a two-hour walk.

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- The Facebook page for Hamstead Marshall has been taken down, as it was rarely used.
- *Carol singing around the village on 23 December raised £180 in total. Nine singers ventured out around Chapel Corner on a stormy night, and their takings were subsequently boosted by donations from the village market and the White Hart. The full sum raised was then matched by Greenham Common Trust. The money goes to the Bruce Trust, which runs canal boat holidays for disabled people.*
- The Walbury Computer Group continues to offer free one-to-one computer tuition on Microsoft, Apple and Android systems. Sessions are held in St Mary's Hall, Kintbury. To book an hour with an experienced computer user ring Patricia Poyton on 01488 668901.
- *Hamstead parishioners are welcome to join an alternative book group started by the Rev Dr Margaret Yates in January. Members meet monthly at Enborne Church Barn to discuss spiritual classics. Contact Margaret on 01488 658092 or m.h.yates@reading.ac.uk.*
- New dishes are being added week by week to the White Hart's spring menu, which now includes a rib-eye steak, bakewell tart and jam roly-poly. Friday continues to be the fish-fancier's favourite, with catches of the day direct from Brixham.

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Hamstead Hornet

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