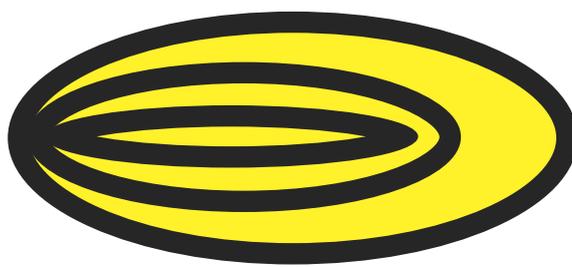


# Hamstead *Hornet*



Issue no. 70

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

June 2014

## Floods & fire

Ash Tree Grove bore the brunt of the recent wet weather, being flooded several times in Easter week by water coursing down Holtwood Road. Anne Budd reports that WBC was quick to respond, however, sending contractors Volker to rebuild the concrete setts at the entrance to the Grove a little higher to protect the householders. Sovereign Housing also sent sandbags.

A house in Chapel Corner was found flooded by a householder returning from holiday.

The highways department's defence measures on Milkhouse Road, which was closed for several weeks earlier in the year due to a massive diversion of floodwater from the river Kennet, appear to be nearly complete.

A faulty dishwasher was blamed for a house fire near the White Hart in early March. No-one was hurt, but the house was filled with black smoke, and one of the residents had to be rescued through an upstairs window. Two fire engines and an ambulance attended, and two people were treated for smoke inhalation. The residents have had to move out to a mobile home for the duration of the clean-up.

The *Newbury Weekly News* also reported a "cylinder fire" in Hamstead Marshall in late March but the whereabouts was unclear, being described as in "Enborne Road".

## ORC Elm Farm

### Land sales

Villagers were quick to take up the ORC's offer to sell off farmland to neighbouring householders last June, and three transactions have reached completion.

- Robin and Trish Tandy of Little Orchard have bought a copse;
- The Dogs' Trust at Plumb's Farm has added a field;
- Nick and Katie Wallis in one of the former Elm Farm Cottages have bought

the field that adjoins the west side of the bridle path, together with the barns on that side. In a subsequent deal with his neighbour, Stuart Morton of Elm View has bought the western half of this field.

Further sales, bringing the total to 12 acres, are in the pipeline. One is thought to be predicated on the outcome of a planning application.

### Community woodfuel boiler project

Contractors are continuing their feasibility studies, having inspected the nine households, Plumb's Farm and the White Hart, all of which have expressed interest. A review is to take place on 10th June. Meanwhile Sally Westaway, ORC's project co-ordinator reports that woodfuel has been harvested from a couple of short trial sections of hedgerow on Elm Farm, since when regrowth, biodiversity and other parameters are being monitored. A workshop entitled *Managing hedges for woodfuel* was held on 27th March.

### New cattle byre proposed

Elm Farm has applied for permission to build new state-of-the-art accommodation for cattle. The unit will be a specialist portal-framed building with concrete scrape and tractor passage, a chalk floor to bedded areas, gates of galvanized steel and solar photovoltaic panels on one roof elevation.

The new unit will replace the old cowsheds on the northern side of the Kintbury Road, which have been sold with the surrounding farmland. Other cattle buildings on the farm are beyond economic repair.

The application is pending a decision from the WBC planning committee.

## Annual parish meeting

The annual parish meeting in the village hall on Tuesday 20th May was attended by four councillors (John Handy, Peter Benest, Jon Phillips and Stuart Morton), the parish clerk Sarah Bosley, two representatives from the newly-formed Enborne parish council, Anne Budd, Jim Clarke and Penny Stokes.

John Handy, who took over the chair following Gordon Fisher's departure from the village in March, will continue as chair for 2014 to 2015. Anne Budd was elected to join the council, filling the vacancy.

Topics discussed included planning applications, broadband, local roads and crime, each of which is covered elsewhere in this issue of the *Hornet*. The parish precept remains the same, at £3,400, and the parish clerk was voted a pay rise of around four per cent, her first in two years. Parish council meeting minutes will in future be posted on the village website.

# What's on in the village

19.15-20.00 Mon 2 Jun	First session of new exercise class in village hall run by Suzi Moores	<a href="http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard">www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard</a>
20.00 Wed 4 Jun	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart £1pp entry – to charity	01488 657545
19.00-21.30 Thu 5 Jun	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall £3 Terry Masters will demonstrate lampshade-making	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.30 - 14.00 Thu 12 Jun	Ladies Who Brunch: summer canal trip on the <i>Rose of Hungerford</i> with picnic made by the Halfway Inn, £15 Newcomers welcome	Booking essential with Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 14 Jun	Community market at the village hall bread, cakes etc and refreshments	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
Wed 2 Jul	Summer evening meeting of the Garden Society at North Lodge	Dawn Taylor 01635 42006 Penelope Lake 01635 48701
20.00 Wed 2 Jul	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart £1pp entry – to charity	01488 657545
19.00-21.30 Thu 3 Jul	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall £3 Summer meeting with champagne and strawberries	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.30 Thu 10 Jul	Ladies Who Brunch at the Halfway Inn, £15 Julia will talk about the Alexander Devine Hospice	Booking essential with Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.30-15.00 Sat 12 Jul	SUMMER COMMUNITY MARKET AT ELM FARM crafts, produce, plants, food from The Hogfather, bar, cafe, music from Max and friends	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
12.00-16.30 Sun 20 July	Open Day and Fun Dog Show Dogs' Trust at Plumb's Farm	<a href="#">Dogs' Trust website</a>
20.00 Mon 21 Jul	Parish council meeting in the village hall All parishioners welcome	parish clerk Sarah Bosley
20.00 Wed 6 Aug	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart £1pp entry – to charity	01488 657545
10.30 Thu 14 Aug	Ladies Who Brunch at the Halfway Inn, £15 with Eoin Hartwright, the youngest lad to row the Atlantic	Booking essential with Lanie Allen 01488 658168
20.00 Wed 3 Sept	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart £1pp entry – to charity	01488 657545
19.00-21.30 Thu 4 Sept	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall £3	Sue Watts 01488 658932
14.00 Sat 6 Sept	30th Flower Show and Fete Enborne & Hamstead Marshall Garden Society at Hazel Paddock (opp Enborne School)	Dawn Taylor 01635 42006 Penelope Lake 01635 48701

## ***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

# Planning applications taken from <http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk> 22nd May 2014.

To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

## APPROVED

### White Hart Inn RG20 OHW

14/00490/FUL

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 to the north boundary of the site. No objection from parish council.

## PART APPROVED, PART REFUSED

### East Gate Cottage RG20 OJD

13/03077/COND1

Application for approval of details reserved by Conditions 7 - Tree Protection, 8 - Arboricultural Method Statement, 11 - Bat Licence, 12 - Archaeological Watching Brief and 14 - Window. Details of planning permission reference 13/00935/HOUSE.

## PENDING

### ORC Elm Farm: land adjacent to 23 Hamstead Marshall

14/00450/AGRIC

Use of access/road already in place (and currently used for car access and parking) to enter the fields behind by agricultural vehicles. No objection from parish council. WBC requires full planning application.

### ORC Elm Farm

14/00481/COMIND

Demolish old dilapidated cattle buildings and replace with new building with photovoltaic roof system. No objection from parish council.

### Enborne Equestrian Centre RG20 OJL

14/00301/FULD

Dwelling to replace existing mobile home and retention of existing mobile home for a further three years. Parish council expressed concerns about height of proposed building, conflict with the Village Design Statement and overlooking of neighbours.

### 5 and 6 Hamstead Mill RG20 OJD

14/00923/LBC2

Internal alterations to rationalise floor plans to provide three bedrooms and living area at first floor with a kitchen and dining room at ground floor level. Remove window to the kitchen and enlarge opening to form new doorway. Remove existing window in bedroom three and enlarge opening to match adjacent window in entrance hall. No objection from parish council.

### East Gate Cottage RG20 OJD

14/00902/COND2

Approval of details reserved by condition 2: material samples, of planning permission 13/00935/HOUSE: Demolition of an existing garage building to allow for the construction of a gym building, outdoor swimming pool, shed and greenhouse and other minor works. No objection from parish council.

## REFUSED, APPEAL IN PROGRESS

### Rickety Gate Farm, Holtwood

APP/W0340/A/13/2206830

arising from 13/01008/FULD

Proposed dog-breeding establishment awaiting a site visit by the appeals inspector.

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## Property estate agents' websites checked 22 May 2014

**West Barn Bothy** in Craven Hill is being advertised by Carter Jonas as a five-bedroomed house with one acre of land at a guide price of £1,500,000. (In April it appeared in the *Newbury Weekly News* named as "Craven Farm".)

**Merrowmead** at Chapel Corner has returned to the market via Hamptons, as a four-bedroomed house with one third of an acre, at a guide price of £550,000. It was previously advertised last summer at £595,590.

One of the apartments at **Hamstead Mill** is being advertised as a three-bedroomed terrace

house by Jones Robinson at £450,000.

**Chapel Cottage** at Chapel Corner is under offer, having been advertised by Brunsdens at £650,000.

**Ash Tree Cottage** at Ash Tree Corner is under offer with Hamptons, having been advertised at £745,000.

## St Mary's

The clergy team of the Walbury Beacon Benefice, which includes St Mary's, Hamstead, welcomes a newcomer, the Rev Sue Webster, who has moved into the Enborne Rectory vacated by the Rev Rachel Lewis when she moved to Kintbury.

The benefice website has been taken down as an economy measure, but information on St Mary's and its services can be seen on [www.hamsteadmarshall.net](http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net).

## Runners in hats

Some of the Ladies Who Brunch will be taking part in the *Race for Life* on Sunday 6th July, sponsored by the Halfway Inn. They have decided to run in Ascot-style hats, and are hoping to raise at least £2,500. If anyone wishes to sponsor the group, please get in touch with **Lanie Allen** on 01488 658168.

## News in brief

**Andrew Rowles**, one of Hamstead's two representatives on West Berkshire Council, announced to Enborne's annual parish meeting on 19th May that he will not be standing for re-election in May 2015. He currently represents the Kintbury ward, which covers Combe, Enborne, Hamstead Marshall, Inkpen, Kintbury, Welford and West Woodhay with Anthony Stansfeld, both as Conservative councillors.

Two residents who live on the western side of the village have recently reported a viable 4G signal for **broadband**. The benefit does not, however, appear to extend very far eastwards. The Superfast Berkshire broadband programme promises nothing for Hamstead, and seems likely to deliver little more than 2.5Mb, and this to only part of the village. For this reason the parish council decided not contribute to it.

Suzi Moores is starting a new **exercise class** at the village hall on Monday 2nd June, from 7.15 to 8.00pm. More information will be posted on [www.hamsteadmarshall.net](http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net) when it becomes available.

**Thames Valley Police** sent a report to the Hamstead Marshall annual parish meeting (a representative was not available to attend) noting a drop in local crime, although this conflicts with the experience of several villagers whose business premises have suffered repeated break-ins. The thieves appear to be targeting chainsaws and landscaping equipment.

The village website, [www.hamsteadmarshall.net](http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net), is now recorded in the British Library Web Archive, a project which harvests "specially selected websites that represent different aspects of online life in the UK".

Two members of staff from the White Hart Inn, Ivan Holroyd the manager and Lorela Movileanu, took part in the **Newbury 10k run** on Sunday 25th May.

Schedules are now available for the Enborne and Hamstead Marshall **Flower Show and Fete** on Saturday 6th September. Contact Dawn Taylor on 01635 42006 or Penelope Lake on 01635 48701 to find a class for your prize veg.

## Beyond the boundary

### Enborne revival

Enborne has a parish council once again, after a gap of more than a year. Following some bitter disputes in 2012 the former council dissolved, and the parish was administered directly by WBC. On 20th May 2014 the first annual parish meeting for two years was held in the school hall, and four new parish councillors were appointed.

### Learn the ukelele

Ukelele lessons are on offer at **Inkpen** village hall to anyone over the age of seven, beginner or with some experience. The lessons are held fortnightly on Friday evenings at 7.00pm, and cost £3 per session (including refreshments). Contact Helen Bates on 01488 757918 or [helen@pond-cottage.co.uk](mailto:helen@pond-cottage.co.uk) for more details.

### Lunches in Kintbury

Monthly lunches at the Coronation Hall in Kintbury are open to residents of **Kintbury** and the surrounding

## News from next-door parishes

villages, including Hamstead Marshall. They are held from 1pm on the third Thursday of each month. Wine or juice is served on arrival, followed by a freshly cooked two-course meal, coffee and mints, and a raffle. The cost is £7.50 per person. Booking and further information are available from the Volunteer Office in Kintbury on 01488 657119.

### Helicopter report

At **Enborne's** annual parish meeting on 19 May, Flt-Lt Chris Gent came by invitation of the parish council to talk to local residents about the necessity for low-level helicopter flights day and night over the area. Flt-Lt Gent explained that such training was essential for operational flying in Afghanistan, and that the training schedulers aimed to keep nuisance to civilians at a minimum. Nonetheless, in summer they must continue to 3am.

Enborne's experience of these flights is probably worse than Hamstead's because there is a designated practice landing site between Skinner's Green and Crockham Heath.

### Hamstead Hornet

The *Hamstead Hornet* is published quarterly online at <[www.hamsteadmarshall.net/hornet.htm](http://www.hamsteadmarshall.net/hornet.htm)>.

Readers who have supplied their email addresses to the editor receive notification with a link as soon as each issue is posted.

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