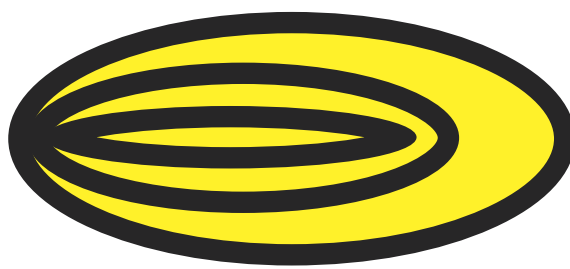


Hamstead Hornet



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St Mary's in need

Like many rural parish churches, St Mary's in Hamstead has experienced dwindling congregations over recent decades. Last year services were cut back: after centuries of a service every Sunday, the frequency has been halved to two per month.

Members of the parochial church council have been discussing ways to increase attendance and to raise money for running costs, which are not normally eligible for grants. Recent improvements have been implemented to make the church itself more worshipper-friendly, with the addition of a kitchenette and

plans for a toilet. Other plans are afoot to attract more weddings and christenings.

Fund-raising events are under consideration, first off the blocks being a BYO-picnic jazz evening with a live band in the garden of Park Lodge (formerly the studio attached to North Lodge). Sarah and Johnny Stevenson have agreed to open their garden on the evening of 25th June, and sponsorship has been obtained for The Hipcats (read about them on [ww.thehipcats.co.uk](http://www.thehipcats.co.uk)) to perform in two sets during the evening. In the event of bad weather the performance will move into the church itself.

Summer Jazz Swing and Blues



Bring your own picnic
and a rug for an evening
of live music from
The Hipcats
in the gardens of
Park Lodge
Hamstead Marshall
RG20 0JD
Thursday 25th June
7 until 10.30pm

Suggested donation £10 per person

All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Hamstead Marshall

Free parking

Sorry, but no children under 16

If it rains, the show will go on in the church

Enquiries to sarah@johnstevenson.biz

How much do you know about your parish church?

- * St Mary's is twelfth-century (with later additions) and is Grade II*-listed with English Heritage;
- * As the parish church of several Earls Marshal of England it was probably visited by several medieval monarchs;
- * St Mary's was commended in "Churches the Victorians Forgot" by Mark Chatfield, and in "England's 1,000 best churches" by Simon Jenkins, as being relatively free from Victorian "improvements";
- * The oldest gravestone in the churchyard is dated 1666, the year of the Great Fire of London;
- * Jane Austen's brother James was offered the living at Hamstead, but declined it;
- * St Mary's has two bells in the tower, one dated 1592, but they are, alas, seldom heard.

What's on in the village

time & date	event	venue	more info/booking
20.00 Wed 3 Jun	White Hart Monthly Mindbender Quiz	White Hart	website or 01488 657545
19-21.00 Thu 4 Jun	Circle of Friends	Hawthorne Cottage	01488 6589
10.30 Thu 11 Jun	Ladies who Brunch	Halfway Inn	booking 01488 658168
10-13.00 Sat 13 Jun	Community Market	Elm Farm barn	01488 658168, 658932
19-22.30 Thu 25 Jun	Jazz evening (BYO picnic)	Park Lodge RG20 0JD	sarah@johnstevenson.biz
20.00 Wed 1 Jul	White Hart Monthly Mindbender Quiz	White Hart	website or 01488 657545
19.30 Wed 1 Jul	Garden Society garden meeting	Common Cottage RG20 0JJ	Dawn Taylor 01635 42006 Penelope Lake 01635 48701
19-21.00 Thu 2 Jul	Circle of Friends	village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.30 Thu 9 Jul	Ladies who Brunch	Halfway Inn	booking 01488 658168
10-15.00 Sat 19 Jul	Summer Community Market	Elm Farm barn	01488 658168, 65893
20.00 Wed 5 Aug	White Hart Monthly Mindbender Quiz	White Hart	website or 01488 657545
10-13.00 Sat 8 Aug	Community Market	village hall	01488 658168, 658932
10.30 Thu 13 Aug	Ladies who Brunch	Halfway Inn	booking 01488 658168
20.00 Wed 2 Sep	White Hart Monthly Mindbender Quiz	White Hart	website or 01488 657545
19-21.00 Thu 3 Sep	Circle of Friends	village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.30 Thu 10 Sep	Ladies who Brunch	Halfway Inn	booking 01488 658168
10-13.00 Sat 12 Sep	Community Market	village hall	01488 658168, 658932

regular events in the village hall

13.30-16.00 Mons termtime	Oil painting classes for beginners & improvers	Chris Turner 01488 658587
19.00 and 20.00 Mondays	Suzi Moores' exercise class £5	Suzi Moores 07900 518652
weekdays termtime	Little Sunflowers nursery school	Teresa 01635 253201 Trudy 01635 255363

The May meeting of the Circle of Friends was held in aid of Macmillan Nurses, with lots of fun and laughter, and donations resulting in £71 plus gift aid being sent to Macmillan. Thanks to all those who took part.

**Enborne & Hamstead Marshall
Garden Society
summer meeting
in the garden of
Common Cottage
RG20 0JJ
7.30 Wed 1st July**

Planning applications taken from <http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk> 3rd June 2015.

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

APPROVED

5/6 Hamstead Mill RG20 OJD

14/03351/LBC2 validated 15 January 2015.
Remove existing chimney stack; instal new conservation style roof light. Remove existing front entrance steps and replace with new. Remove wall between bedroom 2 and sitting room.
Approved March 2015.

Enborne Equestrian RG20 OJL

15/00138FUL validated 19 January 2015.
External lighting to arenas 2 and 3 for riding classes on winter evenings to 19.30.
Approved March 2015.

Craven Keep RG20 OJQ

15/00206/HOUSE validated March 2015.
New oak framed barn to be used as garage and machinery store, with insulated loft room above.
Approved May 2015.

PENDING

Plumb's Farm (Dogs' Trust) RG20 OHR

14/00366FULMAJ validated 26 January 2015.
Demolish existing kennel buildings and erect new kennels, exercise area, paths, ditches, retention pond drainage, car parking. Subdivide existing house into two for staff use only. Retain existing flat reduced in size for overnight staff accommodation.

Correspondence states that the number of kennels and dogs are to be reduced.

Enborne Equestrian RG20 OJL

15/00155/FUL validated 19 February 2015.
Retention of existing mobile home for a further 3 years.

No objection from Hamstead Marshall Parish Council.

Application extended to 26th June pending request by planning officer for accounts, future management plans and projected income.

Property

No 4 Hamstead Mill is being offered by Winkworth at a guide price of £430,000. It is a three-bedroomed maisonette occupying three floors of the octagonal tower.

On the parish borders

There will be a **carpet bowls** demo at 2pm on 27th June at **Inkpen village hall**, by someone from the English Carpet Bowls Association. Carpet bowls is suitable for all age groups. Occasional bowls nights are planned for the winter and, if there's sufficient interest, perhaps a club.

Inkpen village hall is also holding a **tea dance** at 3pm on 19 July. There will be ballroom dancing and afternoon tea, and the Inkpen Ukulele Band will entertain during the interval. Come for the dancing, the music, or just the tea and cake – or better still, all three. Admission will be £7.50 each, including refreshments, in support of the hall. Tickets from Colin Poyton on 01488 668901.

Walbury Computer Group will be offering one-to-one tuition at **St Mary's Room, Kintbury**, for the remaining Wednesdays in June, but they will be taking a break during July and August. Booking is essential. For an hour's **help with your laptop, iPad, iPhone** or whatever, phone Patricia Poyton on 01488 668901. Tuition is free, but small donations are always welcome.

Enborne School is holding a **quiz, silent auction and auction of promises** at 7.30 on Friday 12th June, at the school, to raise funds for new computers. Entry is £8 per person to include curry and a drink. Teams may be of up to six. Further info from 01635 40569.

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June will be a weekend of events exploring **Jane Austen's connection with Kintbury**, to include: literary discussion with three authors; a theatrical dinner and Pimms reception at Inglewood; afternoon tea; a Regency church service; a guided walk and more, all in aid of Kintbury St Mary's Church and the Friends of St Mary's. More info from apples@janeaustenatkintbury.co.uk, or on Twitter: [@janeskintbury](https://twitter.com/janeskintbury), or at <http://www.janeaustenatkintbury.co.uk>.

Hamstead toddlers go for the big one

Pupils of the Little Sunflowers Nursery School at the village hall will take part in the Barnardo's Big Toddle on Friday 5th June. The Big Toddle is the UK's biggest fund-raising event for under-fives.

All the children (not just those who normally attend on a Friday morning) are being encouraged to come along and complete at least two circuits of the village hall recreation field, supported by their parents. The theme this year is Pirates, so expect some fancy costumes.



Little Sunflowers Nursery School opened in Hamstead's village hall in January 2006, and is owned and run by Teresa Carter and Trudy Bartholomew.

The nursery is registered on the Early Years Register. An Ofsted inspection (without advance notice) in January 2015 categorised it as good. The report can be seen via

<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report>.

Sessions run on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am to 12.30pm, extending to 3pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, on which days there is a lunch club. There are five nursery teachers, all qualified. There's a small play area outside, well used, and at least once a week the children have a "welly walk" in the adjoining recreation field.

Children from two to five years old attend from several surrounding villages. At the time of the inspection there were 19 on the roll (the school can take a maximum of 20 per session). Some will be leaving to go to infant school at the end of this term, so two open mornings are being held to find new pupils for September: Monday 8th and Wednesday 17th June from 9.30 until noon. Further information and contact details can be found on the website at www.littlesunflowersnursery.co.uk.

Dates to avoid Junction 13

Bridge maintenance work at Junction 13 promises chaos and frustration for motorists for several weekends between now and 10th August. Highways England will be shutting varying sections of the M4 and A34 on these weekends (listed opposite), from 9pm Friday to 5.30am Monday, with diversions signed. Access to the service area, Travelodge and Hilton hotels will be maintained but significant delays are expected.

See www.hamsteadmarshall.net/roadclosures.pdf for more details.

Fri 5th to Mon 8th June

Fri 12th to Mon 15th June

Fri 19th to Mon 22nd June

Fri 10th to Mon 13th July

Fri 17th to Mon 20th July

Fri 31st July to Mon 3rd August

Fri 7th to Mon 10 August

Local elections

Following the general election result announced on 8th May, the result of elections to West Berkshire Council were announced. Anthony Stansfeld and James Cole (both Conservative) were elected for the Kintbury ward, which includes Hamstead Marshall, James Cole replaces Andrew Rowles, who did not stand for re-election. Anthony Stansfeld also continues to serve as the Thames Valley police and crime commissioner.

Hamstead Hornet

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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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