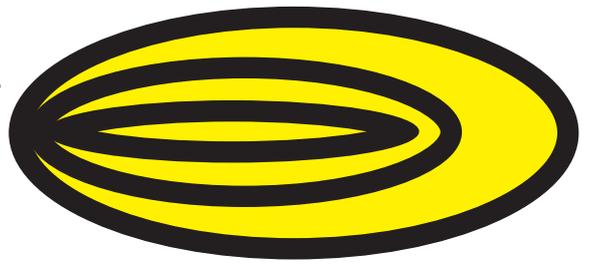


Hamstead *Hornet*



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Montessori pre-school comes to the village hall

The closure of Sunflowers Pre-School in July looked set to leave Hamstead without a nursery school or playgroup for the first time in years, but the gap has swiftly been filled by Jane's House Montessori, a new venture which will open this month in the village hall.

Jane's House Montessori is run by Jane Doyle, who was previously manager at Pumpkins, a Montessori pre-school in Wash Common, where she lives. She ran baby sensory classes in Thatcham and Stockcross for several years, and before that worked as a paediatric nurse.

Eight children are at present signed on the roll of the new pre-school, and Jane is looking to take up to 20. The sessions will be held at the village hall on weekday mornings. To learn more contact Jane Doyle on 07738 969358.

Montessori education is founded on principles laid down by the Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori, and is characterised by an emphasis on independence and respect for a child's natural psychological, physical, and social development. More information can be found on www.montessorisociety.org.uk/montessori/overview.

Save-the-White-Hart campaigners secure ACV status for the pub

The White Hart has now been formally recognised as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), which may grant the building additional protection from conversion to residential premises.

The application for ACV nomination was submitted to West Berkshire Council by the parish council, with Anne Budd heading the initiative. The council's decision was initially deferred on the grounds that "ACV legislation only applies when the freehold is up for sale, [and] it would seem that purchasing the lease is the only option for residents to keep the White Hart as a functioning pub for the community." This objection appears to have been overruled.

Under the Localism Act of 2011 ACV status gives additional protection from development to land or property of importance to a local community. More information can be seen on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asset_of_community_value.

The White Hart has been closed for a year now, and no appeal has been lodged against the council's decision of last April to refuse the owner's change-of-use application. The Christie's signboard on the pub continues to offer the lease.



What's on in the village

10.30 Thu 8 Sep	Ladies who Brunch £16 (booking essential) <i>speaker: Rebecca Bruce from the Bruce Trust</i>	Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00 - 13.00 Sat 10 Sep	Community market <i>artisan bread, local produce, refreshments, crafts</i>	Village hall	<u>Lanie Allen</u> 01488 658168 Sue Watts 01488 658932
14.00-17.00 Sat 24 Sept	Launch of Turtle Dove Living <i>a new range of children's furnishings</i>	Elm Farm	Claire Lacey Maggs 07595 251452
19.00-21.30 Thu 6 Oct	Circle of Friends <i>informal ladies' group</i>	Village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00 - 13.00 Sat 8 Oct	Community market <i>artisan bread, local produce, refreshments, crafts</i>	Village hall	<u>Lanie Allen</u> 01488 658168 Sue Watts 01488 658932
11.15/11.45 Sun 9 Oct	Harvest service followed by Harvest Brunch <i>all villagers welcome to both or either</i>	St Mary's Church	Hallam Goad 01488 688560
10.30 Thu 13 Oct	Ladies who Brunch £16 (booking essential) <i>birthday party: no speaker</i>	Halfway Inn	<u>Lanie Allen</u> 01488 658168
19.30 Thu 13 Oct	Comedy night in aid of St Mary's Church <i>BYO food & drink; suggested donation £10 pp</i>	Elm Farm	Sarah Stevenson
Oct half term date tbc	Music of the rainforest <i>workshop run by Max Hunt</i>	Village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
19.00-21.30 Thu 4 Nov	Circle of Friends <i>informal ladies' group</i>	Village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
Sat 5 Nov	Bonfire party <i>details tba</i>	Recreation ground	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.30 Thu 10 Nov	Ladies who Brunch £16 (booking essential) <i>speaker: Gemma Gittins of Daisy's Dream</i>	Halfway Inn	<u>Lanie Allen</u> 01488 658168
10.00 - 13.00 Sat 12 Nov	Community market <i>artisan bread, local produce, refreshments, crafts</i>	Village hall	<u>Lanie Allen</u> 01488 658168 Sue Watts 01488 658932
19.00-21.30 Thu 2 Dec	Circle of Friends <i>informal ladies' group</i>	Village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.30 Thu 8 Dec	Ladies who Brunch £16 (booking essential) <i>Bauble party: no speaker</i>	Halfway Inn	<u>Lanie Allen</u> 01488 658168
10.00 - 15.00 Sat 10 Dec	Christmas community market <i>artisan bread, local produce, refreshments, Christmas crafts</i>	Elm Farm	<u>Lanie Allen</u> 01488 658168 Sue Watts 01488 658932

regular events in the village hall

13.30-16.00 Mons termtime	Oil painting classes for beginners & improvers	Chris Turner 01488 658587
19.00-21.00 Mondays 5 weeks from 26 Sept	Sports therapy	Clare Chamberlayne 07887 525689
09.30-11.30 Saturdays from 17 Sept	Latin and ballroom dancing classes for 4 - 16 year-olds	Leanne Herdman 07787 504123
weekday mornings termtime	Jane's House Montessori pre-school	Jane Doyle 07738 969358

Planning applications

taken from <http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk> on 5th September 2016. To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

White Hart Cottage 16/01467/FULD

Conversion and extension of existing garage to accommodation for elderly relatives

Approved 31 August 2016

Holtwood Farmhouse 16/00465/HOUSE

validated 4 Apr 2016

Retrospective application for single-storey extension to existing dwelling to provide boot room, utility room and additional storage space

Approved 28 June 2016

Honeypot Cottage 16/01938/HOUSE

First floor extension over existing ground floor

Approved 26 August 2016

Plumbs Farm 16/00985/FULMAJ

validated 11 Mar 2016

Section 73 - Variation of condition (2) Plans

Approved of planning permission

14/03366/FULMAJ

Approved 4 July 2016

Enborne Equestrian 16/00775/FULD

validated 22 Apr 2016

Dwelling to replace existing mobile home

Approved 6 July 2016

Keep your eyes peeled for...

Another quiz and supper evening at the village hall later in the autumn

Details of the fireworks and bonfire party on Saturday 5th November

Details will be posted on www.hamsteadmarshall.net/notice-board and on the print noticeboards at Ash Tree and Chapel Corners and the village hall.

Broadband

Gigaclear, the organisation which aims to bring superfast broadband to rural communities has recently confirmed that it is on track to enable Hamstead Marshall between March and June 2017.

Computer help

Free* one-to-one help with smartphones, tablets, cameras, laptops etc on Wednesday mornings. Ring Patricia Poyton on 01488 668901 for an appointment.

**but donations welcome*

Village hall scrub-up



August was a busy time for the village hall team. The floor of the main hall has been sanded and waxed, and the walls and ceiling blitz-cleaned. Paintwork on the exterior gables has been refreshed. The storeroom and cupboards (cleared out with the departure of Sunflowers) have been cleaned and painted, and the kitchen boasts a new electric cooker.

Weddings welcome (and christenings, wakes etc)



Building on the success of two Jazz-in-the-Park evenings (and learning lessons from the practicalities of their organisation) Johnny and Sarah Stevenson of Park Lodge have constructed a new access into the top of their large garden. Marquees and bulky equipment can now be delivered directly to the site using this new driveway and gate just below the church, and it is hoped that celebrants who have chosen St Mary's for weddings and christenings may make use of these new facilities in the adjoining grounds of Park Lodge for marquee receptions.

The access will also come in handy for any events which the Stevensons themselves decide to organise. Last June's Jazz in the Park was attended by 330 people and raised more than £4,500 for St Mary's Church.

Earlier in the summer a choral evening held in the church featured 34 choristers from Elstree School. The audience of 90 enjoyed wine and canapés in the summer sunshine afterwards, and a generous collection was taken to benefit the church.

Fresh input sought to update the parish plan

Hamstead Marshall's parish plan was published in 2007 by a group of villagers who over the previous two years had researched the wishes of local people and sought to put them into action. Their achievements included establishment of the monthly community market, extension of the 30mph speed limit and other traffic calming measures, a village information point at Ash Tree Corner, an information pack for newcomers (now online), two walks leaflets

and the Village Design Statement, which is frequently invoked for planning decisions.

The parish plan is now due for revision, with input from newcomers to the village. Members of the new steering group are Jane Arnold-Round, Anne Budd, Sue Watts, Hallam Goad and Nick Wallis, supported by the parish council and with guidance from Jo Naylor and Tessa Hall of WBC.

"At the Party in the Parish in July we took the opportunity of

asking parishioners to tell us what they would like to see or have in the village," said Sue Watts.

"Whilst not covering everyone, this was a starting point for us to put together a small survey for everyone to take part. We'll be drawing in all your ideas and suggestions over the coming months and also holding events to keep people informed."

See the 2007 parish plan on www.hamsteadmarshall.net/parishplan.pdf

View from the past

Grand Fete in Hamstead Park, Berks, in aid of the Great Western Railway Widows and Orphans Fund reproduced from the *Illustrated London News* 14 August 1858.

Hamstead Park was a favoured venue for large fetes such as this because it bordered the GWR line. The lack of a station at Hamstead was no hindrance; the Victorians were accustomed to hop on and off at the level crossing. The *ILN* report accompanying this engraving claimed that 3,000 people had arrived thus from Hungerford, 1,000 from Newbury and a further 3,000 from London.

The GWR Widows and Orphans Fete was a regular summer fixture here in the mid-nineteenth century. George Russ remembered vast, happy crowds wending their way down the hill to the railway line at dusk after an afternoon of stupendous entertainment. The signalman directed people to either side of the crossing according to their destination east or west. It was a sight, said Russ, for any countryman to remember.

extract from *Craven Country*



GRAND FETE IN HAMSTEAD PARK, BERKS, IN AID OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

Hamstead Hornet

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