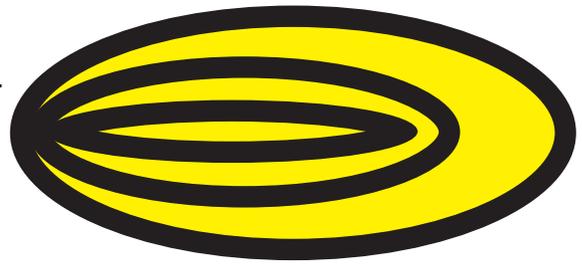


Hamstead *Hornet*



Issue no. 98

Hamstead Marshall's quarterly newspaper
since 1996

June 2021

Hamstead Marshall Wildlife Group

In April a village wildlife group was launched by Anne Budd, Susie Aromando and Rob Manser, with the aim of supporting local habitats and wildlife, and promoting good management of Hamstead's natural environment.

The group has two social media accounts:
a Twitter account;

a Facebook page currently with 21 members. There's an open invitation for people in Hamstead Marshall to join, share photographs and promote wildlife causes. To join, contact Rob Manser.

A habitat-mapping project is underway, recording several local areas. Penny Stokes, Sarah and Mick Ward and Anne and Alan Budd are currently helping to create a permanent record of habitats and wildlife within the parish. To date, more than 137 different species of wildlife have been



noted, and this data is being regularly uploaded by Anne to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) via their interactive mapping website MAGIC, and the Thames Valley Environment Record Centre. (No personal information is recorded.)

Anne Budd has sought and obtained endorsement of the project from several national organisations, including Natural England, whose data manager Marvin Dohm said "*It is wonderful to see your group looking at best practice in achieving local nature conservation*".

Could you contribute by mapping your garden or a local hedgerow? It involves no more than observation and note-taking. If you could help, please contact Anne.

Planning applications

Details taken from <https://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk> on 10th June 2021.

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

APPROVED

Land adjacent to Craven Keep, Park Lane

20/02934/COMIND validated 19th January 2021.

Applicant: Stephen Butler (Kennet Horse Boat Co).
Shepherd's hut and traditional Gypsy caravan with non-permanent compostable toilet and non-permanent off-grid shower in grazing field for short break hire.

Objections from HMPC, Peter Benest and one anonymous person.

Approved 21st April 2021, subject to holiday letting only.

9 Salters RG20 oHH

20/02067/HOUSE validated 11th September 2020.

Applicant: David Sturt.

Two-storey side extension to house; demolish garage and summer house and erect new detached timber frame garage.

Support from Jerry Ree and Simon Wake.

Approved 1st April 2021, with requirement to provide bat-roosting facilities.

Garage serving White Hart Cottage RG20 oHW

21/00047/FULD validated 18th January 2021.

Applicant: Nicola Aromando.

Conversion and extension of existing garage to one-bedroom single-storey dwelling (like-for-like application re 16/01467/FULD for which permission expired).

Objections from Mathew Maggs and Douglas Oppenheim.

Approved 11th May 2021.

REFUSED

Elm Farm RG20 oHR

21/00098/FUL validated 25th January 2021.

Applicant: Douglas Oppenheim.

Partial demolition and conversion of a barn to a single residential dwelling.

Objection from HMPC.

Support from Rupert Kenyon, Robin and Tricia Tandy, Stella Coulthurst, Mathew Maggs, Nick Wallis, Fiona Barratt-Campbell, Charlie Waters and Tom Bishop.

Refused 19th March 2021

Barn House Holtwood RG20 oJH

21/00247/FUL validated 22nd February 2021.

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Hadnutt.

Replacement dwelling, following substantial demolition of existing dwelling and conversion of remaining floorspace for ancillary residential purposes; resubmission of a recently withdrawn planning application.

Objections from HMPC, Peter Benest, Susan Benest, Peter Brunnsden, Charles Medlam, J Brunnsden, Rosemary Toll, James Toll, Sophie Jones, Christine Crerar, Donald Crerar, Jane Toll, Vivienne Toll, Ingrid Seifert and Kathryn Redway .

Support from Richard Cotton, Rebecca Bonas, Charlotte and Peter Left, Christopher Moss, Emily Dow, Gavin and Kay Helinski, D Dobbs, Laura Maton, Alex Ponting and Michael Stanton Jones.
Refused 15th April 2021.

Land at Foxlee Farm, Holtwood

21/00256/FUL validated 15th February 2021.

Applicant: Patrick Early.

Erection of storage barn for agricultural purposes.

Objections from Mark Chamberlayne, Arabella Christian, Simon Hayes, Mary Skinner, Andrew Pocock, Susan Benest, Peter Benest, John Handy and Suzanne Condon.

Refused 12th April 2021.

AWAITING DECISION

27 Hawthorn Cottage, Warwick Hill RG20 oHP

21/01233/HOUSE validated 30th April 2021.

Applicant: Hindle.

Garage conversion.

Oak Tree Barn, Watery Lane RG20 oJH

21/01318/COND1 validated 14th May 2021.

Applicant: Chris Moss.

Application for approval of details reserved by condition 11 (spoil) of planning permission granted 11th June 2020 under 20/00901/FULD for conversion of existing redundant building into a dwelling and garage.

Garage site adjacent to 1 The Village RG20 oHN

21/01162/COND1 validated 18th May 2021.

Applicant: Les House (Rowan Construction)

Approval of details (details of an electric vehicle charging point, scheme for protection of trees to be retained and surface water drainage) re outline application 19/03076/OUTD for demolition of existing garages and erection of a two-storey detached dwelling already approved for Dreamlodge Ltd.

2021 Annual parish assembly

Hamstead Marshall's 2021 parish assembly was held as a face-to-face meeting in the village hall on 20th May, immediately followed by a parish council meeting. Four parish councillors, the parish clerk, two district councillors and two parishioners attended.

The **new parish clerk**, Sarah Jones, was welcomed, her predecessor having left to become deputy editor of the *Newbury Weekly News*.

In the absence of any other volunteers, John Handy will continue as **chair of the parish council**, but he announced his wish to stand down next year. Anne Budd agreed to serve as vice-chair if Peter Benest does not wish to continue.

Last year's assembly having been missed due to covid, the chairman paid **tribute to the volunteers** who have sustained village life and activity during the lockdowns, collecting and delivering food parcels and medication for the housebound, organising the making of scrubs and cakes for the NHS and local care homes, and running the pop-up shop which continues to supply villagers with local produce. Gratitude was also expressed to parish councillors, district councillors, parish planners and

the village hall committee for their efforts in the past year.

Thames Valley Police was not represented, and the report had not been brought, but it was believed that there has been very little local crime lately.

The **ACV (Asset of Community Value) status** obtained for the White Hart is soon to expire and needs renewing. Susie Aromando has taken it in hand.

Enborne School has worked hard during lockdown, catering for the children of key workers and supporting home schooling. A donation of £300 was raised by a sponsored walk.

Concern was expressed for **development pressure on the countryside**.

The **Relief in Need** (an old-established village charity) field is excessively wet and needs draining, but is too small to qualify for a grant.

The **parish council website** needs updating, but the clerk has had problems uploading data.

The **anti-speeding campaign** initiated by Rob Manser and Olivia Comier is on hold.

Village hall news

The village hall has been kept financially afloat over the past year by government grants and reimbursement of business rates. Thanks to this and a regular maintenance schedule, the hall is in good financial and physical shape.

The committee is to meet on the 22nd June to discuss reopening of the hall subject to covid regulations.

The (alternate) Thursday morning pop-up shop will continue through June and probably July, supplying eggs, bread, Lanie's preserves, Tony's cheese, apple juice and the *Newbury Weekly News*. John Handy continues to take occasional Ramsbury beer orders via the community Whatsapp.

The flooding in the village hall car park may finally be remedied now that it has been confirmed that West Berkshire Council bears responsibility. John Handy is pushing for action. Once the water stops flowing the committee will be looking to claim on insurance for the surface to be repaired.

Two Whatsapp groups currently keep villagers in touch:

Community Support Chat was set up by Sarah Stevenson at the beginning of the first lockdown to keep parishioners informed about covid, and to take village shop orders, but it has now widened to include chat about lost and found, items for sale or loan and general local observations. Contact Sarah to join.

Growing Tips was set up more recently by Lanie Allen for pictures, offers, questions and advice about gardening. Contact Lanie to join.



Good Hope Farm

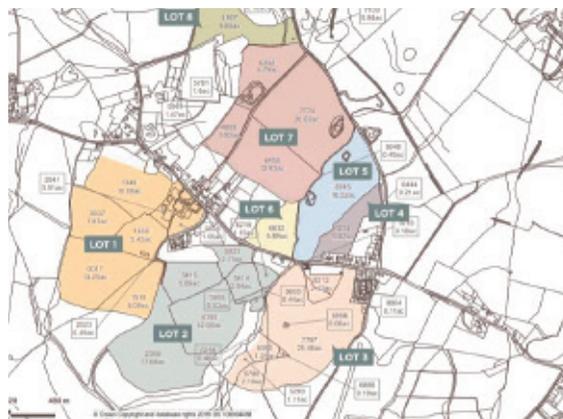
The mystery of who bought the former Elm Farm field in the dip on Park Lane (Lot 6, right), and for what, can now be revealed.

The field is being converted into a small farm as a therapeutic project for learning-disabled young adults. The enterprise is called Good Hope Farm, and is planned to be a day centre offering workshops to schools and groups, who can visit and learn within a soothing natural environment, where cultivation is sustainable and wildlife diversity promoted.

Good Hope Farm is currently aiming to raise £7,100 through the Good Exchange for a greenhouse classroom. So far, £2,120 has been raised with match funding from Greenham Trust. See here to donate. Longer term plans include a wildflower meadow, a farm shop, and possibly animals such as chickens, alpacas and goats.

Good Hope Farm is not a charity, but a community interest company (CIC). The company was registered in 2015 as being for the benefit of adults with learning disabilities and the community. The two directors of Good Hope Farm, Karine Giannamore and Kishan Parekh, live in Buttermere, and they previously set up a Good Hope Farm near Marlborough.

The organisation has a website on <https://www.goodhopefarm.org.uk>, which was running up to 9th June, but it currently appears to be inaccessible.



news in brief **The White Hart** looks forward to summer with the launch of a new beer: Saviour Sanity, described as “a modern golden beer ... benefiting from a high level of wheat malt and the new Azacca hop from the USA...refreshing, with sustained citrus and mango notes and tropical fruit overtones. The Sauvignon Blanc of beers.” The alcoholic content is 3.7 per cent.

The inn is currently open Mondays to Thursdays 17.00 to 22.00, Fridays and Saturdays 12.00 to 22.00, Sundays, 12.00 to 17.00. Food is served from Wednesdays to Sundays.

Hamstead Marshall's revised parish plan has now been accepted by WBC, although it has yet to surface on the council website. It will soon be available for all to read on the village website.

The **mobile library** continues to call at Ash Tree Grove every third Thursday morning from 10.40 until 11.10. Dates for the next few weeks are: 24th June; 15th July; 5th and 26th August; 16th September. You can choose and order books from the online catalogue. WBC libraries also offers a book collection and delivery service for housebound readers. Ring 01635 519827 for details.

Covid test kits (lateral flow) for home use can be collected free from the mobile Community Collect service which calls at Hamstead Marshall village hall each Friday from 09.15 to 10.15.

WBC is at last trialling the **recycling of a wider range of plastics**. Details of what plastic is acceptable can be seen here. The downside is that you have to take your material to the tip, by appointment, which can be made here.

*from the Reading Mercury, 30th April 1864
(James Cokes was the farmer at Elm Farm)*

HAMSTEAD MARSHALL.—At a meeting of the long-established Benefit Society of this pleasant village, for the septennial division of their funds, (a dinner having taken place, capitally supplied by the Host of the White Hart Inn,) the pleasing ceremony took place of presenting to their worthy leader and treasurer, Mr. James Cokes, a valuable gilt clock, subscribed for by the members, and bearing the following inscription:—“Presented to Mr. James Cokes, by the Members of the Hamstead Marshall Benefit Society, as a token of their esteem and gratitude for his valuable services rendered to the Society for many years. April 25th, 1864.” The testimonial was presented in a neat and flattering speech by the secretary, Mr. James Elkington, amidst the hearty cheers of the members, and Mr. Cokes having returned his best thanks and his wishes for the future prosperity of the society, a most convivial evening was spent, all appearing pleased with the events of the day.

Hamstead Hornet

The *Hamstead Hornet* is published quarterly online, in March, June, September and December.

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

News stories are updated between issues on the village website noticeboard.

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