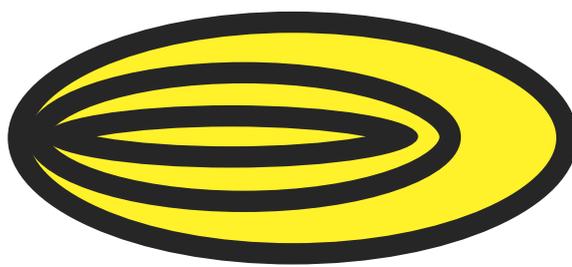


Hamstead *Hornet*



Issue no. 65

Distributed free in the Hamstead Marshall area

March 2013

Broadband setback

ORC abandons microwave system

The proposed AB Internet system of piping broadband through the Organic Research Centre at Elm Farm to some areas of the village has been abandoned on cost. In February Chris Allen announced that the four-figure rental for a transmitter on the Wash Common tower rendered the whole project unfeasible.

“This leaves the Organic Research Centre looking at installing a high-capacity 3G circuit alongside the satellite, crossing our fingers for SuperFast Berkshire, and hoping for improvements from 4G,” said Chris. “Whilst it’s very disappointing that the project didn’t pan out, and that it took so long to arrive at this conclusion, ORC will continue to try to secure a better connection for the business with a view to benefiting the village.”

Superfast Berkshire aims to supply 90% of Berkshire with high-speed broadband (defined as

speeds in excess of 20Mb) via BT fibre optic by 2015. Unfortunately, even if this is achieved, Hamstead Marshall will benefit very little. It was admitted last February by the SFB representative who came to talk at the village hall that the fibre optic will come only as far as Kintbury, and the distance from there to Hamstead will weaken the signal to a fraction of the promised strength.

4G remains Hamstead’s best chance of getting a faster broadband, but it is not yet known when a 4G signal will be obtainable in this area. Vodafone plans to launch “ultra-fast” 4G service later this year, promising 98% indoor coverage across the UK by 2016, and Orange too intends to operate a 4G network. (EE is already operating a 4G mobile network, but only in a very limited number of areas.) However all providers will concentrate their coverage initially on population centres.

Before...



and

Three pairs of Lord Craven’s original mansion gatepiers in Hamstead Park have now benefited from restoration to the exacting standards of English Heritage.

after



Of the eight surviving pairs of gatepiers (not counting one pair which was transported to Benham Valence) the three restored pairs lie within Hamstead Park. These Grade I listed monuments have long been emblematic of the village, and their restoration and protection will be welcomed.

The stone pair illustrated above have been shorn of invasive vegetation, their crumbling stonework replaced, and a fence erected to save them from grazing stock.

More information on the gatepiers can be seen in the March 2012 issue of the *Hamstead Hornet* on <www.hamsteadmarshall.net/Hornet1203.pdf>.

What's on in the village

10.00-13.00 Sat 9 Mar	Community market at village hall <i>food, crafts, gifts, woodcraft, jewellery</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658 932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.30 Thu 14 Mar	Ladies Who Brunch, at the Halfway Inn <i>supporting Daisy's Dream, a bereavement charity</i>	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
20.00 Mon 18 Mar	Parish council meeting in the village hall <i>all parishioners welcome to attend</i>	parish clerk
10.00-12 noon Sat 24 Mar	St Mary's churchyard working party <i>volunteers + implements welcome</i>	Robin Althaus 01635 524346
19.30 Wed 27 Mar	Garden Society spring meeting in the village hall <i>floral demo and talk on silver</i>	Dawn Taylor 01635 32006 Penelope Lake 01635 48701
20.00 Wed 3 Apr	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry to benefit charity</i>	01488 657545
19.30-21.30 Thu 4 Apr	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-15.00 Sat 6 & Sun 7 Apr	Free dog-microchipping at Dogs' Trust Plumb's Farm	01488 658391
19.00 Tue 9 Apr	Annual parochial church meeting at St Mary's Church	Jamie Gladstone 01635 44868 Robin Althaus 01635 524346
10.30 Thu 11 Apr	Ladies Who Brunch, at the Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 13 Apr	Community market at village hall <i>food, crafts, gifts, woodcraft, jewellery</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658 932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
15.00 and 18.00 Thu 25 Apr	Presentation and demo of wood fuel boiler project at ORC Elm Farm	<sally.w@organicresearchcentre.com> 01488 658298 ext 531
20.00 Wed 1 May	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry to benefit charity</i>	01488 657545
19.30-21.30 Thu 2 May	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.30 Thu 9 May	Ladies Who Brunch, at the Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 11 May	Community market at village hall <i>food, crafts, gifts, woodcraft, jewellery</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658 932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
19.00 mid-May date tbc	Parish council meeting, village hall AGM and annual parish assembly, in village hall	parish clerk
20.00 Wed 5 Jun	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry to benefit charity</i>	01488 657545
19.30-21.30 Thu 6 Jun	Circle of Friends (ladies' group) in the village hall	Sue Watts 01488 658932
10.00-13.00 Sat 8 Jun	Community market at village hall <i>food, crafts, gifts, woodcraft, jewellery</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.30 Thu 13 Jun	Ladies Who Brunch, at the Halfway Inn	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

Two ways to celebrate Mothering Sunday 10th March

with a gift from the Community Market at the village hall Saturday 9 March 10-1pm

crafts, jewellery, wood, local produce, home-made cakes, preserves

and with a Mothering Sunday Lunch at the White Hart

2 courses £15.95
3 courses £19.95
4 options for each course
Book on 01488 657545

Keppelworth Cooks

Based in homes in Hamstead Marshall and Inkpen, these cooking demonstrations are proving popular. They run from 9:30 to around 12:30, cost £40 per person, and feature simple suppers and easy entertaining. Not many places are left for the March sessions on Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th, Friday 15th, Saturday 16th, and the children's course on Thursday 4th April is fully booked. For further information contact the organisers: Emma Wordsworth 07785 292 078 Vicki Keppel-Compton 07808 294 162 <keppelworthcooks@gmail.com>

Planning applications

taken from <<http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/>> 5th March 2013

Approved

12/02479/HOUSE

12/02785/HOUSE

East Gate Cottage RG20 oJD

Single-storey extension.

Pending consideration

13/00351/NONMAT

Foxlee Farm RG20 oJH

Non-material amendment to planning permission 10/01683/FUL Appeal ref

APP/W0340/A/10/2138116

Erection of replacement dwelling and garage/plant room – (amendment) Insertion of 2 Velux roof windows in north-east elevation.

Withdrawn

12/02921/HOUSE and

12/02922/LBC2

Craven Hill Lodge, no. 50-51 Hamstead Marshall RG20 oJG

To demolish a 1980 garage and re-build a three-bay car port with utility accommodation.

Village hall tents: storage wanted

During the past year the village hall has had its two marquees restored and kitted out, ready for hire from the beginning of May. They are rented out at £50 each, and can be booked through Sue Watts on 01635 658932 or <soosy.watts@googlemail.com>.

Once it is confirmed that the tents are available, the hirer is given details for collection and return. There is no delivery service, and it is the responsibility of the hirers to arrange their own transport for the tents.

A new home for storage of these tents is needed. The poles are the bulkiest items, and anyone offering to store them would need to offer easy access for hirers to collect. If anyone has secure accommodation to offer, please contact Sue.

Walking for health

The Walking for Health scheme, started many years ago by the Ramblers Association and Macmillan Nurses, aims to get you out of your armchair once a week and into the fresh air for some gentle exercise. A local scheme invites walkers to meet at 10 am every Tuesday at Kintbury surgery car park for a guided walk lasting for about an hour, taken at a pace to suit participants. Just turn up, or contact Robin Adams (01488 658362) or Ann Forbes (01488 658316) for more information.

Free computer tuition

Walbury Computer Group, the free computer tuition scheme organised by the Rev Cathy Pynn and Patricia Poyton, has switched its focus from the weekly drop-in computer café to individual (booked) tuition sessions every Wednesday. There have been 102 individual bookings over the last 21 weeks, during which four to five people a week are receiving one-to-one help with specific computing problems.

The sessions are held in St Mary's room, Kintbury, and are open to anyone in the five parishes. To book a place phone Cathy Pynn (01488 658243) or Patricia Poyton (01488 668901).

Free dog micro-chipping at Plumb's Farm



New law requires that every dog should be micro-chipped by April 2016, and a free service is being offered by the Dogs Trust.

Dogs will be micro-chipped for free on a drop-in basis between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th April at Plumb's Farm. Those who cannot make either of these dates may ring the Dogs Trust on 01488 658391 and make an appointment for another day.

Dogs should be fully vaccinated before micro-chipping, and proof of this may be asked for. You may bring more than one dog, but the trust cannot chip any animals other than dogs.

This year's Dogs Trust Open Day at Plumb's Farm will be held on Sunday 21st July, from midday onwards.

Community wood fuel project at ORC

The Organic Research Centre at Elm Farm is planning to set up a community-owned woodchip boiler in Hamstead Marshall, using woodchip harvested from the local area. All local residents are invited to attend a presentation and demonstration of the project on Thursday 25th April from 3pm – 5pm, or at a repeat session from 6pm – 8pm. There will be an opportunity to ask any questions, register interest or just to find out a bit more about the project.

This is a free event but ORC would appreciate knowing likely numbers in advance. Please email <sally.w@organicresearchcentre.com> or ring 01488 658298 ext 531 if you plan to come.

The Enborne and Hamstead Marshall Garden Society opens the year with a spring meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm, Wednesday 27th March, at which Sarah Styles will demonstrate the making of a corsage, and her husband George Styles will talk about silver. Members and guests may bring items of silver with them for valuation and commentary.

The annual parochial church meeting takes place at St Mary's Church on Tuesday 9th April, at 7pm, to vote for churchwardens and members of the parochial church council for the coming year. All villagers (on the electoral roll) may attend and vote for churchwardens, but only those on the church electoral roll may participate in other business. A new church electoral roll is currently in preparation, and application forms can be downloaded from <www.oxford.anglican.org>. Enrolment is usually for regular churchgoers.

news in brief

The parish council has been advised of the parlous state of the notice board at Chapel Corner, and refurbishment has been promised.

Ferret nets and collars were stolen from a storeroom in Ash Tree Grove at around 11pm on the 26th February. Two offenders were disturbed.

Chapel Corner continues to suffer from speeding motorists, five of whom crashed into the hedge on a single frosty day in January. Remedial measures promised by the WBC highways department have yet to be implemented.

The annual tidying-up of St Mary's churchyard takes place from 10am to noon on Saturday 24th March. Volunteers with gardening tools will be welcome.

Hamstead Hornet online

The Hamstead Hornet is already published online at <www.hamsteadmarshall.net/hornet.htm>, and several readers have asked to stop having printed copies in order to save on ink, paper and petrol. In view of the increasing number of these digital readers, from this issue onwards, the online format will change to a pdf of four A4 pages, rather than two A3 spreads, which should be easier for those who want to print out their own copies.

If you would be happy to read your copy online, please ask for your name to be added to the emailing list, and you will be notified as soon as each issue is posted. Send your request to <pennystokes@hamsteadmarshall.net>. The editor will be grateful.

Copies of the Hamstead Hornet are posted online at <www.hamsteadmarshall.net/hornet.htm>. News stories are updated between issues on <www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard.htm> The Hamstead Hornet is edited and published by Penelope Stokes at The Holding, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, Berks RG20 0HW 01488 658759 <admin@hamsteadmarshall.net>