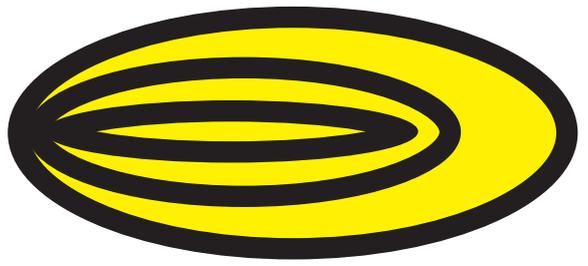


Hamstead Hornet



Issue no. 66

Distributed free in the Hamstead Marshall area

June 2013

Buyers line up for Elm Farm land



In March the Organic Research Centre at Elm Farm announced its intention to sell off some small parcels of land to neighbouring landowners in order to raise funds for refurbishment of the farmhouse. Nic Lampkin, executive director of ORC, describes the response and developments to date:

Following its invitation for expressions of interest, Progressive Farming Trust Ltd, the charity which owns Elm Farm and the Organic Research Centre, has decided to focus its initial offer of land for sale on part or all of three plots [marked in red on the map]

- a) the 4-acre Staggs field to the east of White Hart Stables;
- b) the 3-acre field between Elm View and Elm Farm Cottages;
- c) a 2-acre part of Sunnyside running behind 23-25 Hamstead Marshall.

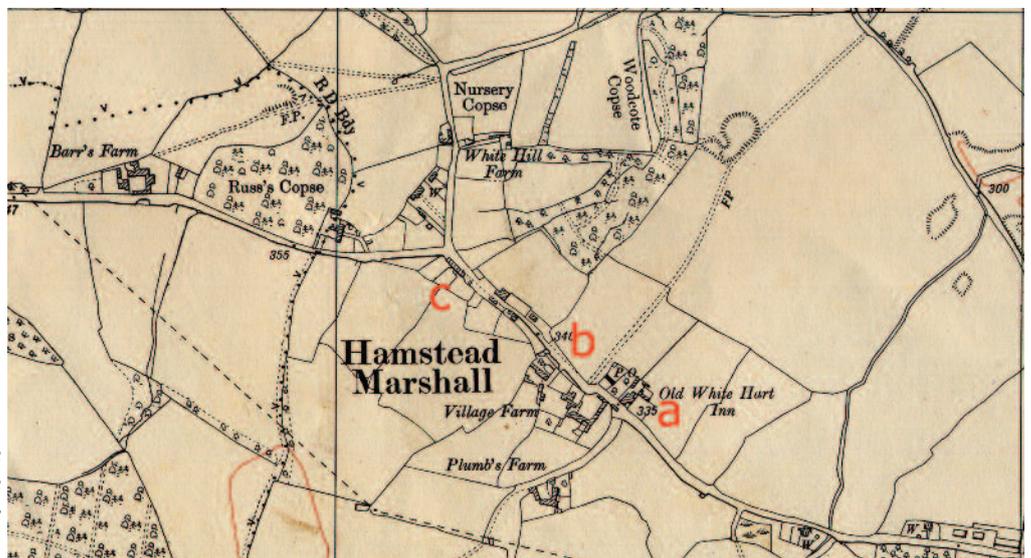
The land is offered subject to covenants restricting use to agricultural, amenity and equestrian use and maintaining rights of access where applicable. The land is currently rented, and a six-month notice period may apply before sales can be completed once offers have been accepted.

In focusing on these particular parcels, the charity trustees are seeking to raise a significant amount of funding while minimising the impact on the remainder of the farm, which may mean that not all the land will be sold if funding targets can be achieved on a smaller area.

Carter Jonas will be handling the negotiations on behalf of the charity, and will be sending letters in the last week of May inviting offers on these plots of land to those who have expressed interest, as well as to other adjacent households, with a closing date for offers of Monday 10th June at 12 noon.

Other interested parties are also welcome to submit offers and should contact Simon Pallett at Carter Jonas' Newbury office on 01635 263000, <newbury@carterjonas.co.uk, or by post to 16-18 Market Place, Newbury RG14 5AZ.

A further four smaller plots will be offered privately to individuals who have expressed interest. Carter Jonas will be contacting these individuals directly.



This map dates from 1961, since when some boundaries have changed and buildings added. Elm Farm is here called Village Farm

What's on in the village

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 658 932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.30 Thu 13 Jun	Ladies Who Brunch, at the Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
Sat 15 - Sun 16 June	West Woodhay House Garden Show	www.westwoodhaygarden show.co.uk
19.30 Wed 26 June	Garden Society summer meeting at Redhill House <i>non-members welcome</i>	Dawn Taylor 0121635 32006 Penelope Lake 01635 48701
20.00 Wed 3 July	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry to benefit charity</i>	01488 657545
11.00 - 15.30 Sat 13 July	Summer market at Elm Farm Barn <i>stalls, hog roast, bar, children's activities</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658 932
12 noon onwards Sun 21 July	Open day and dog show at Dogs Trust Plumb's Farm	
20.00 Wed 7 Aug	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry to benefit charity</i>	01488 657545
10.30 Thu 8 Aug	Ladies Who Brunch, at the Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 10 Aug	Community market at village hall <i>food, crafts, gifts, woodcraft, jewellery</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658 932 Lanie Allen 01488 658168
20.00 Wed 4 Sep	Monthly mindbender quiz at the White Hart <i>£1pp entry to benefit charity</i>	01488 657545
10.30 Thu 12 Sept	Ladies Who Brunch, at the Halfway Inn	Lanie Allen 01488 658168
10.00-13.00 Sat 14 Sept	Community market at village hall <i>food, crafts, gifts, woodcraft, jewellery</i>	Sue Watts 01488 658 932 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

ORC wood-fuel heating project

Two meetings held in April at Elm Farm to introduce the wood-chip fuel boiler project were well attended by local residents, landowners and other interested parties.

The scheme was introduced by Sally Westaway, ORC's biofuels researcher, followed by Keith Richards of Thames Valley Energy, who gave a detailed talk on how such schemes operate, illustrated with examples of similar projects presently up and running at, for example, Curridge School and Englefield estate.

Management of such a scheme might be community-based or, more likely, contracted out.

Whilst participants would be advised to retain their existing oil-fired system as back-up, a district heating system using locally supplied wood-chip might be expected to reduce fuel costs by 10 to 15 per cent. Other benefits are reduced CO₂ emissions and improved management of local woods and hedgerows. Capital costs may be eligible for grant support.

Sally Westaway has since mailed interested local residents with a brief questionnaire, and a working group meeting is planned for Wednesday 19th June at 3pm at Elm Farm.

For further details contact <sally.w@organicresearchcentre.com>.

Planning applications

taken from <<http://publicaccess.westberks.gov.uk/>> 28 May 2013. To see more details visit this site and search on the application number.

Pending consideration

12/03021/FUL

White Hart Inn RG20 oHW
Extension of change of use of out-buildings to create four B&B rooms.

No objection from Hamstead Marshall Parish Council. Neighbours have written to say cannot be done without agreement re removal of a party wall.

13/01022/COND1

13/01147/COND2

East Gate Cottage RG20 oJD
For approval of details re application 12/02785/HOUSE approved in 2012.

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.

13/01094/HOUSE

50 Hamstead Marshall RG20 oJG (Craven Hill)
Demolition of existing single garage and water supply room.

Replace with double garage and space for water supply needs. (A similar application, ref 12/02921/HOUSE and 12/02922/LBC2, was withdrawn earlier in 2013.)

13/01008/FULD

Rickety Gate Farm RG20 oJH
Relocation of existing dog breeding establishment involving the erection of a single storey kennel building; siting of a temporary mobile home; isolation kennel building and change of use of existing barn to ancillary storage building; the use of land as canine exercise area, associated parking, turning and landscaping. (A similar application ref 12/00311/FULD was turned down last year.)

Refused

13/00109/FUL

The Willows RG20 oHT
(opposite Mason's Farm, technically in Kintbury, but filed as Hamstead) Barn extension to house 100 ewes, 30 goats, 15 pigs. No objection from Hamstead Marshall Parish Council and supported by Kintbury PC, but refused on grounds of being out of scale with area character.

Village hall news

At the April AGM of the village hall Liz Copas joined the management committee, taking charge of facilities.

A £50 deposit has been introduced on tent hire.

The hall now has 20 plastic garden chairs which can be hired at 50p each.

Walbury Computer Group

Sessions every Wednesday morning at 10am and 11am at St Mary's Room, Kintbury. To book an hour's free personal tuition with an experienced volunteer ring Patricia Poyton on 01488 668901.

West Woodhay House Garden Show

15th and 16th June 2013

Donated goods being sought:

- cakes – by Caroline Jungels 01635 41848
- plants and produce – by Robin Althaus 01635 524346

news in brief

At the April meeting of Hamstead St Mary's parochial church council the churchwardens were elected for the coming year: Robin Althaus will continue to serve, joined by Andrew Hunter. The Rev Cathy Pynn will be leaving in August, after seven years with the Walbury Beacon benefice, which includes St Mary's.

New doors have been fitted to the noticeboard at Chapel Corner, bringing it back into use again.

The highways department of West Berkshire Council has treated the road surface at Chapel Corner in April (in line with a promise made last October) which, it is hoped, may reduce the chance of motorists leaving the road when they take the corner at speed.

BBC interest in Hamstead's castle mounds

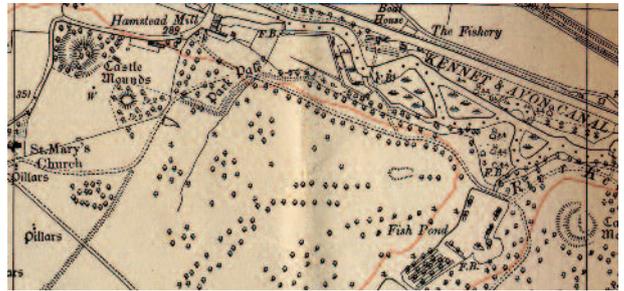
BBC2 is planning a series about the life of William Marshall, the medieval soldier and statesman from whom the village of Hamstead gained its "Marshall" tag.

William Marshall, first Earl of Pembroke, lived from 1147 to 1219 and occupied a substantial castle built by his father John in Hamstead. A "Newbury" castle referred to in a French medieval poem is believed by some to have been this Hamstead castle.

William Marshall rose from humble beginnings to serve four monarchs in high office: Henry II, who ruled from 1153 to 1189, Richard the Lionheart from 1189 to 1199, and John from 1199 to 1216. The next king was Henry III, then a child, on whose behalf William Marshall, as regent, issued letters patent from his manor house at Hamstead. After his death the manor passed down through his heirs and successors, and the castle was the focal point around which Hamstead Park was created. It continued to be visited by royalty, Edward III in particular.

Hamstead has three mottes or castle mounds dating from this period, all registered historic monuments on private land. The castle itself, having been a wooden structure, has not survived, and research has so far failed to establish which of the three mounds was in fact the actual or principal Marshall castle site. The existence of three sites so close together has been a long-standing puzzle to some historians, although others claim that the pattern is consistent with medieval siege warfare.

The BBC series is to be made by 360 Productions, the company which produced *The Time Traveller's Guide To Elizabethan England* recently shown on BBC2. Access to the sites of the mounds will have to be negotiated with the landowners.



Two of the mounds lie in what used to be the garden of North Lodge, (top left of this 1961 map). This area has now been divided between North Lodge and Park Lodge. The third mound is in Hamstead Park (bottom right on the map).

The most north-westerly mound is pictured below in the early 1990s. Note the figure which lends it scale.



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

Hamstead Hornet

The *Hamstead Hornet* is published quarterly online at <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. Printed copies are now produced only for those who do not have an internet connection.

News stories are updated between issues on <www.hamsteadmarshall.net/noticeboard.htm>

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