

Hamstead *Hornet*

Hamstead Marshall's quarterly newspaper since 1996

March 2025

issue no 113

LOCAL LINKS

Parish council

Dogs Trust at
Plumb's Farm

Good Hope Farm

HM Wildlife
Group FB

Whatsapp groups

Community chit-
chat, news, tips,
alerts, requests.
Contact [Sarah
Stevenson](#)

HM Growing Tips
gardening
triumphs and
disasters. Contact
[Lanie Allen](#)

Planning for the next Darragh

Defending our dark skies

Garden society spring meeting

Mobile library axed

**Community market, community café
and Circle of Friends**

Planning applications

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Planning for next time



Following Storm Darragh, which caused a power cut lasting nearly two days, the parish council has formed a Contingency Planning Group of five members. The group has asked for the following message to be publicised around the village.

Hamstead Marshall Parish Council would like to be able to provide support to the community when major disruptions impact the village, such as electrical blackouts or heavy snow. The Hamstead Marshall Contingency Planning Team has been formed to work on this.

This team is made up of volunteers, including Jane Arnold-Round, Chris Moss, Geoff Watts, Sue Watts and Anne Budd.

The team is looking for more volunteers who would be prepared to provide their expertise and skills in the event of severe storms and other major disruptions.

The team is also seeking villagers who would be willing to check in on their neighbours and help with urgent deliveries of medical prescriptions, food and essential provisions.

Please contact Anne Budd (07865 668201) if you can help. Thank you for your support.

It has since been reported that, following the visit of SSEN and JEPU to the 16 January public meeting (post-Darragh), SSEN has chosen Hamstead as a model example for planning disaster relief in villages.



Defending our dark skies

From time to time it's been suggested that Hamstead Marshall might have streetlights, but local opposition (not to mention cost) has always ensured that the proposal never got off the ground.

One local resident is likely to be in the foreground of keeping the village darkened. Friends of Val Russell will be well aware of her passion for astronomy and her vigorous campaign against unnecessary outdoor lighting. She's an active supporter of the

Commission for Dark Skies, described by Wikipedia as the UK's largest anti-light-pollution campaign group, and part of an international movement.

On Saturday 10 May you can hear more about the importance of dark nights at a **Dark Sky Event** which Val is organising at the village hall. From 10.30 onwards there will be a display, changing over the course of the day, and in the evening an illustrated talk. If the skies are clear there may be an opportunity for star-gazing. Entry is free, and tea/coffee will be on sale. All are welcome.

Val is also organising a **Telescope Workshop** at the village hall on Thursday 27 March, starting at 7pm. Come along whether or not you have a telescope (there'll be plenty on hand), and learn how to observe the night sky. If you own a telescope and are uncertain how to get the best out of it, this evening will be a must. Entry is free, but donations toward to cost of hall hire will be appreciated.

Any enquiries about either session should be directed to [Val](#).



Garden society spring meeting

Enborne and Hamstead Marshall Garden Society invites members, guests and newcomers to the spring meeting at Hamstead Marshall Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26 March to hear about horticulture in Commonwealth war grave cemeteries.

The talk title is ***Gardening the Globe***, because the Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains sites in over 150 countries, making it the largest horticultural organisation in the world.

The talk will be given by Claire McClellan, who volunteers for the commission both as a speaker and a gardener. Her presentation will show how the commission manages and cares for the sites, enabling them to blend into the landscape and adapt to changing environments.

There will be the usual refreshments and raffle (contributions of prizes would be appreciated*) and competition classes qualifying towards the Meadowfresh Cup, traditionally presented to the winner of the highest number of points (garnered at evening meetings such as this) at the September show. The classes are:

Vase of 3 daffodils/narcissi

Vase of 3 tulips

Vase of 3 flowering stems from a shrub

Pot plant in flower (pot not exceeding 9")

Pot plant foliage (pot not exceeding 9")

Flower arrangement in a basket not exceeding 12" overall
Cookery – Spring-themed cake

Membership cards for 2025 will be available at the meeting, or can be obtained from Dawn and Penelope*. The subscription remains at £5 per person.

*Dawn Taylor (01635 32006) or Penelope Lake (01635 48701)

Mobile library axed

WBC has voted to discontinue its mobile library service. This vehicle has been visiting the village at three-weekly intervals for decades, stopping for half an hour in Ash Tree Grove, but this will no longer happen.

The alternative for borrowers is either to visit the library in person, or to enlist with the (free) At Home service, whereby books are delivered to borrowers' doorsteps at three-weekly intervals. The choice and number of books is arranged on an individual basis with the At Home service organiser, who can be contacted on 01635 519827 (mornings).



The monthly Saturday **community market** is at present in abeyance. Keep an eye on the village website [noticeboard](#) and the local Whatsapp for further information.

The **community café**, formerly known as the parish café, was set up by Anne Budd, Chris Moss and Liz Copas. Everyone's invited to free tea and cakes at the village hall on the last Thursday afternoon of the month, between 2 and 4pm. Funded by donations, the café has attracted a regular clientele and occasionally guests from further afield. All local newcomers are welcome. Hamstead has fewer social occasions than in the past, so this is a worthwhile opportunity to meet friends and neighbours old and new, and to catch up on village news.

The **Circle of Friends** was set up by Sue Watts as a group for women to meet monthly for refreshments and a themed talk or demo. Meetings are usually held at the village hall, 7 to 9pm on the first Thursday of the month. Contact Sue ([email](#) or 01488 658932) for more details.

Planning applications

Details taken from the WBC planning portal on 10 March 2025. To see more details visit [this site](#) and search on the application number.

APPROVED

27/Hawthorne Cottage, Warwick Hill RG20 0HP

24/02653/HOUSE27 validated 6 December 2024

Proposed single-storey side extensions

Approved 30 Jan 2025

Elm View RG20 0HW

24/02131/CERTE validated 31 October 2024

Change of use for an area of land from agricultural to use as a residential garden

Approved 10 January 2025

Fishery Cottage, RG20 0JD

24/02370/FULMAJ validated 21 November 2024

Section 73: Variation of Condition (2) Approved Plans of previously approved application 23/01928/FULMAJ - Demolition of current dwelling to be replaced with larger dwelling, to provide storage space near the house. Demolition of the existing barn to be relocated and replaced with a smaller barn, separate for mini diggers and equipment to maintain the river banks. Shortening of fishpool.

Approved 21 February 2025

AWAITING DECISION

Fishery Cottage RG20 0JD

25/00390/COND validated: Wed 26 February 2025

Approval of details reserved by Condition (4) CMS of approved application

21/02912/FUL: Section 73 application to vary/remove conditions 2 (plans) and 3 (materials) of approved application 20/00320/FUL: Demolition of current dwelling to be replaced with larger dwelling. Shortening of the southern fish pool. Demolition of the barn to be replaced with a new barn of the exact design and size.

Property on the market

White Hart: Carter Jonas is offering the White Hart for sale at a guide price of £1.2million. The property has planning permission for redevelopment of the existing buildings into four separate dwellings of approximately 1,539, 3,272, 1,603, and 861 square feet, each with private parking and a garden. The layout plan can be seen [here](#).

#3 Hamstead Mill: this two-bedroom ground-floor apartment is offered by Jackson-Stops at a guide price of £425,000.

What's on in the village

March

Wed 26 19.30-21.20 E&HM Garden Soc meeting, village hall
Thu 27 14.00-16.00 Community café, village hall
Thu 27 19.30 onwds Telescope workshop, village hall

April

Thu 3 19.00-21.00 Circle of Friends, venue tbc
Thu 24 14.00-16.00 Community café, village hall

May

Thu 1 19.00-21.00 Circle of Friends, venue tbc
Sat 10 10.30 onwds Dark Sky Event, village hall
Thu 29 14.00-16.00 Community café, village hall

June

Thu 5 19.00-21.00 Circle of Friends, venue tbc
Thu 26 14.00-16.00 Community café, village hall

The *Hamstead Hornet* is published quarterly online, in March, June, September and December. Back copies can be seen on <https://www.hamsteadmarshall.net/social-life/hamstead-hornet/>. Readers who have supplied their email addresses to the editor receive a link as soon as each issue is posted. News stories are updated between issues on the [village website noticeboard](#). The *Hamstead Hornet* is edited and published by Penelope Stokes admin@hamsteadmarshall.net.