



Village Scene, Hampton Bishop

Autumn 2025

READ ONLINE AT: www.hamptonbishop.info/village-magazine



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This magazine is produced by Hampton Bishop Villagers' Association who manage the village hall, car park and the playing field. These are available for all residents of Hampton Bishop to enjoy. Our function is to maintain the hall as a community asset for villagers of all ages. This magazine is for community information and articles of interest submitted by contributors - Hampton Bishop Villagers' Association cannot validate or guarantee accuracy of information.

Village Hall News

Welcome to our autumn edition of the Village Scene magazine. Wow, what a scorcher of a summer that was! Who would have thought that the recent rain would be so welcome.

The village hall will start to get a bit of a makeover this autumn. We plan to decorate the entrance, inner hallways and committee room as well as replacing the unsightly carpet tiles that really have had their day! Our next big project will be to upgrade the kitchen, so we are looking at more grants and funding opportunities to help with this. If you know of any eligible funding pots do let us know.

We've got some great events lined up in and round the village hall this autumn – please do make a note of dates in your diary and come along if you can.



- Thu 18th Sep: **HBVA meeting**, 7pm, Village Hall. All welcome
- **Parish Council meetings**: 24th Sep / 26th Nov, 7pm, Village Hall
- Sunday 12th Oct: **Hampton Bishop Big Breakfast**, 9-11am, Village Hall
- Friday 7th Nov: **Hampton Bishop Shocked ! The Trauma of an Earthquake and War**. Illustrated talk at the Church at 7.30pm
- Saturday 8th Nov, **Christmas Fair**, 12-4pm
- Saturday 15th Nov, **Pocket Choral Society**, a show that combines singing with tales of intrigue about village life

Read on for further event details.

Do get in touch with the Village Hall team at anytime:

Email: hamptonbishophall@gmail.com

Tel: 07762 103110



Order of St Ethelbert awarded to Hampton Bishop resident

Members of the congregation at Hampton Bishop's St Andrew's church are delighted that our Honorary Treasurer, **Ken Tinsley, is to receive The Order of St Ethelbert.** The honour is awarded for long and distinguished service to the diocese, at a special service of dedication at the Cathedral. Ken will be presented with The

St Ethelbert medal and ribbon by The Bishop. The service is open to members of the public, and will take place on Sunday September 28th. No doubt there will be those from St Andrew's who attend, before rushing back to the village for our regular 6 pm service.

Born in Liverpool in 1930, Ken recently celebrated his ninety-fifth birthday. After National Service in The RAF Regiment, he qualified as a Chemical Engineer. He spent most of his career at Lever Brothers, became a Senior Executive, and led soap factory building projects all over the world.

Ken and his dear wife Dorothy came to Hampton Bishop in 2000. Both immediately became prominent figures at St Andrews, Ken as Church Treasurer and Dorothy as Secretary of the Parochial Church Council. Dorothy died in 2014.

Retiring this year after twenty five years as Treasurer, Ken has also had many other roles in the church. These include:

Member of the Parochial Church Council.

Deanery and Diocesan Synod Representative.

Obtaining grants for St Andrew's building restoration projects.

Draw Promoter for the Grand Prize Draw at the Fete.

Hosting 'Home Group' Bible study sessions.

Ken also found time to attend Sunday services at our daughter church, St Pauls, Tupsley, and play cornet in their band. (He won a national BBC radio competition for cornet playing in the late fifties.)

Congratulations Ken, the recognition this honour brings is so thoroughly deserved. Thank you for all your hard work.

Hampton Bishop's

Big Breakfast!



SUNDAY 12 OCT 2025
9 to 11am

Catch-up with
neighbours and friends
over a big boy breakfast!
Or grab a takeaway butty.
Proceeds to help
maintain the village hall



Hampton Bishop SHOCKED!

Hampton Bishop Shocked !

The Trauma of an Earthquake and War

Friday 7th November 2025 at 7.30pm

Hampton Bishop Church, with refreshments

Two great shocks to the system not much more than 100 years ago

Recently, unexpected damp meant that a picture that had hung on a wall in St Andrew's Hampton Bishop for over 100 years required some 'TLC'. These things happen. But notes on the back of the image that had not been seen since it had first been framed, opened up an interesting line of inquiry for sleuths and regular partners in historical research, Steve Williams and Jean Yates.

It took them to the Hereford Earthquake of 1896 which — believe it or not, centred on Dinedor village — shaking Hampton Bishop, Mordiford, Fownhope, and Dormington, as well as Hereford Cathedral and as far away as Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester. It was a shock that caused at least one death in Bedfordshire that we know of, not to mention the destruction of pinnacles and spires on churches that folk had taken for granted for hundreds of years.

But, perhaps of an even greater order of magnitude, it got them looking at how the inhabitants of our village of Hampton Bishop, the township of Tupsley and the city of Hereford coped with far greater human losses during World War I, which was the reason the picture had first been hung in Hampton Bishop Church.

The result has been a talk written especially for Remembrance, that has walk-on parts from the then Bishop of Hereford Hensley Henson; the rector Sidney Scarlett Smith and his wife; musician and vicar of Colwall Revd Dr Charles Harris; poet Sir John Stanhope Arkwright; the men and women from our own the village who fought; and, significantly, an even greater cloud of witnesses who have hung around in this village church ever since....

But hopefully you are intrigued, and would like to come along to hear about the earthquake, and the war, that both in their separate ways rocked our communities.

A fully illustrated talk by authors Steve Williams and Jean Yates.

Christmas Fair



The Pocket Choral Society

A comedy a cappella touring show combining beautiful close harmony singing and quirky songwriting, with much laughter and even improvised singing sessions, the Pocket Choral Society features four experienced singers blending into one. Singing unamplified the quartet bring their own songs and new arrangements of some from other songwriters such as Lennon and McCartney, Lou Reed, Flanders & Swann and Tom Waits. To quote a previous venue, **'Think of it as Bill Bailey meets the Archers!'**

The Society includes a village shopkeeper, the local publican, the local farmer and the village vicar. **Do come along and join us on Saturday 15th November 2025.** Doors and bar open at 7pm. Tickets: £10. To book your place visit www.hamptonbishop.info/quiz-night (It's not a quiz, by the way this is just our booking page!)

A musical celebration of village life

The Pocket Choral Society

'A CAPPELLA'

Beth
runs the village shop

Jonathan
from the
crippled
pigeon

Oliver
local farmer

Al
the vicar

"Bill Bailey meets
The Archers"

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very silly and very clever."

"Just...
Brilliant!"

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HAMPTON BISHOP VILLAGE HALL,
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Doors & Bar 7.00pm On Stage 7.30pm Full Bar

Tickets £10 from www.hamptonbishop.info/quiz-night or text 07762-103110

Hampton Bishop WI

We have had a variety of talks and demonstrations this year. We have had meals out at the Bunch of Carrots and china painting from one of our members.

Business wise we've had our AGM with the same committee voted in for another year.



This year we've had; Laundry tales- with Frances Bingham, Breath Works Mindfulness with Gail Calthrop. A demonstration on how to butcher a chicken, and what to do with the pieces after. Debra Maloney talked about her passion for making Mosaics, we were very impressed with all the examples she brought along to share with us. In August, we had our annual picnic.

Coming up, we have Mrs Beeton (not the real one). November and we are having a talk on The Suffragettes delivered by Fiona Morrison.

If you would like to join us please contact Barbara Kerr on 07816 247239



Hampton Bishop Parish Council

Parish Council meetings are held on Wednesday evenings at 19.00 in the Village Hall, every other month. **The remaining two meetings for 2025 are scheduled for: 24th September and 26th November.** Residents are very

welcome to attend and raise local matters during the 'Open Session' agenda item.

Welcome to new parish councillor

Parish Councillors are delighted to welcome new councillor, Leigh Stevens, from the Tupsley area of the parish. Leigh was co-opted at the July meeting and is looking forward to participating in parish council matters.

Proposed development on the Lugg Flats ... Application P240422/F Land to the East of Hereford South of Ledbury Road (A438) Hereford. Herefordshire Council's target date for a decision is still the end of 2025 or early 2026. As soon as any new information is received by the parish council, we shall let you know via the email round robin.

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Review Working Group

A parish meeting will be called during October (date yet to be announced) to commence the formal process of an NDP Review by informing residents of what's involved and inviting them to participate alongside parish councillors. One resident who took part in compiling the original plan which became a lawful document on 16th August 2019, has already volunteered to join the NDP Review Working Group and, no doubt, many others will also be interested in coming along to some, or all, of the informal meetings which will be held in the Village Hall.

Flood Working Group

Many thanks to the two residents who have volunteered to join the parish council Flood Working Group. A meeting of the group will be held in the near future, to discuss the preparation of a Flood Response Plan as part of Herefordshire Council's pilot initiative for a countywide linked flood plan scheme.

Roadside Gateways to encourage reduction in speed of traffic

Following a site meeting with officers from Herefordshire Council and West Mercia Police Road Safety Team, it is hoped that design proposals for roadside gateways at both entrances to the village, will be available for discussion at the next meeting of the parish council on September 24th.

Footpaths Officer (FPO)

A big thank you to the local resident who has volunteered to be the Footpaths Officer for the parish, subject to formal appointment at the September parish council meeting.

Parish Council email notifications ... If you would like to receive direct email notifications on Parish Council matters, simply email the Clerk:

clerk@hamptonbishopparishcouncil.gov.uk and you will be added to the email round robin information system which is, of course, subject to data protection.

Roger's Ramblings

In this modern world in which we live we are surrounded by structures of all sorts, buildings, hospitals, cathedrals, churches and, bridges. Insignificant although bridges might be they have a very important role to play in our lives as we in Hampton Bishop have found recently with the closure for around 3 weeks of Mordiford Bridge. The inconvenience I underwent as a result was great. No daily papers – a long diversion to go to my doctor – a different route to Ross on Wye and more I am sure you could think about. I'm sure we are all grateful that it was finished ahead the scheduled 6 weeks. Well done Balfour Beatty for doing such a great job.

But what was life before Mordiford Bridge? Well we would have to go back to the 14th century, 1352 in fact when the first crossing of the river Lugg in Mordiford was recorded. I guess a couple of donkeys and a hay rick were the first to cross. It was completed in the 1500s and is now a "listed structure". I hadn't realised that it was widened in the 1950s to provide the passing point that we have now.



Thinking about Mordiford Bridge and the irritation caused by its closure got me thinking about other bridges that have impacted upon my life. When I first started work I was living in West Manchester in a suburb called Stretford and working in another small town called Eccles, the home of the famous cake. Each day driving from Stretford to Eccles I had to cross a bridge over the Manchester Ship Canal, the famous waterway that linked the Lancashire cotton industry with the American cotton fields. Built in the 1800s by merchants with foresight who realised that it was easier to get the ships into the heart of Manchester than to unload them in Liverpool and truck the cotton the 40 or 50 miles to the mills.

Because the bridge I used had to cross this busy waterway it had to rotate or lift. It was cheaper to build a bridge to rotate so the notorious Barton Swing Bridge was constructed. Notorious because every time a ship transited the canal from the sea to Manchester docks and back the bridge had to “swing” effectively closing it to road traffic. When the bridge was closed to road traffic and open to canal traffic the queues of cars, vans and trucks were legendary. It created a new phrase in the English language to be – *bridged*. It was a great excuse if you were late for work, “I was bridged, boss.”

Eventually, in the 1970s it was replaced by a high-level road bridge that diverted traffic and took away the excuse.

I then started to think about other bridges that had affected my life. One very important one was the first Severn bridge between Beachley and Aust replacing a ferry that had run for centuries. I was at the time living in Little Dewchurch and working in Bath so I used the bridge twice daily. Again it affected my life as high winds were likely to close the bridge which would then add probably hours to my journey.

I’ve always enjoyed the music of Simon and Garfunkel so another bridge is the one that goes over troubled waters. Where to, or from I do not know, maybe one of you my readers can tell me?

I’ve never been over the Sydney Harbour Bridge, but I have crossed the Tamar Bridge into Cornwall and both the new and old Forth bridges in Scotland. I’ve driven over a very high bridge in France called, I think, the Millais bridge and of course I’ve been over Tower Bridge in London and the London Bridge that some American bought thinking it was Tower Bridge and had it rebuilt somewhere in the desert in America.

So my ramblings this month have taken me in my memories across some of the bridges of the world, I know there are many I have forgotten and there are many that you, my readers, have crossed but to all of us in Hampton Bishop the most important bridge in the world is good old Mordiford Bridge, long may it stand and may it carry us to and from Fownhope now and for many years to come. **Roger**



Mentor Link: Volunteer mentors urgently needed

Children's charity Mentor Link support vulnerable children and young people facing social and emotional issues impacting on themselves and their engagement in learning.

Due to the demand from schools, we are recruiting more Mentors to provide 1-1 mentoring and therapeutic support once a week for up to an hour in school and the community.

Volunteer Peter writes, *"I volunteer because I feel the children and young people I meet are not to blame for their situation and so deserve any help I might give."*

"A Mentor is a person they can trust, is not obliged; nor paid; to be there to listen, share, not be judgemental and offer ideas and experiences that might help them cope with their life."

Mentee writes, *“My mentor has helped me because she knows what to say and doesn't judge. I feel like I can speak to her about anything.”*

If you have excellent communication skills; are a good listener; reliable; have an interest in the next generation; can relate to children and young people and can commit to a minimum of 6 months volunteering, 1-2 hours a week, apply for this role.

Life experiences a must!

We are a safer recruiter; hence the role is subject to an enhanced DBS Clearance and 2-character references.

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www.mentorlink.org.uk



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Baton of Hope

The Baton of Hope is the UK's largest suicide prevention initiative and is part of a growing movement working towards a zero-suicide society. In 2025 the Baton of Hope will tour the UK, with the aim of opening up a national conversation about suicide, to reduce stigma and to create unity with the suicide prevention community.



On 2nd October 2025 the Baton of Hope will come to Herefordshire. To find out more visit [Baton of Hope 2025 - Talk Community Directory](#)

What's on at St Andrew's Church

Regular Services: Sunday at 6pm (except Family Service on first Sunday of each month at 11am)

October

- Saturday 4th at 10am: Decorate the church for Harvest. Help with decorating and floral/greenery, contributions greatly appreciated.
- Sunday 5th at 11am: Harvest Service followed by picnic in the Church or outside, weather permitting. All food donations will be taken to the Food Bank.

November

- Friday 7th at 7.30pm: Fully illustrated talk by Steve Williams and Joan Yates, 'Hampton Bishop Shocked!' See page 6 for more details
- Saturday 8th, 12-4pm: Christmas Fair in the Village Hall.

December

- Sunday 14th, at 6pm: Carol Service
- Tuesday 24th at 2.30pm: Christingle
- Wednesday 24th at 11pm: Midnight Communion
- There will be no Service on Sunday 28th December

Chapel Café

Chapel Café meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Church from 10 am to 12 noon. Do pop along to this regular community gathering and catch-up with others over coffee and cakes. Please phone Thelma on 870968 if you would like more information.



What's on at the hall

Pilates	Friday 9am to 12 am	Julie 07946 927365 mrs.julie.thomas@aol.co.uk
Yoga	Wednesday 7.30pm	Lynn Sanders 07913 858855
WI	Thursday 7.30pm (monthly)	Barbara 07816 247239
Community Choir	Thursday 7.30pm	Tom 07787 919135 tomhughesmusic@outlook.com
Folk Ensemble	Alternate Fridays	Tom 07787 919135 tomhughesmusic@outlook.com
Dog training	Sunday 2.30pm (field)	Matt 07976 989693 mathewfaulds@gmail.com
Parish Council Meetings	Every two months, 7pm	Lynda 07713 077077 clerk@hamptonbishopparrishcouncil.gov.uk
Hampton Bishop Villagers Association	3 rd Thursday, every two months, 7.30pm	Val 07762 103110 hamptonbishophall@gmail.com
Iyenga Yoga	Thursday, 9.30am 6.15pm	Fiona 07717 768958 fionahawkins@btopenworld.com
Rock Choir	Monday, 9.45am – 12.15pm	venues@rockchoir.com
Minims MT Choir	Tuesday, 6.30-8.30pm	minimsmusicaltheatre@gmail.com
HB Stitchers Knitting & Crochet Group	Every 2 weeks on Mondays	Kate La Barre katelabarre@yahoo.co.uk



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Useful contacts

Villagers Association Chairman	Val Watson	07762 103110
Villagers Association Treasurer	Jo Evans	07974 025986
Village Hall Booking Clerk	Val Watson	07762 103110
Parish Council Clerk	Lynda Wilcox	01432 276447
Chairman of Parish Council	Steve Hunt	07970 822348
WI Secretary	Barbara Kerr	01432 870648
Flood Warning	Environment Agency	0345 988 1188
Police non-emergency	West Mercia Police	101 / 03003333000
Police Community Support Officer	West Mercia Police	07773 052529
Report a tree down, flooded road or highway obstruction	Herefordshire Council	01432 261800 www.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-problem
Report a Power Cut		105
Report a Gas Leak		0800 111 999
Welsh Water Emergencies		0800 052 0130
The Church Office		01432 655063
Church Wardens	Julia Pearson Sue O’Gorman	01432 870459 01432 870657
Village Scene Mag	Kate La Barre	katelabarre@yahoo.co.uk

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