



## Eastbrook's wild flowers and birds and bees continue to delight us

That's a bee orchid, on the right, a rarity in these parts and now seen in at least two places at Eastbrook, one very close to the village centre, the other about a mile out of town. Other orchids dominate Eastbrook Valley, and some parts of the chalk track above the Ridgeway.

Just below that, a debate rages about whether this is wild sweet pea, or a variety of sainfoin. And at the bottom, one of our increasingly common Bishopstone birds of prey, the sparrowhawk, here to feed on the songbirds and fat flapping pigeons, all of which thrive by guzzling

the even more prolific insects that our style of farming encourages.

Where there are bee orchids, there are common blue butterflies



and millions of moths; they feed the songbirds, and the birds of prey guzzle them.

Simples! Get to know more, and see it for yourself—James Andrews here runs Pro-

vides, for photographers from novice to

professional; and he also runs Eastbrook Experiences, where he and others can

walk and show you round various parts of this beautiful farm, if you fancy a

lazy hour or afternoon. He can arrange bespoke packages

for any number of you. Contact him at

[JamesA@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk](mailto:JamesA@helenbrowningorganics.co.uk), and don't forget to

go and meet the pigs for a good laugh.



## Boris Johnson fan club meets here early July

Local MP Robert Buckland threatens to appear here to explain Tory leadership she-nanigans in early July—when the date is confirmed I'll let some of you know, and at the moment I can only tell you he supports Boris Johnson because I read it in The Guardian!

The editor's only connection to Boris Johnson dates back to 1994 when he was creating a Radio 4 programme called Costing the Earth. An environmental scandal was emerging from the corridors of Brussels and we asked the Sunday Telegraph's Brussels correspondent to develop the story for broadcast on Friday that week. He agreed, we provided all details and arranged to sort it all on the Thursday. No reply from Mr Johnson. Friday morning, Friday afternoon, no reply again. He disappeared. Then the scoop, in the Sunday Telegraph, that weekend. Our exclusive little story, Boris Johnson's name big all over it.

Funny how you never forget this stuff.

HB's Royal Oak, Cues Lane, Bishopstone Sn6 8pp 01793 790481

HB's Chop House, Wood St Swindon Sn1 4An  
01793 527082

## Jason Gillespie Ashes cricket supper, July 29

Cricketing superstar Jason Gillespie makes a guest appearance at HB's Royal

Oak on Monday July 29, in conversation with Radio 5Live's Pat Murphy just before this summer's Ashes series starts. This extraordinary sportsman ( and vegan) and now international coach will tell tales of what really happens in Ashes matches; how he expects Steve Smith and Co to be welcomed (and why they did it....). A lot of fun for cricket enthusiasts, we expect. 71 tests, hundreds of wickets, top score 201...(not out)

Supper will be gloriously meaty (Eastbrook fillets) or gloriously veggie (Eastbrook beetroot? ), depending on how you're feeling that day. There's room for 50 people, at a push, and tickets for this seriously international evening are priced at £75/person; if you book a table of 4 or more, the price is £65. All we need is your name in the book and some sort of payment. 30 tickets sold so far.

By the way, Pat Murphy is a great host and is now available on the sporting speaking circuit, among other avenues. His contacts are extraordinary. He is worth every penny, even on his own! Look for his website, Pat Murphy Presents.

## Helen's new organic charcuterie takes to the stage

Our adoption of the Gloucestershire business Native Breeds means we are

now producing some outstanding charcuterie from our own organic pork and beef. Coppa, air dried beef, salamis, hot dogs, fresh English style sausages (without an allergen in sight) are among the treats being launched over the next few weeks, starting with Abel and Cole's

doorstep delivery business, and of course at HB's Chop House, where the charcuterie board has long been a highlight. The Mail on Sunday (not my fave paper) sang the delights of our hot dogs last week.



## Racing pigs and pregnant pigs



Big month for

extraordinary pigs here at Eastbrook. The over hyped and over drugged Richard of Pork romped home in three of the four races at the wildly popular International Pig Racing Festival, but the only pig saved from land of sausages is The Whole Hog, due to owner Anna Bareham's deep pockets.

Meanwhile Sharon's gestation continues, and we expect her first litter of piglets in early July. Naming rights will be sold to highest bidders. Racing day raised £2000 for various charities. Thanks all.



## Staff crisis!

Of the nicest sort...talking to colleagues (there are about 60 of them full and part time), I was told to produce a list of the unsung heroes...Michelle, Lisa, Anne, Anna, Manfred, Neva, Stuart, Sue, Vicky, Tish, Claire, Steve, Elizabeth, Rita, Jo, Carolyn, James, Tom etc—and mostly Yolanda who cleans the pub every day at 6.30am, and for whom every day is a new day to miss another cobweb, much to our daily entertainment. TF