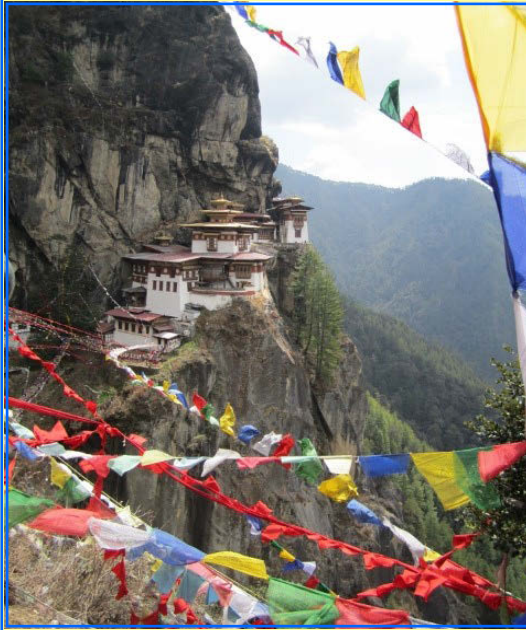


The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

Issue No. 29

February 2014



Bhutan Landscape

Editor	Mary Lynn Walker	371731	Articles	Jane Jones	370562
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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to
info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk by noon on Wednesday 12th February 2014

All opinions expressed in articles published are those of the authors and not of the magazine

To view past and present copies of the Villager go to the Wincanton Window website
www.wincantonwindow.co.uk and click on the 'Villages' link

Events Diary February 2014

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Mon 3rd	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
	Lunch	Ladies Lunch Group	Bell & Crown, Zeals
Tue 4th	10.30am	Upholstery	Village Hall
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 5th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
	8.45pm	Music Night	Half Moon Inn
Thu 6th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
	7.30pm	WI	"
Fri 7th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 10th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 11th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	7.30pm	North Cheriton Gardeners' Society AGM	North Cheriton Village Hall
	8.00pm	Badminton	Village Hall
Wed 12th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 13th	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	"
Fri 14th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 17th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 18th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 19th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
	7.30pm	Film: Casablanca	King Arthurs
Thu 20th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
	7.00pm	Defibrillator Progress Meeting	Hall Moon Inn
Fri 21st	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Mon 24th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 25th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 26th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 27th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 28th	10.00am	Art	"

Future Event: Horsington Music and Craft Fair on the 5th April at the Half Moon

Cover photo provided by Ali Leftwich

Bhutan Adventure

by Ali Leftwich

In March last year we spent two weeks on a walking holiday in the tiny and beautiful Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan.

The trip began with a spectacular flight from Kathmandu to Paro past amazing Himalayan peaks including Everest. As the plane landed at Paro it flew up the valley, disconcertingly houses and hillsides were right outside the window (only eight pilots are licensed to land here).



We were met at the airport by our two delightful guides (it is not possible to travel in Bhutan without a guide) and our driver for the trip. We travelled to Thimpu, described as the most tranquil capital in the world, for our first night. There is only 1 set of traffic lights in Bhutan and these have been turned off as they are not necessary. We were surprised to discover that many people spoke excellent English, the children learn it at school from five years old and most of the signs are in English.

Bhutan is a Buddhist country and it is not only their belief system that informs their whole way of life. All the buildings are required to be designed in traditional style and decorated with Buddhist paintings and motifs. The majority of the people wear traditional dress, a tunic for men called a Gho and a long skirt for women a Kira.

Bhutan is known for the rejection of GDP as the only way to measure progress. In its place, it has instigated an approach to development, which measures prosperity through gross national happiness (GNH) and the spiritual, physical, social and environmental health of its people. In the face of the world financial situation and environmental threats this tiny Buddhist state's approach is now attracting considerable international interest.

We travelled across Bhutan, visiting Dzongs (monasteries and administrative buildings), and stupas and walking in the beautiful countryside. It was fascinating to see plants that are familiar to our gardens and parks growing in their natural and original Himalayan setting. Prayer flags dominate the countryside. Four nights were spent in the more remote regions of Bhutan including the valley of the Black Cranes. We walked in valleys where the people still speak only their tribal language, and where eagles soared above us.

We were lucky enough to be present for one of the major Buddhist festivals, where whole families attended in their traditional colourful dress and monks danced in their flamboyant costumes. Our final day involved a challenging hike to the Tiger's Nest Monastery perched 3,000 feet above the valley floor. This was a very special trip to the country that is known by some as the world's last Shangri-La.

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Bird Watch by Keith Davies

The serious birdwatcher doesn't use the word "seagull" since we have no less than twenty five different species of Gulls on the British list. So referring to each species individually is the required practice. Most Gulls are associated with the sea but although we live in a landlocked part of South East Somerset there are many different types of Gulls that can easily be seen locally. Whilst Gulls roost at night on water, they commute long distances by day to feed. Large numbers scavenge on the land fill refuse at Dimmer tip near Castle Cary, but they also forage on our local fields, seeking out invertebrates in grassland or even following the plough.

The most common ones seen locally are Herring (the traditional seaside town inhabitant), Lesser Black-backed, Black-headed and Common Gulls. The Common Gull was so named because it was habitually seen feeding on the common land. Many of these local Gulls travel here from their overnight roosts at Chew Valley Lake, Cheddar Reservoir, Torr Reservoir and even Weymouth Bay. They can often be seen high up in flocks in V formation in late afternoon skies en route to their roosting waters, often stopping to congregate in pre roosts at Sutton Bingham Reservoir and Sherborne Lake.

One local gull aficionado has seen a total of fifteen different species of Gulls in East Somerset. These include Great Black-backed, Mediterranean, Caspian, and Yellow-legged Gulls. Whilst these are not particularly scarce, there have also been three rare vagrants from North America spotted passing through: Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull and Bonaparte's Gull. Storms have also driven inland pelagic species such as Kittiwake and Little Gull. And visitors from the High Arctic have included the White-winged Iceland and Glaucous Gulls.

Graceful in flight and ungainly on the ground, Gulls stir many emotions. Birdwatchers either hate or love them. To the enthusiast, they provide the ultimate identification challenge. They have different summer and winter plumages, and all of them have different age plumages until they reach their mature adult plumage, which in the case of the large Gulls is not until their fourth year. Keen Gull watchers often spend cold winter afternoons at reservoirs tracking arrivals at roost and hoping to find a rarity. So the next time you see a "Seagull" overhead or in one of our fields, take a closer look and try to pin it down to one of fifteen (or perhaps twenty five) species!



Black-headed Gull (Winter Plumage)



Common Gull

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Neighbourhood Watch

by Stuart Jackson

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

‘The **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme is a partnership where people come together to make their communities safer. It involves the Police, Local Authorities and other voluntary organisations with individuals and families who want to make their neighbourhoods better places to live. It aims to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the fear of crime. It does this by means of improved home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents to the police and by fostering a community spirit.’



For some years I have been the volunteer coordinator for Cheriton Street, which means that I receive messages from the Police Scheme Administrator and pass them on to residents in the area. I do this primarily by use of the notice board by the old telephone box. I am thus a point of contact within the village for the police.

Messages are mainly of a general advice nature, but if there were anything more urgent, I do a door to door mailing. Thus far I have only had to do this once! Messages will include seasonal raising awareness of not leaving valuables in cars, locking sheds and outbuildings, being aware of heating oil theft and any current scams doing the rounds.

We are fortunate in living in a relatively low crime area and equally, village life means that we generally know our neighbours better than those in some urban areas. However we should never be too complacent and think that crime will not happen to us. The scheme encourages being neighbourly and vigilant and never being inhibited in calling the police for anything suspicious.

If anyone would like to receive the messages via email direct, do please contact me. Stuart Jackson Blackmore House, tel: 370458. My email address is s.m.jackson@btinternet.com. I also have a few Neighbourhood Watch stickers for your window too if you would like one.

There are currently vacancies as a coordinator for Behind Hayes Lane, South Cheriton and for Horsington. It is not that difficult. If you are interested, please do contact me or better still, Lindsey Stone, Watch Scheme Administrator. Tel: 01823 363348 or email:

lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk

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E: charles@otteryantiques.co.uk

W: www.otteryantiques.co.uk

Horsington and South Cheriton Defibrillator

by Charles James



There is to be a meeting in the Half Moon on the 20th February at 7.00pm for those who wish to be informed regarding the progress of the Defibrillator to be fitted into the Telephone box at Horsington and to provide information regarding the Defibrillator and the VETS system (Village Emergency Telephone System)

Volunteers are required to transport and operate the Defibrillator to the casualty (familiarisation will be given). We have some. We need more. Medical or first aid experience is an obvious advantage.

Without the support of the residents THIS WILL NOT SUCCEED, so please do lend your support. This is a vital piece of life saving equipment which even you may be grateful for one day.

Please do attend. Contact details; *Charles James 371166*

Horsington Music and Craft Fair

John Sansom is busy organizing this event which will take place at the Half Moon on the **5th April** from 10am till late. The event will feature a variety of craft and other stalls with the music festival featuring no less than 6 live bands and an open mic competition. All proceeds from this event will go towards the Defibrillator and VETS funding, so please do support it. Craft stands are available at £6 per table, entry tickets are £3 in advance (available from the Half Moon or John Sansom) or £5 on the day. With John's enthusiasm this promises to be a memorable day, one to put in your diary.

All enquiries for this to John on 370178

Funding for the Defibrillator to date has been solely from a Community Development Grant and the voluntary contributions and fund raising from private individuals, no funding has been requested from the Parish Council.

Finally and by all means not least, may I thank all those who have kindly donated towards the Defibrillator so far, all the donations received have been exceptionally generous, without your generosity we would not be at this stage so thank you.

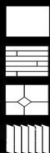


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From the Rector, Greetings.

This being the first Newsletter of the New Year let me begin by wishing you a good one.

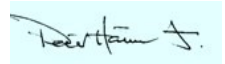
Going shopping in Yeovil is rarely something I look forward to. However, the weather being as it is, we did escape the house and go there just to get out. When in Tesco, I couldn't help but be struck by the large display of unwanted snow shovels! When you look back over recent winters you can see why they stocked up. We bought our grandchildren Snow Scooters for Christmas - they'd have been better off with surf boards!

I have often recalled that when we moved to Somerset back in 1986, someone who knew the County simply said, "wet and windy!" It was a bit in the early years, and we soon equipped ourselves with wellies and waterproofs. But most of the years in between haven't lived up to this reputation. But then the winter of 2013/14 will go down in the annals as one of the wettest and windiest on record, I'm sure.

It's fascinating to think that the origin of all this is the struggle between cold polar air and warm temperate air over North America. That struggle creates the storms and energises the Jet Stream so that they come rushing over the Atlantic to us! All these things hang together. Cause and Effect.

This isn't just true of weather though, is it? How many things at work in the world today have their roots back in history - sometimes in relatively recent history – sometimes staggeringly far back. Can we escape "cause and effect"? At one level, no. We too are caught up in the web of history. But we don't have to be slaves to it either. We don't just have to react to things - but act according to what we know is right. Thus we can begin to change things, to bend the flow. I have always valued these words of E.F. Schumacher: "We must do what we conceive to be right and not bother our heads or burden our souls with whether we'll be successful. Because if we don't do the right thing, we'll do the wrong thing and we'll be part of the disease and not part of the cure." Happy New Year

Peter Hallett – halatvic@btinternet.com



**Horsington
Churchwardens**
Mrs Anne Jones
370626
Mrs Rosemarie Wigley
371478

St John the Baptist, Horsington

2nd Feb	9.15am	Holy Communion with Sunday School
9th Feb	11.00am	Morning Prayer
16th Feb	9.15am	Holy Communion
23rd Feb	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

St Nicholas, Henstridge

2nd Feb	11.00am	Morning Worship; 6.30pm Evensong
9th Feb	9.30am	Holy Communion
16th Feb	11.00am	Holy Communion; 6.30pm Evensong
23rd Feb	11.00am	Holy Communion

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe

2nd Feb	11.00am	All Age Worship
9th Feb	9.30am	Holy Communion
16th Feb	11.00am	Morning Praise
23rd Feb	9.30am	Holy Communion

A Fun Quiz
 Provided by Adrian Pratt
Allow 90 seconds

1. Write your name in the square provided
2. How many of each species did Moses take into the ark?
3. Some months have 30 days; how many have 28?
4. Divide 30 by a half and add 10
5. If a doctor gives you three tablets and tells you to take one every half an hour, after how long will you take the last one?
6. How far can a dog run into a wood?
7. Which country has a 4th July, USA or Britain?
8. A man built a square house with all sides having a southern exposure. A bear wandered by. What colour was it?
9. If you were alone at night and had only a lamp, a fire, a candle and one match, which would you light first?
10. Finally, how many F's are in the following statement?

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Answers

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1. | The name should be in the square at the bottom. This is a rectangle! |
| 2. | None; it was Noah. |
| 3. | All of them |
| 4. | 70 |
| 5. | 1 Hour |
| 6. | Halfway; it must then be running out. |
| 7. | Both |
| 8. | White; the house can only be at the North pole |
| 9. | The match |
| 10. | 9 |

Parish Council Report

by Angela Clayton

An issue which is regularly brought to the Council's attention is dog fouling and this has been a particular problem in the Horsington Play Area. Unfortunately dog mess is an unpleasant aspect of dog ownership, not just to see but even more unpleasant to step in. It is also unhygienic and a threat to public health if soil becomes contaminated. An infection can be passed on from direct contact, or via muddy boots and push chair wheels, hence our serious concerns for users of the Play Area. The District Council's Dog Warden has been alerted, inspected the site and registered the problem. Signs are already in place prohibiting dogs so, on the Dog Warden's recommendations, the only option available now is to prosecute the offenders, but hopefully this will not be necessary. If you fail to clean up you could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice and if the case goes to Court a fine of up to £1000.

So always carry a bag (or two) with you and put in your wheelie bin when you get home. When you are out, offer a spare bag to fellow dog walkers who might have forgotten theirs.

Unfortunately the reputation of responsible dog owners is being damaged by the minority who do not clean up. So if you are aware of any persistent problems please report it to the District Council or a Dog Warden.

On the subject of dog walking here is a further reminder of the Countryside Code:

- Keep your dog under control at all times
- Keep your dog on a lead especially when around farm animals and horses, for your own safety and welfare of the animals
- Leave as much space between your dog and the animals as possible
- Ensure it does not stray off the path
- Keep your dog in sight at all times and be aware of what it is doing
- Be confident it will return to you promptly on command

The majority of dog owners in the Parish and the visitors to our public footpaths and open spaces abide by the rules and this is appreciated, but again if you have any concerns please contact David Chapman (Parish Clerk) tel. 370527.

TELEPHONE BOX

The book exchange in South Cheriton has been a huge success thanks to our volunteers who have made it possible. If anyone has any children's books (any age) they would be willing to donate/exchange, then we could allocate some of the lower shelves as a junior library. Please contact Angela Clayton for more information (tel: 371257).

**Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington
at 8.45pm on Wednesday 5th February**

Please come and join us, play and sing whilst enjoying a beer.

Free, apart from drinks.

Further details from **Anna** on **370749**

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Thursday February 6th – 7.30pm at St Margaret's Hall

Contact: Mrs Jackie Pyne on 370713

**The Wincanton Film Society Presents
Casablanca (1942) PG**

Wednesday 19th February 2014 at 7.30pm

Director Michael Curtis, Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Claude Rains.

A wartime adventure set in a nightclub in Casablanca of course. A Story of romance and intrigue and an outstanding performance by HB who is Rich Blaine – the owner.

For further information contact Les Graney on 371668

NORTH CHERITON AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' SOCIETY

**Tuesday 11th February – 7.30pm – North Cheriton Village Hall
AGM**

Please call Pat Holmes on 370017 for further information.

A vulture boards an aeroplane, carrying two dead racoons.
The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'



Announcements

Including: *Births * Deaths * Birthdays * Weddings* Anniversaries * Congratulations*

If you have any announcements, articles for sale, baby sitting services etc. you would like included contact

info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk

Horsington Church School Academy Conversion

by Lorna Allen, Lead Governor for the Academy Conversion

We are thrilled to announce that, as of 1st December 2013, Horsington Church of England Primary is now an academy. We are now one of seven schools across Somerset that are part of the Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust. As we wrote in a previous article, our name has changed to Horsington Church School, but the uniform will not be changing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, for being so supportive and trusting of us, throughout the conversion process. We are very excited about the conversion and look forward to reaping the benefits of not only being an academy, but also being part of the Bath & Wells MAT's family of schools.

I will now be stepping down as a governor at Horsington, so if you do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our new Chair of Governors, Mrs Helen Smith (HKSmith@educ.somerset.gov.uk).

www.horsingtonprimary.co.uk
[www.Facebook.com/HorsingtonSchool](https://www.facebook.com/HorsingtonSchool)
[www.Twitter.com/HorsingtonS](https://www.twitter.com/HorsingtonS)

Christmas Tea and Chat

Thanks to everyone who came and helped and brought things to the Christmas Tea and Chat in December. Many thanks to *Andrew* and *Philippa* who kindly let us meet in the Half Moon. We donated more than £130 to *Nigel* at the Wincanton Post Office to sponsor work for **CLIC**, children's cancer charity.

Jean Handy

CONTACT LIST

(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

NAME	CONTACT	TEL NO
Bellringing	Anna Piechna	370749
Buses (local)		0871 2002233
Citizens Advice Bureau, Yeovil		01935 421167
CAT Bus Ring and Ride Service		33864
Doctors Surgeries	Milborne Port (inc Templecombe)	250334
	Wincanton Health Centre	435700
Horsington Church School	Head/Secretary	370358
Governors	Vicky Franklin	370699
PTFA	Lucy White	33953
French/Italian Conversation	Jeanne Mortarotti	370021
Ladies' Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
	Susan Maltin	371400
Marsh Meadows Nursery	Mary Taylor	370607
Mobile Library		0845 345 9177
MP	David Heath CBE	01373 473618
North Cheriton & District		
Gardeners' Society	Jean Handy	371720
Parish Council	David Chapman	370527
Police		0845 456 7000
St John's Church		
Rector	Rev. Peter Hallett	362266
Wardens	Anne Jones &	370626
	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
Sunday School	Deirdre Loftus	370091
Scouts	Geoff Crabb	370623
Social Services		0845 345 9133
South Somerset District Council		01935 462462
Wincanton Town Council		435010
W.I.	Jackie Pyne	370713
Village Hall	Chair	John Macdonald
	Bookings	Emilie Gordon
Art		Gill Elston &
		Toni Salmonson
Badminton		Frank Beach
Dance		Louise Holliday
Football		Simon Howell
Pilates		Carol Pirie
Upholstery		Jean Powell