

The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

Issue No. 31

April 2014



Sonya James's Easter chicks

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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to
info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk by noon on Friday 11th April 2014

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 April 2014

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Tue 1st	10.30am	Upholstery	Village Hall
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 2nd	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
	8.45pm	Music Night	Half Moon Inn
Thu 3rd	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
	7.30pm	WI	"
Fri 4th	10.00am	Art	"
Sat 5th	10.00am	Music and Craft Fair (10am 'till late)	Half Moon Inn
Mon 7th	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
	Lunch	Ladies Lunch Group	The Rose and Crown, Trent
Tue 8th	10.30am	Upholstery	Village Hall
	7.30pm	North Cheriton Gardeners' Society	North Cheriton Village Hall
	8.00pm	Badminton	Village Hall
Wed 9th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 10th	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	"
Fri 11th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 14th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 15th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 16th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Fri 18th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 21st	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 22nd	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 23rd	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
	7.30pm	Film: Hitchcock	King Arthurs
Fri 25th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Mon 28th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
	7.30pm	Annual Meeting & APCM	St John's Church
Tue 29th	10.30am	Upholstery	Village Hall
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 30th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"

Future Event: Yarlington Plant Fair Saturday 17th May

Cover photo provided by Sonya James

Can you guess how many chicks there are in the basket? (answer on page 15)

Walking Dogs

by Lorna Allen

The first question to ask is 'What is a puppy walker?'. The only reply can be someone who has to be something of a masochist, as why else would you volunteer approximately every 12 months to take on a 6 weeks old puppy!!! However, having said that, you tell yourself that you are doing something worthwhile and promptly forget about the puddles and the destruction of shoes and anything else that a puppy might find essential to chew, or in fact any other of the traits that are inherent to a very young dog. There is also something that says how can I resist a 6 weeks old labrador puppy, as they really are the prettiest of all puppies, (I'm not biased).

I puppy walked for many years and had a variety of dogs supplied by Guide Dogs; border collies, flat coated retrievers and German shepherds among others. Guide Dogs breed most of the dogs themselves, although they are given some puppies by outside breeders when they have been fully vetted by Guide Dogs.

Puppy walking is quite a time consuming affair, as from 6 weeks old they have to be made aware of the world around them; they are trained to walk on your left hand side leaving the right hand free. They have to learn to cope with all the noises of every day life – vacuum cleaners, washing machines, cars, trains and any sudden noise that might occur when out walking. Some dogs are not happy with enclosed spaces, like the old red telephone kiosks. One puppy that we had took a particular dislike to them until one day he found a half eaten sausage roll inside, problem solved.



One very important command the dogs are taught right at the very beginning of their training is the word "busy". This encourages them to relieve themselves more or less on command, and hopefully avoid an embarrassing situation when the dog is a working guide dog. People have often said that you must get used to the dogs moving on at 12 months old but no matter how many dogs you have had it still pulls at the heart strings – by and large the dogs themselves get into the supervisor's car with never a backward glance! Not all the dogs make the grade as a guide dog for the blind but they are then offered as other assistance dogs, police dogs or sniffer dogs. In some cases they are offered to the puppy walker and if they decline there is a waiting list for the general public. Latterly I did what is basically bed and breakfast. You have the dogs living with you but they go out daily with a trainer in the final phase of their training before being matched with a blind person. So should you see a man walking around the local towns with a dog on a brown harness (used only in training) you will know that he is in the final stages of training (the dog that is!). In recent months there have been problems with guide dogs being attacked by dogs belonging to the general public; many attacks have been recorded since 2010. Last year 6 were forced to retire due to physical and psychological damage suffered – in fact the dog that we now own was withdrawn for that reason. Apart from the damage to the dog and the expense to Guide Dogs the damage to the blind owner and the effect on their confidence is enormous.

The cost of a guide dog is £50,000, this is in effect from the cradle to the grave. The blind person pays 50p regardless of their financial situation (although they can donate more). The 50p is really a legal requirement so that Guide Dogs as an organisation can intervene should any problem arise. All vet bills and food is also met by the Guide Dog Association. If members of the public on the waiting list take on a withdrawn dog, their home is visited and they have to pay for the dog.

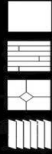


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Grotesques in the Belfry – rediscovered

by Anna Piechna



St. John's Church is now the proud possessor of a bell simulator which is a very useful device for teaching learners to ring without annoying the neighbours. During the installation process the bell frame had to be fitted with photo sensors which send data to the simulator. A ringing colleague, Roger Price, and I did this work and noticed that in the later addition to the tower there are two grotesques fitted into alcoves facing the belfry.

In 1738 the tower was raised and it is in this newer part that the figures are housed. The left hand chap looks like a hunky punk and the right hand one a gargoyle. Judging from the triangular anchors at their base they would probably have been mounted on the corners of the tower.

High up on the Perpendicular period church towers of Somerset, almost lost to the eye except for their silhouettes,

are an amazing series of grotesque stone figures. Carved in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, to ornament corners and break up straight sections of masonry, these figures are known as hunky punks. The name possibly comes from older English usage of the two words hunkers and punchy. Hunky punks are found on many church towers in Somerset, the nearest good example of which is North Cheriton with four splendid carvings on each corner of the tower; others include Muchelney, Langport and Long Sutton. In fact, although very little noticed, high on their tower settings, they are very common in this area.



What was in the minds of the masons when they set about creating these monsters one can only speculate, but they are all pagan style devil figures and certainly irreligious; doodles in stone after too much cider perhaps, or just a sense of wicked humour? They are mentioned in the last quinquennial inspection report:

1.4 Brief Architectural History

The lower part of the west tower is of medieval date. The upper parts of the tower were rebuilt in the 18th century. Hunky punks and gargoyles from the medieval tower were built into the internal face of the tower walls at belfry level.

There again had I read the excellent "*History of Horsington*" by John Cross, before the "discovery" instead of afterwards, I would have solved the mystery a little quicker.

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Bird Watch

by Keith Davies

It is estimated that around half of UK households feed birds in their gardens providing some sixty thousand tonnes of bird food per annum. The practice has become crucial for bird numbers. The main cause of bird mortality is starvation over the winter. Modern farming practices mean that many of our fields are inhospitable to birds particularly in late winter. Even Reed Buntings, which typically forage in flocks in open countryside after



Blackbird (male)

breeding, are now often seen on bird feeders in January and February.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has been running a weekly Garden BirdWatch survey since 1970 and has a goldmine of data on this topic. This survey has quantified the remarkable comings and goings on the nation's bird feeders. The most notable has been the precipitous decline of the House Sparrow. Other declines

include Starling and Song Thrush and, more recently, Greenfinch and Collared Dove. However many species have increased as garden birds, particularly Goldfinches and Long-tailed Tits. The top five garden birds currently are Robin, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Great Tit, and Chaffinch. The range of food that is on sale is enormous but several apples spread around the ground are very effective in attracting Thrushes, Blackbirds and Woodpeckers. A regular supply of clean water is as important as providing food. Apart from drinking, birds need it for regular bathing and preening. Whilst feeding in winter is crucial the RSPB advises that feeding all year round is beneficial. Food shortages can happen at any time and even when insect life is abundant the easy



Reed Bunting (female) and Blue Tit

availability of seeds for adult birds allows them to devote more energy to feeding their chicks with the insects they need. The advice is not to feed loose peanuts, fat and bread during spring and summer because if these end up with young birds they can prove fatal. Also, peanuts and fat balls are regularly sold in nylon mesh bags, but these bags should not be hung up for birds. They may trap birds' feet. Also birds with a barbed tongue, for example woodpeckers, can become trapped by their beaks. So the peanuts or fat balls should be transferred to appropriate containers.

The BTO survey is centred on weekly recordings of birds in your garden and participants receive a quarterly magazine. If anyone is interested in taking part a free information pack can be obtained by email from gbw@bto.org or by writing to BTO Garden BirdWatch, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU.

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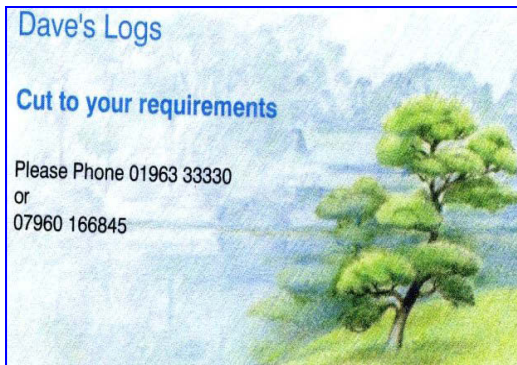
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Fire Class Walks

by Lynne Brady

Using the environment around the school is an important part of the children's school experience. Fire Class have started their biannual art project based on an oak tree that is on the route of the Monarch's Way between Charlton Horethorne and Horsington.



The children walk the route four times in the school year looking at the differences the seasons make to the tree. From these walks they then create four pictures using a variety of media including: collage, pastels, crayons, pencils and water colours.



Finally in the summer term the images of the tree through the seasons are displayed together as a stunning finale to the project. The project also develops the children's map reading skills: and has links to Literacy, Numeracy and Science class work.

We had a muddy start to this year's walks but this has only added to the fun!

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

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St John's Church Horsington

From the Rector, Dear Friends, Greetings.

Before I moved to Somerset in 1986 I had a parish in the middle of Doncaster. Many of my neighbours were Pakistani. I became particularly friendly with a chap who lived over the road from us – Abdul. He was a very devout Muslim. I was always struck by his devotion and spiritual discipline. That discipline was especially evident in the Fast of Ramadan. Observant Muslims do not eat or drink from sunrise until sunset.

Fasting was something that I practised as part of my spirituality many years ago – but not for some time now. The church where I worshipped regularly held days of prayer and fasting. Sometimes churches would gather together to spend the day in prayer and fasting. That was on top of doing this as an individual. On a few occasions I remember fasting for several days. It adds a much greater depth and appreciation of the story of Jesus fasting in the Judean wilderness for 40 days.

Stuff I read about fasting back then suggested that an average adult could fast for about 40 days and at the end of it they would be properly starving. Which gives particular force to the comment that at the end of his fast he was famished!

Peter Hallett – halatvic@btinternet.com



Horsington Churchwardens

Mrs Anne Jones
370626

Mrs Rosemarie Wigley
371478

St John the Baptist, Horsington

6th Apr	9.15am	Holy Communion with Sunday School
13th Apr	11.00am	Palm Sunday – Morning Prayer
17th Apr	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion, St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe
18th Apr	7.00pm	Good Friday – A service of Hymns and Readings
20th Apr	9.15am	Easter Day – Holy Communion
27th Apr	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

St Nicholas, Henstridge

6th Apr	11.00am	Sing Glory! Worship for all ages	6.30pm Evensong
13th Apr	9.30am	Palm Sunday – Holy Communion	
17th Apr	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion, St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe	
18th Apr	7.30pm	Good Friday – The Passion of our Lord in word and music	
20th Apr	11.00am	Easter Sunday – Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong
27th Apr	11.00am	Holy Communion	

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe

6th Apr	11.00am	All Age Worship
13th Apr	9.30am	Palm Sunday – Holy Communion
17th Apr	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion
18th Apr	10.00am	Good Friday – All Age Worship
20th Apr	11.00am	Easter Sunday – Holy Communion
27th Apr	9.30am	Holy Communion

Horsington Area Defibrillator Update

by Charles James

Strong support was given by the 3% of the Horsington and South Cheriton residents who attended the meeting at the Half Moon on the 20th February, we have now assembled the volunteers list and we must have one of the highest ratio of Doctors, nurses and first aid CPR trained responders that any village has managed to gather for a defibrillator team, we are extremely lucky to have this quality of support, my thanks to all those who have volunteered their services one way or another.

The telephone box is being refurbished thanks to a couple from Templecombe who have a special relationship with defibrillators. Once this is complete the defibrillator will be installed and we will be putting the V.E.T.S (village emergency telephone system) scheme into operation and then, subject to reaching our funding goal, we will be operational.

We are in sight of the implementation of this scheme; I would again like to thank all those who have supported this, either financially or with their time and effort that they have given, without your support this would not happen.

John Sansom is single handedly organising a fund raising event "The Horsington Music and Craft Festival" on the 5th of April in aid of the defibrillator. With John's expertise in organizing such events this is progressing well but we will need help to erect marquees prior to the event etc etc. Also help on the day would be appreciated, so if you are able to assist please contact John on 07974 662145 and he will detail a task for you I am sure.

A comment made at the meeting "If this saves one life in 5 years then it will be worth doing."

Canon Jesse Sage's talk on his ministry in South Africa

by Jane Jones

Jesse Sage gave a talk on his Ministry in South Africa on Sunday 2nd March at 4pm and this was followed by a cream tea. Amongst the audience there were a handful of people who had been here in the 70's when he was our Rector. It was good to hear his stories and see photos of the small churches and large congregations in the vast area of the diocese in which he served. He enthused about the exuberance of the singing and dancing of the African people and his joy in being there for many years was evident.

A QUIZ FOR EVERYONE

A quiz entitled "Beside the Seaside" is being run in aid of the Church Roof Appeal and will provide fun for the whole family.
It costs £1 to enter and there will be 3 prizes.

Collect your copies from John Cross in South Cheriton 01963 370249,
Sallie Vallins in Horsington 01963 370586 or Rosemarie Wigley in
Templecombe 01963 371478

Also available in the Half Moon Pub & at St. John's Church Horsington

Closing date for entry is 17th April.

Enjoy the competition.

HORSINGTON CRAFT & MUSIC FAIR

at the Half Moon on Saturday 5th April from 10am until late.

Includes **6 live bands** and an open mic competition
an exhibition of **circus memorabilia**
barbeque and bar, **childrens' rides** and bouncy castle.

Price £3 in advance from John Sansom 07974 662145
or £5 at the door.

All in aid of a new Defibrillator to be installed in the old
phone box.

**Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington
at 8.45pm on Wednesday 2nd April**

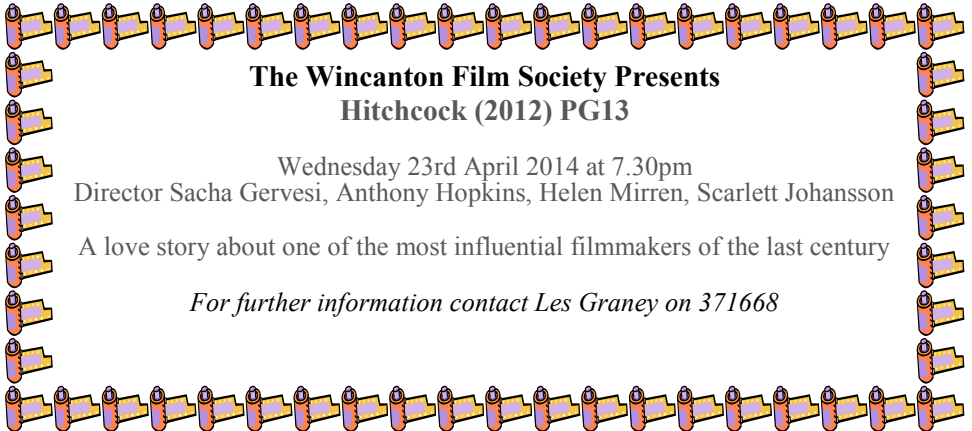
Please come and join us, play and sing whilst enjoying a beer.
Free, apart from drinks.
Further details from **Anna – 370749**

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Thursday 3rd April – 7.30pm at St Margaret's Hall

John Burgess - Notes from my Exmoor Diary

Contact Mrs Jackie Pyne on 370713



**The Wincanton Film Society Presents
Hitchcock (2012) PG13**

Wednesday 23rd April 2014 at 7.30pm
Director Sacha Gervasi, Anthony Hopkins, Helen Mirren, Scarlett Johansson

A love story about one of the most influential filmmakers of the last century

For further information contact Les Graney on 371668

NORTH CHERITON AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' SOCIETY

Tuesday 8th April – 7.30pm – North Cheriton Village Hall
Castle Gardens Talk on Climbing Plants

Please call Pat Holmes (370017) for further information.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.



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

Julie and Peter Gripper are delighted that their son Lawrence has become engaged to Araminta Buxton and wish them every happiness.

St John the Baptist, Horsington – Annual Meeting



The annual meeting of parishioners to elect churchwardens will be held in Church on Monday, 28th April beginning at 7.30pm. This will be immediately followed by the annual parochial church meeting (APCM). The APCM receives the parochial church council's annual report and accounts for the year ending 31st December 2013. It also elects the new parochial church council, and this year, lay representatives to the deanery synod. The meeting is able to discuss anything of parochial or general church interest. Any interested person is welcome to attend, but only those whose name is entered on the church electoral roll may vote at this meeting.



The Village fete

will be held at the School

on Saturday 14th June 2014 from 2-5pm.

Donations of plants on Friday 13th June would be very welcome so any gardeners out there, please start planting seeds!



Milborne Port Opera

won best Chorus and the David Beach Challenge Trophy for their performance last year of Iolanthe.

Their next show is Gilbert and Sullivan's

“UTOPIA Ltd.”

This is a comic opera about banking, finance, aristocracy and celebrity media and the mafia.

It will take place in Milborne Port Village Hall from
April 23rd - April 26th 2014.

Tickets from boxoffice@milborneportopera.co.uk
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There are 15 chicks in the basket in the cover photograph.

CONTACT LIST

(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

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Buses (local)		0871 2002233
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CAT Bus Ring and Ride Service		33864
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	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 & Rosemarie Wigley	370626 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	www.horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk	
	Chair	John Macdonald 370444
	Bookings	Emilie Gordon 371396
Art	Gill Elston & Toni Salmonson	370236 370235
Badminton	Frank Beach	370767
Dance	Louise Holliday	362689
Football	Simon Howell	07730 314959
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07885 798032
Upholstery	Jean Powell	01747 841126