

# The Horsington & South Cheriton *Villager*

March 2016

Issue  
50

**The Villager celebrates its 5th year**

|                   |                  |        |                    |                   |        |
|-------------------|------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|
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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to  
[info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk) by noon on 11th March 2016

*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](http://www.wincantonwindow.co.uk) and click on the 'Villages' link

## Events Diary March 2016

| Day/Date        | Time    | Event                                         | Venue                   |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Tue 1st</b>  | 10.30am | Upholstery                                    | Village Hall            |
|                 | 2.30pm  | <b>U3A - A Talk on 'Seven Years in China'</b> | Henstridge Village Hall |
|                 | 8.00pm  | Badminton                                     | Village Hall            |
| <b>Wed 2nd</b>  | 10.00am | Adult Tap Dancing                             | "                       |
|                 | 8.30pm  | <b>Music Night</b>                            | Half Moon Inn           |
| <b>Thu 3rd</b>  | 10.00am | Art                                           | Village Hall            |
|                 | 7.30pm  | <b>WI</b>                                     | "                       |
| <b>Fri 4th</b>  | 10.00am | Art                                           | "                       |
| <b>Mon 7th</b>  | Lunch   | <b>Ladies Lunch Group</b>                     | Rose & Crown, Trent     |
|                 | 6.00pm  | Pilates                                       | Village Hall            |
| <b>Tue 8th</b>  | 10.30am | Upholstery                                    | "                       |
|                 | 8.00pm  | Badminton                                     | "                       |
| <b>Wed 9th</b>  | 10.00am | Adult Tap Dancing                             | "                       |
| <b>Thu 10th</b> | 10.00am | Art                                           | "                       |
|                 | 7.30pm  | <b>Parish Council Meeting</b>                 | "                       |
|                 | 7.30pm  | <b>North Cheriton Gardeners Society</b>       | N/C Village Hall        |
| <b>Fri 11th</b> | 10.00am | Art                                           | Village Hall            |
| <b>Mon 14th</b> | 6.00pm  | Pilates                                       | "                       |
| <b>Tue 15th</b> | 10.30am | Upholstery                                    | "                       |
|                 | 8.00pm  | Badminton                                     | "                       |
| <b>Wed 16th</b> | 10.00am | Adult Tap Dancing                             | "                       |
| <b>Thu 17th</b> | 10.00am | Art                                           | "                       |
| <b>Fri 18th</b> | 10.00am | Art                                           | "                       |
| <b>Mon 21st</b> | 6.00pm  | Pilates                                       | "                       |
| <b>Tue 22nd</b> | 10.30am | Upholstery                                    | "                       |
|                 | 7.30pm  | <b>Film: The Lady in the Van</b>              | King Arthur's           |
|                 | 8.00pm  | Badminton                                     | Village Hall            |
| <b>Wed 23rd</b> | 10.00am | Adult Tap Dancing                             | "                       |
| <b>Fri 25th</b> |         | GOOD FRIDAY                                   |                         |
| <b>Mon 28th</b> |         | EASTER MONDAY                                 |                         |
| <b>Tue 29th</b> | 10.30am | Upholstery                                    | "                       |
|                 | 8.00pm  | Badminton                                     | "                       |
| <b>Wed 30th</b> | 10.00am | Adult Tap Dancing                             | "                       |
| <b>Thu 31st</b> | 10.00am | Art                                           | "                       |

## Violence on Horsington Marsh in 1624

by Susan Maltin

The Court of the Star Chamber operated in London from the late middle ages to the time of the Civil War and recorded violent disputes between people. Horsington, like most villages in England, features in this court.



Violence was recorded on the Marsh in 1624. It all goes back to 1607, when a certain Sir Hugh Smith granted a lease of a cottage and a five acre meadow called Home Close, along with other meadows called Hookes Meadow and Broad More Field, on Horsington Marsh, to George Crosse of Marnhull, the owner of a pub, and so the Crosse family became involved in the life of Horsington. As well as the cottage and the meadows, the lease gave George Crosse the right to graze 6 oxen and 1 horse on Horsington Common and another 6 oxen and 2 horses on Horwood Common, but interestingly he had no right to the oak, ash or elm trees on the land.

George's daughter Susan married William Browning of South Cadbury on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1616, and in 1622 George Crosse mortgaged the lands on the Marsh to Susan and her husband William Browning for £150. As George Crosse did not pay back the requisite £150, William Browning moved into the cottage and started using the meadows and grazing his cattle.

A couple of years later on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1624 George Crosse and his friend Hud Harris (a rather evil sounding man who wanted to get the lands for himself) tried to get William Browning out of the cottage and off the lands and to reclaim them for George Crosse. William Browning was not co-operative and so George Crosse and Hud Harris gathered up some friends (William and Richard Hulett, John Collins, John Eastman and about 20 other "vagrants, disordered and unknown persons") and they all rushed into William Browning's cottage with swords, daggers, long staves and other weapons, and left William Browning wounded, having taken his cattle.

George Crosse and Hud Harris then tried some clever legal tricks to get William Browning off the land and out of the cottage by letting it out to other people. William Browning did not co-operate and so on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1624 George Crosse and Hud Harris and their gang of thugs once again attacked William Browning intending to break down the windows and doors of the cottage, and again drove his cattle away.

In the court case that ensued in the Court of the Star Chamber, brought by William Browning who wanted to get back into the cottage and land that he believed was rightfully his, Hud Harris argued his side of the story saying that the house had been let to a Richard Hulet and that William Browning had gone in and taken down the door bar and struck Richard Hulet on the head, grievously wounding him.

The court judgement does not survive, so we do not know whether to believe the rather violent Hud Harris or William Browning, but my money is on William Browning who is trying to act honourably with his wife and her rather troublesome father and his gang of thugs. And it was all on Horsington Marsh.

## Not currently a hen's life

by Millicent MacGregor

Winter, winter go away, come back in November when you can be a lot drier and crisp please!

I can't be the only one longing for the heady days of spring. This winter has been pretty miserable to be honest – I can tell from our wood pile that it clearly hasn't been all that cold, but the wind and rain have really given me the desire to hibernate until it's all over.

I feel really sorry for my hens, they are so excited when you open their house in the morning only to realise that as it is a work day for me, they have to stay in their (pretty roomy) enclosure. Can hens get trench foot? No amount of straw (to soak up the mud) and pulled weeds can make up for wandering around the garden scratching and pecking however they please. To appease my guilt, I make them warm porridge which they seem to go crazy for.

Now, like yours, my garden is totally confused. The daffodils were out before the snowdrops, I had roses blooming in January, the herbaceous perennials all started to shoot far too early and a leftover pelargonium from the summer hasn't stopped flowering!



It does leave one slightly pondering on how to tackle the garden, and I have decided that to get the best out of my plants this year, I shall plough on as usual. I shall be cutting back and dividing my grasses in the spring, I've already cut back all the herbaceous plants and will mulch carefully around the base to feed and suppress weed growth. Fruit tree and rose pruning took place in January and my seeds have arrived, so I shall utilise my window sills and get sowing.

It hasn't all been doom and gloom of course. The unusual flowering has caused many oohs and ahhs, we have had lots of fun on muddy walks and I did spend the most fabulous afternoon with the children taking part in the RSPB great garden bird watch. We had many visitors during our allotted hour, but there were screams of delight when my young daughter spied a greater spotted woodpecker on the ash tree. We have already pledged to take part again next year and binoculars and a new bird guide book are already on the birthday lists.

I am now ready to move on to my most favourite time of year. Spring is when a gardener gets hugely excited to be sowing, planting, weeding and nurturing those robust yet delicate young shoots, full of energy and promise. And I wonder what weather will be in store for us this season? We can dare to hope and dream, but in the words of the fabulous Doris Day, Que Sera, Sera, whatever will be, will be.

## **Parish Council Report** by Angela Clayton

In December our Parish Clerk David Chapman (unfortunately for the Parish Council) decided it was time to move on. David has provided an excellent service and we will miss his knowledge, expertise and patience. So a big thank you.

The Parish Council manage and maintain the children's play area in Horsington. As well as grass cutting and repairs to fencing and play equipment, regular inspections are carried out for insurance purposes. The old netball/basketball posts had to be removed last year; although fortunately we will be installing new posts very shortly – made possible by generous funding from the Somerset County Council Health and Wellbeing Budget.

Management of the Horse Pond continues, and during the winter months the sluices are lifted. We are in the process of obtaining quotes to remove the substantial amount of silt that has built up, and propose to carry out the dredging works later on in the year. We are also investigating possible funding via grants, charitable organisations, local companies



and individuals. Part of our long term management plan for the Pond is to install natural barriers to minimise silt levels and, with the introduction of new planting, improve the appearance and enhance wild life (see photo).

**The Parish Meeting will take place on  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall at 7 pm  
followed by a short Parish Council Meeting.**

**Refreshments will be available and everybody is very welcome.**

## Karaoke raises the roof at the Half Moon

By Richard Gaunt



Horsington is a very musical village. The monthly (about to become twice monthly) Music Night (Wednesdays) at the Half Moon is a popular hangout for people of a certain age. Several Horsington residents perform in the local Milborne Port Opera or the Wincanton choir. But until now there has been nothing for the good old rock 'n' rollers.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February, during one of the worst rainstorms of the winter, fifty or so people braved the floods for an evening of karaoke at the Half Moon. And why not? After all, the Saturday television schedules are a disgrace to broadcasting.

And what an evening they had! It started quietly enough with a few old R+R favourites, and gradually the younger element began to overcome their stage fright and a great sing-song ensued, including a wonderful rendering of a medley from "Grease", a "We are the champions" which nearly raised the roof and, for a finale, a very tuneful rendering of Frank Sinatra's "My way", in which everyone, even the non-singers down the other end of the bar, joined in.

Thanks to the new superfast (well sort of ) broadband, a choice of over 21,000 songs was instantly available, beamed over the internet and relayed through a beefy sound system, with the words projected on the pub's large screen television.

The evening has been generally held to be a great success and demonstrates that if there's something on, even in winter, people will turn out. The impetus for the evening came from several regular customers of the pub who wanted a party on a Saturday night.

Hopefully Landlord Andrew will run another one soon.

This is an actual complaint received by a travel company.

*"We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."*



## Village Hall Heating

by John Macdonald

As part of the process of upgrading *your* Village Hall during 2015, the Committee wished to improve the heating in the hall.

We researched various methods of heating from ground source through to replacing the boiler. Ideally, we would liked to have had ground source underfloor heating, but this proved prohibitively expensive for our limited budget, as did air source heating. Our boiler engineer tells us that the boiler, although old, is still operating relatively efficiently. Replacing the boiler with up-to-date equipment might improve the efficiency by upwards of 20%, but recouping the cost of a new boiler would take considerable time. Therefore, we decided to install uprated radiators and destratification fans. This system has proven effective in Ditchat Village Hall where they have achieved savings of approximately 20% in heating costs added to the benefit of having a much improved environment in their hall. This relatively low cost solution allows us the opportunity to recoup the outlay within 3 to 4 years at 2015 prices.

Generally, we have had positive feedback, but there has been some comment about the fans, which might indicate a lack of understanding of the principle behind the fans' operation. Stratification is the single biggest waste of energy in buildings. Radiators are constantly replacing the heat that rises away from the floor area. The fans redistribute (destratify) the already heated air from the unoccupied ceiling space back down to floor level. With our system, the fans are combined with high and low level temperature sensors and a controller that are linked to the heating timer switch. When the heating is switched on the fans operate at a fairly high rate (usually for a couple of minutes) until the air has been disturbed enough for the temperatures at the sensors to have been equalised. The fans then slow down to normal operating speed. Obviously, if the building is cold the air being redistributed is cold, but as the radiators warm up the redistributed air does so as well. A slight wobble caused by an imbalance of the blades as the fans go through the start up cycle has been noted. The whole fan mechanism is suspended on a large hook and attached by a substantial safety cable to the beam above. If the fan becomes detached from the hook, the safety cable is designed to halt a fall.

The Carbon Trust recommends destratification as one of its top three methods to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The committee felt that we really needed to stop heating half of Somerset. We believe this solution will benefit the users and the finances of the hall in the long-term.

# Horsington Church School

## Cross Country Tournament

by Camilla Cotterell and Lucy Nancarrow

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, an energetic team of girls and boys from Horsington Primary School set off to compete in the Inter-Schools Cross Country Competition at King Arthur's Community School. When we arrived in the morning it was freezing cold, but that didn't stop us at all from running. There were 9 local primary schools competing and the race Sports Head (Mr J Hayes) estimated that there were 250 children taking part.

After that we had our first race; Year 3 and 4 girls. We did amazingly well even though we only had two girls competing.

Then it was Year 3 and 4 boys; they were incredible. Our boys came 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> in their race. Next it was the Year 5 and 6 girls; Becca Smith came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the race which was great, especially as Year 5 and 6 had to run further!

Lastly it was Year 5 and 6 boys who did very well with them all in the first 20. In the whole competition Horsington came 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 9 teams taking part.

At the end we all hopped onto the bus and had a well earned rest!!




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After a refreshing Christmas break the PTFA are back busily planning fun events for the children, fundraising for new school equipment and school trips to enhance the children's education.

We have recently installed a new noticeboard outside the school gate. So next time you are walking by have a little look at what's going on and the achievements we have had.

We run a successful 50:50 Club whereby you pay £12 a year for one of our lottery balls. Every month a ball is drawn at random and the owner of the ball wins the prize fund, currently the prize fund is £32.50. Last year the monies from the 50:50 Club bought the children some lovely weaving frames for the playground. If you would like to support the school with this, please pop into school for a form or email [Horsingtonschooltreasurers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Horsingtonschooltreasurers@hotmail.co.uk)

Although it is only the beginning of March, we have started to plan for this year's Village Fete; the date for your diary is Saturday 11th June. Our meetings are published on our notice board and we would love to have some input from you, if you feel you would love to run or help on a stall, or if you are a whizz in the kitchen and could bake or produce something for us to sell, please let us know. You may even have an idea for a profitable event or a contact for a band.

We are always welcome to donations for our bottle or general tombolas, so if you have unwanted items, please keep hold of them. We will let you know a date to drop them into the school shortly.

Thank you for your support

Laura-Jo Gawler On behalf of Horsington Church School PTFA

## **From the Rector, Greetings.**

When things happened a long time ago, it can be difficult for people to grasp their importance for 'now'. It happened a 100 years ago – so what?

I am no expert in history, but I have always been interested in it. It's always seemed to me that we as individuals, and communities and nations are the products of our histories. On an individual/family basis it's one of the things that makes "Who do you think you are?" interesting. But at the same time this is a bit cerebral.

The first time this really hit me emotionally was when I visited the War Cemetery near what was Omaha Beach on D-Day. When I walked around looking at the graves, the names and the ages of the young men who had died on that beach I found very moving. And it hit me hard – that what those men had done, in confronting the Nazi tyranny – giving up their lives – they had given me, and you, the freedoms we sometimes take for granted. History became not only intellectually relevant, but emotionally relevant as well – big time!

And now I picture a man hanging on a cross on a hillside outside a middle eastern city two thousand years ago. And I hear folk say, "So what?" This individual took on a tyrant of such magnitude that it would make Hitler look like a child at kindergarten! He did it on his own – and broke the back of evil. Through this person's death – and resurrection – the Creator God has begun the work of healing the whole of creation and us as individuals. I guess, as on that fateful beach in 1944, the question arises: whose side are we on?

*Peter Hallett – halatvic@gmail.com*



## **St John the Baptist, Horsington**

6th March (Mothering Sunday) : 9.15am Holy Communion with Sunday School

13th March : 11am Morning Prayer

20th March (Palm Sunday) : 9.15am Holy Communion

**For Service in Holy Week please see Templecombe and Henstridge**

27th March (Easter Sunday) : 9.15am Holy Communion

*British Summer Time begins ~ clocks go forward*

## **St Nicholas, Henstridge**

6th March (Mothering Sunday) : 11am Morning Worship; 6.30pm Evensong

13th March : 9.30am Holy Communion

20th March (Palm Sunday) : 11am Morning Prayer; 6.30pm Evensong

25th March (Good Friday) : 7.30pm Taizé Style Worship

27th March (Easter Sunday) : 11am Holy Communion

## **St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe**

6th March (Mothering Sunday) : 11am Morning Praise

13th March : 9.30am Holy Communion

20th March (Palm Sunday) : 11am Holy Communion

24th March (Maundy Thursday) : 7.30am Holy Communion

25th March (Good Friday) : 10am All Age Worship

27th March (Easter Sunday) : 9.30am Holy Communion

**Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington  
at 8.30pm on Wednesday 2nd March**

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

Free, apart from drinks.

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

**Thursday March 3rd @ 7.30pm**



**Joint Meeting with North Cheriton  
Speaker - Mrs Margaret Adams**

Telephone Mrs Jackie Pyne for further information on **370713**

**The Wincanton Film Society Presents  
The Lady in the Van (12A)**

**Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at 7.30pm**

A man forms an unexpected bond with a transient woman living in her car that's parked in his driveway.

This is the true story of a homeless woman who lived for 15 years outside the home of playwright Alan Bennett.

Director: Nicholas Hytner

Stars: Maggie Smith, James Cordon, Dominic Cooper

For further information contact Les Graney on **371668**



## 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](mailto:info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk)

### NORTH CHERITON AND DISTRICT GARDENERS SOCIETY

THURSDAY MARCH 10TH @ 7.30PM  
AT NORTH CHERITON VILLAGE HALL

Flower Arranging by Castle Gardens Sherborne

Please call Pat Holmes on 370017 for further information.

### Blackmore Vale U3A



#### **Seven Years in China**

**a talk by David Grierson**

Tuesday 1st March 2.30pm at Henstridge Village Hall

Members £1.50 Visitors £2.50 Includes tea and cakes

For more information about Blackmore Vale U3A

call 01963 371544 or visit our website

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

Some trivia for the day:

#### **COBWEB:**

The old English word for "spider" was "cob"



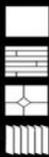
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(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

| <b>NAME</b>                               | <b>CONTACT</b>                                                                       | <b>TEL NO</b>    |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Bellringing                               | Anna Piechna                                                                         | 370749           |
| Buses (local)                             |                                                                                      | 0871 2002233     |
| Citizens Advice Bureau, Wincanton         |                                                                                      | 0344 88 9623     |
| CAT Bus Ring and Ride Service             |                                                                                      | 33864            |
| <b>Doctors Surgeries</b>                  | Milborne Port (inc Templecombe)                                                      | 250334           |
|                                           | Wincanton Health Centre                                                              | 435700           |
| French/Italian Conversation               | Jeanne Mortarotti                                                                    | 202265           |
| <b>Horsington Church School</b>           | Head/Secretary                                                                       | 370358           |
| Governors                                 | Vicky Franklin                                                                       | 370699           |
| PTFA                                      | Lucy Mackay                                                                          | 824866           |
| Ladies' Lunch Group                       | Rosemarie Wigley                                                                     | 371478           |
|                                           | Susan Maltin                                                                         | 371400           |
| Mobile Library                            |                                                                                      | 0845 345 9177    |
| MP                                        | David Warburton                                                                      | 0207 219 5225    |
| North Cheriton & District                 |                                                                                      |                  |
| Gardeners Society                         | Pat Holmes                                                                           | 370017           |
| Parish Council                            | David Chapman                                                                        | 370527           |
| <b>St John's Church</b>                   |                                                                                      |                  |
| Rector                                    | Rev. Peter Hallett                                                                   | 362266           |
| Wardens                                   | Anne Jones &<br>Rosemarie Wigley                                                     | 370626<br>371478 |
| Sunday School                             | Deirdre Loftus                                                                       | 370091           |
| Scouts                                    | Geoff Crabb                                                                          | 370623           |
| Social Services                           |                                                                                      | 0845 345 9133    |
| South Somerset District Council           |                                                                                      | 01935 462462     |
| U3A                                       | Jean Lindley                                                                         | 251256           |
| Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) |                                                                                      | 602500           |
| Wincanton Town Council                    |                                                                                      | 31693            |
| W.I.                                      | Jackie Pyne                                                                          | 370713           |
| <b>Village Hall</b>                       | <a href="http://www.horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk">www.horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk</a> |                  |
| Chair                                     | John Macdonald                                                                       | 370444           |
| Bookings                                  | Emilie Gordon                                                                        | 371396           |
| Art                                       | Gill Elston &<br>Alison Clements                                                     | 370236<br>370866 |
| Badminton                                 | Frank Beach                                                                          | 370767           |
| Dance                                     | Louise Holliday                                                                      | 362689           |
| Football                                  | Keith Norman                                                                         | 370332           |
| Pilates                                   | Carol Pirie                                                                          | 07885 798032     |
| Upholstery                                | Jean Powell                                                                          | 01747 841126     |