

The Horsington & South Cheriton *Villager*

Issue No. 9

February 2012



Village Phone Box

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info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk by noon on 10th February 2012

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www.wincantonwindow.co.uk and click on the 'Villages' link

Events Diary February 2012

Day/Date	Time	Event	Time	Event	Venue
Wed 1st	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing			Village Hall
	8.45pm	Music Night			Half Moon Inn
Thu 2nd	10.00am	Art	1.30pm	Art	Village Hall
	7.30pm	WI Fire Brigade talk on Safety			"
Fri 3rd	10.00am	Art			"
Mon 6th	Lunch	Ladies Lunch Group			The Old Inn, Holton
	6.00pm	Pilates			Village Hall
Tue 7th	10.30am	Upholstery			"
	6.30pm	Bridge Night			Half Moon Inn
	8.00pm	Badminton			Village Hall
Wed 8th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing			"
Thu 9th	10.00am	Art	1.30pm	Art	"
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting			"
Fri 10th	10.00am	Art			"
Mon 13th	6.00pm	Pilates			"
Tue 14th	10.30am	Upholstery			"
	6.30pm	Bridge Night			Half Moon Inn
	7.30pm	North Cheriton Gardeners' Society			North Cheriton Village Hall
	8.00pm	Badminton			Village Hall
Wed 15th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing			"
Thu 16th	10.00am	Art	1.30pm	Art	"
Fri 17th	10.00am	Art			"
Mon 20th	6.00pm	Pilates			"
Tue 21st	10.30am	Upholstery			"
	6.30pm	Bridge Night			Half Moon Inn
	8.00pm	Badminton			Village Hall
Wed 22nd	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing			"
	7.45pm	Film: Knowing (2009)			King Arthurs
Thu 23rd	10.00am	Art	1.30pm	Art	Village Hall
Fri 24th	10.00am	Art			"
Mon 27th	6.00pm	Pilates			"
Tue 28th	10.30am	Upholstery			"
	6.30pm	Bridge Night			Half Moon Inn
	8.00pm	Badminton			Village Hall
Wed 29th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing			"

PURCHASE OF VILLAGE TELEPHONE BOXES BY PARISH COUNCIL

If you have any ideas for their future use please contact: info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk

Paddy Hughes and his Fundraising

By John Vallins



Paddy Hughes is an Ulsterman by birth, the son of a notable Battle of Britain pilot, later Air Marshal, who won a unique collection of medals for bravery. Paddy, himself a prize winner at RAF Cranwell, fighter pilot, ski-racer, and award-winning film producer, is conscious of owing much to his father's example.

Horsington folk are likely to know Paddy best through the remarkable entertainments he has arranged in the village, with their rare, but infallibly successful, non-stop combination of opera, comic verse, popular song, monologue, classical piano solo, and whatever else his cast of highly accomplished friends, assembled from London or nearer home, can offer. That such a diverse collection of people and talents can be assembled in one small Somerset village on one weekend, and, with no time for rehearsal, achieve a seamless variety show to suit all tastes, and send everyone home smiling, must say something special about the organiser.

But the creation of these concerts sprang from the sad loss of Alfie Morland, son of Paddy and Anthea's daughter, Lucy, and her husband, Rob. Alfie was born in January 2007 and died five months later, on 25 June, of a brain tumour. His parents wanted to find a charity to fund and remember him by, and decided on the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust (SDBTT), which has created the dedicated **Alfie Jack Morland Fund**, which the parents can direct towards whichever aspect of the Trust's work they choose.

The Horsington concerts are just one of the happenings that the family have created in Alfie's memory, with the guiding principle that his life, however short, will be the source of good. Mini-rugby at London Irish Rugby club's London ground yielded £2,300 from a bucket collection, and senior matches have produced even more. Local supermarkets have been helpful in allowing collections which produce sums around £1,000 a time. Paddy has been to his old schools in London and Belfast, to the RAF College at Cranwell, and to his old No1 Fighter squadron at Wittering, as well as RNAS Yeovilton, and all have been generous. There have been fashion shows, and there was the Lands End to John O'Groats cycle ride; Rob, Alfie's father, and two friends undertook the sponsored ride, with Paddy in the support Landrover. Rob is a civil engineer, and some construction companies were contributors. The cyclists encountered extraordinary acts of generosity from folk they chanced to encounter on their way. A man on a camp-site said that at last he had found the destination for his long-hoarded bottle of coins.

Every penny, says Paddy, makes Alfie's life worthwhile, and the pennies so far have added up to £90,000.

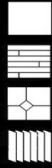


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Garden Watch

By Muddy Wellies

THE FEBRUARY GARDEN

By the time you read this we will hopefully be enjoying the emergence of fresh green shoots and spring flowers, or we could be under a blanket of snow!

This is a good time to check the garden for those jobs you never quite got round to earlier, cleaning cloches and pots will make things easier when you need them. I use some washing up liquid in hot water together with a drop or two of disinfectant, and use an old washing up brush to get into the joins and ridges. Make sure pots are drained and dry before stacking.

Check any stored fruit and veg, discarding any that are rotting or diseased to prevent spread. Check dahlia tubers, throw out any that show signs of rot. Continue to firm in any newly planted roses, trees and shrubs. Deciduous trees, shrubs and hedges can still be planted this month if the weather is mild, as can new tree or bush fruits, and lilies or roses that have been delivered late. Indoor flowering bulbs can be planted out.

Prune crab apples now, remove any inward growing and badly shaped shoots. Towards the end of the month provided your garden is sheltered and the weather mild, pruning of shrub roses can start, remove a third of the oldest (woodiest) growth to encourage new shoots. Thin out repeating flowering ramblers growing through trees, it is easier to see what needs removing when neither tree, nor rose has leaves. **DO NOT PRUNE** non-repeat flowering climbers and ramblers. Prune back miniature roses by half, removing any dead and frost damaged shoots.

Fork over beds for spring planting/sowing and, unless manured in autumn, rake in a top dressing of bonemeal or general fertilizer (if you have read this page before you will know that I favour Growmore!) Tidy up lawn edges. Sow sweet peas outdoors where they are to grow, at the end of February. Chit early potatoes, place end up in an egg tray to sprout. Spray peaches and nectarines, once the buds begin to swell, against leaf curl. Mulch all newly planted tree, bush and cane fruit. Cut down autumn fruiting raspberries to about 9”(23cms) and tip back summer raspberries to just above the top wire to which they are tied. Cover strawberries with cloches (the ones you just cleaned are ideal) for an earlier crop.

Garden Snippets

Here are a few snippets of information that I have picked up and thought I would pass on. If anybody has any they would like to add, and I am sure you have, then please send direct to the Magazine, and hopefully we can pass them on in true village fashion.

Straight lawn edges – If like me you struggle to get straight edges to your lawn, the easiest way is to place a plank on the grass where you wish to cut the edge. Stand on it to hold firmly in place and cut along its length to get your straight edge. From the safety side it should save both your toes, and a lot of stress as you rip clods of grass from the edges!

Roses in winter – Pick roses for the table, if you need them for a special occasions pick well in advance if bad weather is forecast, as the buds are beginning to open, and place carefully in the freezer. Remove in good time, allow them to gently defrost, give them a drink and arrange as normal for your table.



Bell Ringing

By Anna Piechna

Have you ever given church bell ringing a thought? You probably hear the bells ringing for Sunday service and on practice nights, so here is a brief detail of what it all entails.

Bell ringing as we do it is a very English art and dates back over 400 yrs. The bell is rung in the “mouth upwards” position, by pulling a rope that is attached to a wheel, which then sends the bell swinging 360 degrees. A lot of rope is taken up on the wheel on one revolution and not much on the next revolution. This means the ringer has to get used to handling the rope differently for each revolution. The bell does not strike straight away either. Just to add to the complication, it strikes as the rope comes back up past your nose.

Once all that is mastered we move on to change ringing. The change ringing we talk about is produced by numbering the bells 1–6. When rung one behind each other 1 2 3 4 5 6 this is called rounds. If we change the order the bells ring to 2 1 4 3 6 5, this is one change. We aim to ring around 120 changes with rows of numbers all changing to a pattern. For any Radio 4 fans of “Just a Minute” you could say we aim to ring without deviation or repetition, but for a good bit longer than one minute!

You do not have to be religious to ring, and a lot of us are not, but churches do encourage bell ringers. We are lucky at Horsington to have several youngsters from 11–14, but we would love more ringers of any age. It is a very social hobby, and we all have great fun. If you think you might be interested give me or Rosemarie a ring or come and watch a practice night on Tuesdays, which alternate between Horsington and Templecombe.

Anna Piechna Tel: 370749

Rosemarie Wigley Tel: 371478

St. John’s Church, Horsington. An historic building – Rather out of sight?

By Jane Jones

Our church is available to everyone in both villages whether you go there once a year at Christmas or occasionally for a wedding, funeral or Christening or not at all. The school holds delightful services there quite regularly and there are some excellent talks and concerts.

Many people contribute and give meaning to this spacious and rather beautiful building whether or not they are church-goers. There are flower arrangers, bellringers and church cleaners not to mention the Parochial Church Council and all the hard work they do to keep the church building and services in good order.

This article is not from the PCC, nor is it an appeal for money but rather a reminder that the church building is a whole village concern and to let everyone know what is going on. At present, thanks to many people’s generosity in attending fund raising activities, plans are well under way for the installation of mains water, a servery and toilet. Permission for some aspects of this work is being negotiated. The heating system is already greatly improved with the addition of under pew heating. There is also a sound system with loop facility to help anyone who is hard of hearing or to amplify the children’s voices in the school service.

The aim is to pass the church on to those who follow in as good a state of repair as possible so that with the modernisation already carried out it may find a wider community use. If anyone has any ideas or comments please email on info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk

A Year in Governance

By Carly Markendale

I have been a Parent Governor for approximately 18 months. Having previously worked in schools, I considered myself relatively skilled at the hands-on side of education but knew comparably little of the managerial aspect of school life.

I quickly became aware of the amount of reading that would be required. The text associated with governance is heavy going. It is no easy task to understand and retain it, particularly when trying to fit it in around home life. Half way through a paragraph, momentum will be lost when the phone goes, or the pre-schooler decides she absolutely must have the paints out NOW.

As a new Governor, I was warned not to be daunted by jargon. Indeed, it took months for me to learn my SEFs from my SIPs and there is still plenty more to learn.

During my first year in the position I was cautious about taking on too much. I joined a few committees and allowed myself time to take the experience in. I watched the experienced governors, tried to keep up with the reading and attempted to familiarise myself with the school policies which are so central to the work of the Governors.

That first year flew by and now as I embark on my second, I am trying to take on more responsibility. I now (rather nervously) call myself Chair of one small committee and have joined another in the hope of expanding my knowledge.

In this political climate, the Governing Body has some serious decisions to undertake. In this era of Ofsted and Academy Status, there is more to the role than being friendly with teaching staff and observing the occasional lesson. I can't help feeling in total awe of our experienced Governors and the knowledge they have. For now, I'll concentrate on my own little challenges – tomorrow I shall tackle the photocopier!

So what has been my biggest challenge to date? Oddly enough, it is not the reading, the jargon or the juggling with daily life. It is maintaining a balance between the words 'parent' and 'governor'. As a parent, it is normal to judge the school in relation to your own child. As a Governor, I have to see beyond my own children and see the whole school community. It can be difficult to examine school policies without holding your own child at the heart of them.

Being a Governor has enabled me to spend more time in school, working closely with staff and pupils. It is this opportunity to see Horsington through fresh eyes that I value the most and I hope that in time, I can help shape the future of our lovely little school.

**Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington
at 8.45pm on Wednesday 1st February**

Please come and join us, play and sing whilst enjoying a beer; free apart from drinks.

Further details from Anna 01963 370749

The Wincanton Film Society Presents

“Knowing (2009)”.

Wednesday 22nd February 2012 - 7.45pm

Thriller: Nicolas Cage, Chandler Canterbury. Director Alex Proyas. A teacher opens a time capsule that has been dug up at his son’s school. There are some chilling predictions – some (only some) that have already occurred. Others remain...

**For further information contact Les Graney on 01963 371668



**Contact: Mrs Jackie Pyne: 01963 370713
Thursday 2nd February–Fire Brigade talk on Safety**

NORTH CHERITON AND DISTRICT GARDENERS’ SOCIETY
*Rejuvenating Your Garden on 14th February at 7.30 pm at
The North Cheriton Village Hall*

The speaker is Gardeners' World Horticultural Editor David Hurrion

New members always welcome, come along or call **Pat Holmes** (Secretary) on **01963 370017**

PUB QUIZ

Saturday 18th February at 8pm at
The Half Moon Inn

£5 per head (to include Ploughman's Supper)

Maximum 6 persons per team

Tickets available from The Half Moon or School Office



All proceeds to Horsington Primary School PTFA

Review by John Fleming of the talk on 19th Century Darkest Africa

St John's, Horsington, was privileged to welcome Colonel John Blashford-Snell, founder of Operation Raleigh, for a riveting talk entitled '19th Century Darkest Africa.' This was the story of two remarkable men, both from humble origins who became renowned explorers: Dr David Livingstone and Sir Henry Morton Stanley.

Stanley, a reporter for the *New York Herald*, joined General Napier on the Abyssinian Expedition to free hostages from King Theodore in Magdala (they were taken because, as King of the World, his proposal of marriage to Queen Victoria, as Queen of the World, had been ignored by the Foreign Office). Steep valleys and unbearable heat made the journey a logistic nightmare as elephants, camels, horses & mules were needed to carry their equipment and supplies. A road & railway had to be constructed, seawater needed to be distilled which required tons of coal. Stanley was the first to break the news of the successful outcome which prompted his editor to commission him to go to Zanzibar 'to find Livingstone' who had not been heard of for several years. He negotiated swamps, bush fires, rapids, unfriendly natives, disease, a buffalo attack and a lucky escape from Tipu Tim, the notorious slave procurer, and having no idea where Livingstone was, it was miraculous that he should stumble upon him in 1871 with the words 'Dr Livingstone I presume.' Livingstone had not seen a white man for 5½ years. Stanley had many more adventures & eventually discovered the source of the Nile. He became an M.P.

Livingstone was the first white man to see the Victoria Falls. He was anti slave trade and had gone to Africa as a missionary. Although he tried hard he managed to convert only one native! He died in Africa and two servants in an unimaginable feat brought his body back to England wrapped up in a carpet. The English were sceptical and wanted proof that it was really him. On inspecting the body the pathologist noticed teeth marks on his shoulder from a lion attack which was a verifiable story.

Both men were buried in Westminster Abbey.

Col. Blashford-Snell has acquired the Magic Lantern Slides which Stanley used for his popular talks to the British public and these were the slides he used for his talk. It was an enthralling evening rounded off by high quality eats which delighted everyone judging by their complimentary remarks.

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Dear friends,

Greetings One and All - and Happy New Year.

I am not sure how surprised I should have been - but surprised I was - when listening to news reports just before Christmas - and to some extent since. We were told, and told again, how the retailers depend on us all spending ourselves silly for their survival. There's not too many surprises in learning the people who survive by selling stuff want us to buy it. The surprise for me lies in the context: we are in a time of recession; we are told that our levels of personal debt are too high; and now - to save the universe (okay, just the UK economy) - we have to spend, spend, spend!

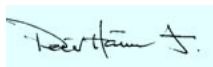
It seems to me that in some Orwellian fashion our humanity is being redefined as producers (do we actually produce anything anymore?) and consumers. Our welfare as individuals, communities and a nation depends on our consuming. So - back to news reports - we are constantly told about how sales and/or profits are up or down.

There's not too much joy in poverty - but riches don't satisfy either. Some years ago the then Bishop of Winchester wrote a book called *Enough is Enough*. He argued that we should learn to be content with 'enough'. Jesus asked, What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but lose his soul?

I hope that we, including me, can rediscover our humanity as those who bear God's image - and the true fulfilment that can come from living in the world with each other in accord with that.

Peter Hallett

halatvic@btinternet.com



Horsington Churchwardens: Mrs Anne Jones – 370626 Mrs Rosemarie Wigley - 371478

St Mary, Abbas & Templecombe

Feb 5

11am All Age Worship

Feb 12

9.30am Holy Communion

Feb 19

11am Morning Praise

Feb 22, Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion at Horsington

Feb 26

9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas, Henstridge

Feb 5

11am Sing Glory! Worship for all ages

6.30pm Evensong

Feb 12

9.30am Holy Communion

Feb 19

11am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Evensong

Feb 22, Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion at Horsington

Feb 26

11am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Horsington

Feb 5

9.15am Holy Communion with Sunday School

Feb 12

11am Morning Prayer

Feb 19

9.15am Holy Communion

Feb 22, Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Holy Communion

Feb 26

8.30am Holy Communion

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Birdwatch

By Keith Davies

Last winter a trip to New Zealand for family reasons led to some serious birding! Kaikoura, on the east coast of South Island, is the best place in the world to view sea birds. Its deep underwater canyon produces an upwelling of nutrients that sustains a vibrant food chain. This attracts whales, dolphins and sea birds. Boat trips give close views and we saw five different species of Albatross. We also witnessed a huge passage of Sooty and Buller's Shearwaters off Bluff at the southern tip of South Island. More boat trips in Fiordland and the Marlborough Sounds gave views of the rare Crested Penguin and endemic King Shag. And during walks at dusk we saw Blue Penguins and Yellow-eyed Penguins as they returned to their burrows for the night.

Salvin's Albatross



Royal Albatross



Review by Toby Jones of John Vallins's book Wessex Diaries; sketches from life in Hardy Country

It's standard etiquette when reviewing a book to declare if you know the author. That way the reader is made aware that you might be burying a hatchet or else scratching a back. Horsington's not so huge that I could fail to know John Vallins but I've got no back-scratcher and certainly no hatchet.

His *Wessex Diaries* is a gentle, appreciative, inquisitive book about what he calls "sturdy, Somerset country-folk" and their surrounds. A selection of his columns from the *Guardian*, the book is divided into the four seasons and offers glimpses of long-forgotten customs and words: there are allusions to dulcimers, "pleachers", pig-keeping parsons, "peening", cop-picing and so on. John always manages to eulogise ancient crafts and techniques, talking about, for example, the scythe's superiority over the strimmer. What emerges from the book is the sheer variety of activities that go on in this county and the richness of our traditions. And yet, through concentrating on small, specific aspects of the West Country, the book also becomes unexpectedly universal, with references to intriguing organisations like Men of the Trees.

It's often much harder to be succinct than loquacious, but John's got economy and precision down to a fine art. He makes it look easy. And, perhaps most admirably, he's never judgemental: yes, he justly calls a modern bus-stop "mean", but when meeting travellers on the marsh he simply looks and listens, describes and empathises. He's a modern William Cobbett, with the difference that, hopefully, he won't do a two year stretch in prison.

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ANSWERS TO CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2011
HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR VILLAGES?
With grateful thanks to Quiz Master Gill Elston

1. **FOURTEEN**
2. **THE HORSINGTON CROSS**
3. **RIVER CALE**
4. **LOVE CONQUERS ALL**
5. **A STONE DEVIL**
6. **SUFFOLK**
7. **QUEEN VICTORIA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE (1887)**
8. **THE GRANGE**
9. **HEDGE OR FENCE**
10. **A HANDSHAKE, TWO HANDS, CLASPED HANDS**

If I agreed with you, we would both be wrong.



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

CATBUS Service by Sue Morgan



Have you discovered our local bus? Twice last year I was unable to drive for a spell and delighted to experience the splendid service which is our Community Accessible Transport bus. This is a door to door service for people who do not live on a public transport route and who are unable to drive themselves. It is free to the over 60s in possession of a Bus Pass, but **any age group** living 'in the sticks' can make use of it. For full details and to book a suitable day and time phone **01963 33864** when the bright lights of Templecombe, Milborne Port, Wincanton or Castle Cary are readily accessible. Each time I have been the only passenger which seems a shame and like so many things if we don't use it we may lose it. The drivers are extremely helpful with shopping if weight is a problem, punctual and all done with a smile. What if one day was designated shopping day for our village and we all went *en masse*? It could even be fun!

Bridge in Horsington

If anybody is interested in playing Bridge again in Horsington then they should know that it has restarted.

Every **Tuesday** in **The Half Moon at 6.30pm** there will be friendly and sociable Bridge played. This coincides in the Winter with the Curry Nights where a selection of Curries at discount prices will be available.

Please do come along and join in. **Bridge players of all abilities and ages are welcome.**

I will attempt to partner new members so feel free to come on your own.

If you are interested then please ring me: **Phil Bennett on 01963 370273**



Apologies: In our December/January issue on page 19, errors were made with the following names: - Mr Price should have been Mr Brice (Headmaster) and Mr Courtney should have been Rodger Courtney not Rodney.

CONTACT LIST

(all phone numbers start with 01963 unless otherwise stated)

NAME	CONTACT	TEL NO
Bellringing	Anna Piechna	370749
Buses (local)		0871 2002233
Citizens Advice Bureau, Yeovil		01935 421167
CATBUS Service		33864
Doctors Surgeries	Milborne Port (inc Templecombe)	250334
	Wincanton Health Centre	435700
Horsington Primary School	Head/Secretary	370358
Governors	Vicky Franklin	370699
PTFA	Sue Young	31915
Marsh Meadows Nursery	Mary Taylor	370607
Mobile Library		0845 345 9177
MP	David Heath CBE	01373 473618
Mums & Tots	Carly Markendale	371068
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
Ladies Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
	Susan Maltin	371400
Sunday School	Anne Jones	370626
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	Julie Gripper
	Bookings	Emilie Gordon Head
Art		Nick Andrew
Badminton		Frank Beach
Dance		Louise Holliday
Football		Simon Howell
Pilates		Carol Pirie
Upholstery		Jean Powell