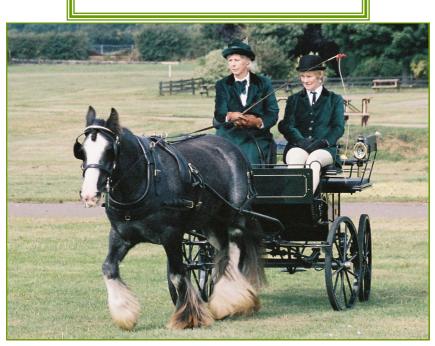
The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

Issue No. 20

March 2013



Anne Jones with Fran Eastwood and Duchess at a show

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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk by noon on 7th March 2013

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 <u>www.wincantonwindow.co.uk</u> and click on the 'Villages' link.

Events Diary March 2013

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Fri 1st	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Mon 4th	Lunch	Ladies Lunch Group The Red Lie	on, Kilmington
	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 5th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 6th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
	8.45pm	Music Night	Half Moon Inn
Thu 7th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
	7.30pm	WI	"
Fri 8th	10.00am	Art	"
Sun 10th	4.00pm	Talk on General Sir Richard McCreery by Richard Mead	l Horsington
		Followed by Cream Tea	Church
Mon 11th	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 12th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	7.30pm	North Cheriton Gardeners' Society North Cherito	on Village Hall
	8.00pm	Badminton	Village Hall
Wed 13th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 14th	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	"
Fri 15th	10.00am	Art	"
Sat 16th	7.00pm	Village Hall Fundraiser Dinner	"
Mon 18th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 19th	8.00pm	Badminton	"
	7.30pm	Film: The Third Man	King Arthurs
Wed 20th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	Village Hall
Mon 25th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Wed 27th	2.45pm	School Easter Service Hors	sington Church
	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	Village Hall
Thu 28th	-	End of School Term	-

Future Event:Villager Magazine Coffee Morning on Saturday 13th April
at 11.00am in the Village Hall.

Cover photograph by Jess Eastwood

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Anne Jones' Ponies

by John Vallins (By kind permission of Editor of *The Guardian*, July 2009)

For a good many years, a glance down into the valley below where we live has shown us three ponies in a paddock enjoying an apparently settled and sociable life together. Duchess is a 13-year-old Dale/Fell cross, Dusky a New Forest pony of 33, and Crumble a 27-year-old Shetland. But last year Duchess was introduced to Bashful Bobby Dazzler, a traditional cob stallion with a temperament so gentle that even a child may lead him out, a strikingly handsome appearance and a tally of many prizes at the shows.

The resulting pregnancy was Duchess's first, and she was healthy and characteristically placid throughout the 11 months. Towards the end, a camera was set up in her stall to monitor progress. At 5.30am on 18th March, she was sleeping peacefully, so the camera was switched off. At 7am she was again seen to be sleeping peacefully, but now there was a bright-eyed foal beside her. The foal, white with darker patches, took more of her appearance from the piebald stallion than from the roan mare. Duchess showed no anxiety about human contact with her young, named Dazzling Princess, but now the threesome was a foursome, its dynamic changed.

Dusky at first took such a close and friendly interest in the foal that Duchess was uneasy, so mother and foal were kept apart from the others for a day or two. Princess could wander with her mother, gallop, or kick up her heels while the others watched. But very soon the four were at ease together, Princess and Dusky often grooming each other, and all of them competing joyously in the evening stampede when called in by their owner. Princess's markings are getting darker, almost chocolate brown. She is nearly as tall as her mother and almost as handsome as her father. Maybe she too will have a future at the shows.

Update from Anne in January this year

Time has moved on! Sadly the Shetland pony, Crumble, died in her sleep in October 2010. Duchess, the Dales X Fell pony is currently driven as often as possible. When driving out, my friend Fran East-wood comes along as my very helpful and witty assistant! For safety reasons we need two of us present. Dazzling Princess, rising four years old, is now higher than her mother. She has been ridden and is learning the ropes for her future driving career!

Dusky, the 37 year old pony, is now enjoying retirement, having been our first driving pony from the age of 5.

We enjoy taking people out for drives whenever possible, so if you have a burning desire to take a carriage drive then contact Anne on 370626.



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<u>Milborne Port Opera – Iolanthe</u> by Richard Gaunt

Milborne Port Opera presents Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe" at the Milborne Port Village Hall from Wednesday 3rd – Saturday 6th April (the week after Easter).

Why is this of interest to the readers of Horsington's "*Villager*" magazine? Well, some of the performers live here, others have performed at Paddy Hughes' evenings at the Village Hall, and some live locally in Wincanton, Templecombe and Yenston, and are known to many of us. Furthermore, over the years the MPO has acquired a regular and loyal following from Horsington, who joyously turn the car park into a cross between a Glyndeborne cocktail party and a village point-to -point. More importantly, this outfit wins awards and gets great reviews for its performances, singing and set design. It's a good, entertaining, low cost, local evening out.

This year's show is a Gilbert & Sullivan favourite, "Iolanthe", known for its great tunes and a typically Gilbertian "topsy turvy" plot. If you must know, it's about the House of Lords being taken over by a load of fairies (yes really), which gives plenty of scope for biting satire and some good jokes. With House of Lords reform in the air, it's still very relevant today.

Horsington resident and MPO stalwart Chris Bailward is the producer and performs in the chorus. Richard Gaunt makes his fifth appearance with the MPO, this time relegated to the back of the chorus, where to the astonishment of his wife he will demonstrate *multitasking* – singing, in tune, in time, acting, moving, dancing and, hopefully, remembering the next bit. Who says men can't do it? The cast also includes wonderful soprano Jessie Copper, amazing contralto Sara Bignell, the classy Andrew Armstrong and the dazzling Kiddle sisters from Templecombe. Milborne Port is but a ten minute drive away.

Book your tickets from <u>boxoffice@milborneportopera.co.uk</u> or telephone 07926 983585. Tickets are $\pounds 10$ with $\pounds 8$ concessions on Wednesday and Thursday. If you are, thanks for coming and supporting us.



Milborne Port Opera Company in rehearsal



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Bird Watch at Empire Farm by Keith Davies

On our border with the Parish of Abbas and Templecombe is the fascinating Empire Farm. It is run by Sally and Adrian Morgan who have carried out much restoration work since they bought it in 2004. It is now a Soil Association credited organic farm of about one hundred acres. The livestock consists of Geese, Turkey, Poultry, Pigs and Sheep. These include traditional and rare breeds that Sally and Adrian are keen to promote.

No fertilisers, pesticides or weed killers are used. And there is a low stocking density to avoid putting too much nitrogen back into the grassland. The result is increased biodiversity and this is very beneficial for birds. Specific measures are also taken to benefit wildlife. Thus wild bird seed mixtures are planted to provide winter food and the cutting of tussocky margins is left until late in the year to benefit Reed Buntings in particular. Hedges have been allowed to thicken up. A new lake has been created, four existing ponds deepened and a wildflower meadow has been planted. There is more to come with the planting of an orchard and woodland.

Sally has recorded Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Teal, Snipe and Woodcock. And in 2009 a bird survey was carried out by the RSPB and a further forty six species of birds were recorded. Seven of these were red listed species - that is birds that are of most conservation concern because their numbers have more than halved over the last twenty five years. These were Starling, Cuckoo, Herring Gull, House Sparrow, Linnet and Skylark. The Starling in particular is in a very steep and rapid decline in its UK breeding population.

Whilst the main part of the farm is not accessible to walkers, there are footpaths that run across a number of the fields. And Throop Road takes you past the front of the farm. Thus there are opportunities to see many of the farmland birds. There is a circular walk starting from Horsington Church and heading north east before joining the path that runs back south west towards Abbas Combe. However, the return walk involves negotiating a small stretch of the A357 along Tower Hill and this requires some care.

There is an excellent website at <u>www.empirefarm.co.uk</u> providing a wealth of information on the farm and the wide range of courses held there. These include Smallholding, Butchery, Cider Making and Preserving.

Reed Bunting





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<u>Farm Watch</u> by Chris Bailward

LEO OR ARIES?

The reputation of the month of March to come in with the strength of a lion but exit with the nature of a lamb is usually proved approximately right but the weather that we have experienced for the last 12 months has been so unusual that 2013 may prove a rule-breaker and I have more or less resigned myself to another difficult farming year.

As I write this towards the end of January we are experiencing seasonal snow and freezing temperatures, although we appear to have escaped lightly compared with the north and east of the country. Amongst the many problems farmers have faced this year is the inability to get onto the land to carry out the most basic of tasks. Farmyard manure has had to be piled up, waiting for the opportunity to apply it to plough or pasture and slurry tanks and lagoons are dangerously full.

Much of the land has suffered from compaction because of the need to harvest last year's crops in terrible conditions and this will have a negative effect upon the ability of the land to produce well in 2013. Once the land has dried to the point when heavy machinery can be safely used, the ground can be aerated with soil slitters and sub-soilers to lift and break the soil so that root growth is less restricted but, of course, this is an additional cost and takes time.

In the Blackmore Vale very little land has been planted with crops to stand through the winter and there will be a rush to get on and plant spring crops if and when (DV), the ground dries out. This has made the life of the seedsmen difficult: certain varieties of wheat, oats and barley are bred to be planted in the autumn and stand through the winter so that they are well established to take advantage of the longer days and warmth that greets them in the Spring. These are generally referred to as Winter cereals and cannot be safely planted in the Spring because they require a cold period to flower properly. Therefore in a year such as we have just experienced there will be a large quantity of winter seed that was cleaned and dressed but which will not make it into the soil. On the other hand there will, almost certainly, be a shortage of seed suitable for Spring sowing, which may result in areas of land that are not planted or, possibly, put to a different use such as grass or maize.

The grass that was made into silage last year was of generally poor quality because it was harvested late, so it has become poor fodder for cattle, and beef farmers are reporting that calves from their suckler cows are being weaned up to 50kgs lighter than last year because of the low condition of their mothers. This has a knock-on effect on the fertility of the cows who can have problems with conception because of their poor body condition. To counteract this farmers have had to feed supplementary rations which have added considerably to their costs. At least beef prices are healthy so there is a bit of profit to soak up the extra costs but dairy farmers have seen little change in the price they are paid for milk whilst their costs have increased. The one sector of agriculture that has seen no improvement in price but a huge increase in costs is pigs which are now losing money so catastrophically that farmers are leaving the industry in droves rather than lose £30 or more for each pig they rear. It will not be long before the UK is devoid of a commercial pig industry, with a handful of specialist rearers catering for the few people who enjoy good pork produced to high welfare standards.

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w: www.otteryantiques.co.uk

Dear Friends, Greetings. I have always loved a story told by the economist, E.F. Schumacher in the introduction to one of his books: He recounts the time when he was walking in a field and he met God. He asked God "is it true that one of your days is like a thousand of our years?" "Yes," God replied. "Is it also true then," Schumacher asked, "that one of your pennies is like a million of our pounds?" Once again God replied, "Yes." Seizing the moment, Schumacher asked, "May I have one of your pennies?" God replied instantly, "Yes." but then continued, "just a minute."

This month we celebrate Easter. For Christians this is at the heart of our faith. When God acts in power to raise Jesus from the dead then everything is changed. Jesus is not just resuscitated – but he is completely, physically transformed. Death slides off him. It has no further hold on him. For those of you who watch Brian Cox – this is the great undoing of entropy. The great reversal from disorder to order. The universe will not just collapse into greater and greater disorder. But Jesus resurrection is the beginning of God the Creator making all things new. Why is he taking so long? To which his reply can only be, "Just a minute!"

Peter Hallett - halatvic @btinternet.com

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Horsington

Churchwardens

St John the Baptist, Horsington3rd March 9.15amHoly Communion with Sunday School10th March 11.00amMorning Prayer17th March 9.15amHoly Communion

17th March 9.15am	Holy Communion	Mrs Anne Jones 3/0626
24th March 10.00am	Palm Sunday United Benefice at Henstridge. Meet	Mrs Rosemarie Wigley
	at Henstridge Village Hall to process to the Church	371478
28th March 7.30pm	A simple celebration of Holy Communion	
	Maundy Thursday to remember the Last Supper	
29th March 7.00pm	Good Friday A Service of Hymns & Readings	
31st March 9.15am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion	

St Nicholas, Henstridge

Holy Communion (BCP)		
Sing Glory! Worship for all ages		
Holy Communion		
Holy Communion		
Palm Sunday United Benefice Service.		
Meet at Village Hall to process to the church		
A simple celebration of Holy Communion in Horsington Church		
Maundy Thursday to remember the Last Supper		
Good Friday The Passion of our Lord in Word and Music		
Easter Sunday Holy Communion for all ages		
we are encouraging folk to go to the Lent Talks in Templecombe Church		

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe

3rd March 11.00am	All Age Worship
10th March 9.30am	Holy Communion
17th March 11.00am	Morning Praise
24th March 10.00am	Palm Sunday United Benefice Service at Henstridge
	Meet at Henstridge Village Hall to process to the Church
28th March 7.30pm	A simple celebration of Holy Communion in Horsington Church
· ·	Maundy Thursday to remember the Last Supper
29th March 10.00am	Good Friday Worship for all ages
31st March 9.15am	Easter Sunday Holy Communion



ONE RELAXED SNOWMAN AT SOUTH CHERITON CREATED BY WILL JACKSON

Somerset Community Oil Scheme

by Jason Tinley, Somerset Community Oil Scheme Administrator

We are writing to update you regarding a money-saving scheme offered by the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) that is bringing significant benefit to people across Somerset.

The Somerset Community Oil Scheme kicks off its second year by saving our members in Somerset a total of £10,181.33 in the first four months, that's 5.75% of the total cost! This is on top of the £18,902.44 we save our members in our first year. Overall on average we have saved our members 4.46 pence per litre (over our 16 purchases).

You can find our Oct-Jan press release here - www.somersetrcc.org.uk/oil/update

An introduction to the scheme and our first year savings can be found here – <u>www.somersetrcc.org.uk/oil/oneyearon</u>

Further information can be found here - www.somersetrcc.org.uk/oil

LOCAL MAN COMES TO THE RESCUE

On the 30th January I attempted to drive through the floods on Marsh Lane (yes I can hear you all saying how silly this is). I have driven through them before and living off Marsh Lane and having had so much rain lately I thought I had become an expert on what I could and couldn't get away with regards the floods here. I was therefore surprised when my car spluttered to a stop mid way through and left me stranded. Luckily for me a knight in shining armour (aka man on a red quad bike) came to my rescue after about 20 minutes and pushed me through the floods and onto a nearby verge. I didn't get his name but he said that he worked at Horsington Manor. I would just like to say a huge thank you and that I most certainly owe you a drink.

Having lived here for two years now I can say that although the floods never fail to frustrate me, the friendliness of those in the village never has. Thanks again.

Emma Ward - Maltkiln Hill Farm

Village Hall Dinner 16 March 2013 7pm for 7.30



In keeping with the St Patrick's Day theme we will be serving a main course of Irish Stew with a traditional side dish. There will be a vegetarian dish provided.

The cost of a ticket is £12.50 a head Includes starter and main courses.

Please bring your own bottle and a pudding (optional)

All proceeds raised go towards funds for the running of the Hall.

Tickets available from John Macdonald 01963 370444

Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington at 8.45pm on Wednesday March 6th

Please come and join us, play and sing whilst enjoying a beer. Free, apart from drinks. Further details from **Anna - 01963 370749**

Women's World Day of Prayer Service will this year be held in Templecombe United Reformed Church at 2.30 p.m. on Friday 1st March. The subject is "Praying for France" and the Speaker will be Revd. Stella Hayton.

All are welcome, men, women and young people. Sheila Cross



7th March 2013 @ 7.30pm - St Margaret's Hall Speaker - Elizabeth Partridge

'The Magic of Herbs' (folklore and how it relates to today's usage of herbs.)

Contact: Mrs Jackie Pyne: 01963 370713

The Wincanton Film Society Presents

The Third Man - Our Classic Film (1949) G Tuesday March 19th at 7.30pm

Director Carol Reed. Orson Wells, Joseph Cotton and Trevor Howard.

In 1949 an American writer arrives in Vienna to visit his old friend Harry Lime. He is told Harry is dead and was a black marketer. Is Harry guilty? Is Harry dead?

For further information contact Les Graney on 01963 371668

NORTH CHERITON AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' SOCIETY

'Dahlia expert Bob Hendley will be returning to give a talk on propagating'

Tuesday March 12th at 7.30pm in North Cheriton Village Hall

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



The **Villager Magazine** will be hosting a **Coffee Morning** on 13th April in the Village Hall at 11.00am.

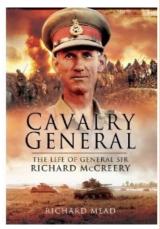
Please come and join us - we would love to see you all, your support is important to the magazine.

GENERAL SIR RICHARD McCREERY

"The Last Great Cavalry Man" Talk by the author, Richard Mead in St. John's Church, Horsington on Sunday 10th March at 4pm, followed by a cream tea

Suggested donation to the Roof Appeal, $\pounds 8$

General Sir Richard McCreery lived in Horsington at Stowell Hill until his death in 1967 and his wife



lived on there for many years. His sons, Bob and Jonathan, live in the village.

For Tickets phone 01963 371478 or available at the door.

A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.



CONTACT LIST (all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

NAME	CONTACT	TEL NO
Bellringing	Anna Piechna	370749
Bridge	Phil Bennett	370273
Buses (local)		0871 2002233
Citizens Advice Bureau, Yeov	il	01935 421167
CAT Bus Ring and Ride Servi		33864
	ne Port (inc Templecombe)	250334
	nton Health Centre	435700
Horsington Primary School	Head/Secretary	370358
Governors	Vicky Franklin	370699
PTFA	Lucy White	33953
Ladies' Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
1.	Susan Maltin	371400
Marsh Meadows Nursery	Mary Taylor	370607
Mobile Library	5 5	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	ŕ	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 Counc	zil	01935 462462
Wincanton Town Council		435010
W.I.	Jackie Pyne	370713
Village Hall Chair	John Macdonald	370444
Bookings	Emilie Gordon	371396
Art	Gill Elston &	370236
	Toni Salmonson	370235
Badminton	Frank Beach	370767
Dance	Louise Holliday	362689
Football	Simon Howell	07730 314959
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07885 798032
Upholstery	Jean Powell	01747 841126

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