The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

Issue No. 21

April 2013



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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk by noon on 12th April 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 April 2013

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Tue 2nd	8.00pm	Badminton	Village Hall
Wed 3rd	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
	8.45pm	Music Night	Half Moon Inn
Thu 4th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
	7.30pm	WI	"
Mon 8th	Lunch	Ladies Lunch Group	The White Hart, Sherborne
		(Please note date change as result of Bank	Holiday)
	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 9th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	7.30pm	North Cheriton Gardeners' Society	North Cheriton Village Hall
	8.00pm	Badminton	Village Hall
Wed 10th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 11th	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	
Fri 12th	10.00am	Art	
Sat 13th	11.00am	Villager Magazine Coffee Morning	"
Mon 15th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 16th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 17th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 18th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 19th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 22nd	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 23rd	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 24th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
	7.30pm	Film: Snow Cake	King Arthurs
Thu 25th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 26th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 29th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 30th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	8.00pm	Badminton	"



Coffee Morning at the Village Hall on Saturday 13th April at 11.00am Everybody welcome! Come and join us see old friends, meet new ones (and meet the Villager Team)

Cover photograph by Toby Jones

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Horsington Church of England Primary School

The Truth About School Dinners

by Carly Markendale

The words 'school dinners' fill many an adult with dread. The older generation are haunted by visions of lumpy custard, sloppy mash and soggy cabbage. For the younger of us, taste had improved but at the expense of health, with pizza and chips a regular staple.

Since Jamie Oliver went head to head with the turkey twizzler in 2005, there has been an increased drive for top quality school dinners that deliver on both taste and nutrition.

The media has followed closely the changes of school dinners. At first, schools were criticised for feeding children junk food and allowing vending machines on school property. A diet of burgers, Mars bars and Coca Cola is apparently not conducive to concentration and learning. After radical changes to the menu, the same schools were criticised for bringing in food so healthy it was apparently inedible for the modern child. Who knew that chicken existed in a form other than nuggets?! Journalists delighted in stories of desperate parents, poking chips through chain link fences, just to stop their poor darlings starving to death in protest over the salad bar.

Eight years later, sensationalism all but gone, what is the standard of modern school dinners and how can a little school such as Horsington provide hot meals at all, with no kitchen or dining hall on site?

The government guidance is relatively simple:

'All food in schools must meet nutritional standards so that children have healthy, balanced diets.

This means there must be:

high-quality meat, poultry or oily fish

at least 2 portions of fruit and vegetables with every meal

bread, other cereals and potatoes

There can't be:

fizzy drinks, crisps, chocolate or sweets in school meals and vending machines

more than 2 portions of deep-fried food a week'.

Parents have the choice of purchasing hot meals for their children or sending in packed lunches. A vegetarian alternative is offered. It is widely accepted that packed lunches contain much higher levels of fat, salt and sugar. Hot meals are only available to the children of Horsington three days each week. The food is not cooked on site as there is no professional kitchen at Horsington, but we are fortunate to receive excellent meals fresh from Marchant Holliday School in North Cheriton.

One criticism was made by inspectors a little while ago – we needed more fresh fish on the menu. We now offer fish pie as a regular choice which pleases the inspectors more than the children! Apparently, we have a lot of vegetarians on fish pie day!

Another compromise is the fact that without a designated dining room the children must enjoy their meals in the classrooms

I would happily eat Horsington hot dinners every day, even on fish pie day!

Slow Boat in China by Les Graney

We recently visited China for a holiday. It was wonderful! We knew it was big and overcrowded. What we didn't expect was the friendliness of the people. Whoever we said 'Ni Hao (Hello)' to would invariably respond, and with a smile. And literally dozens of them asked to have their photograph taken with us!

As this was probably going to be the only time we go to China we decided to extend our tour from the usual Beijing – Xi'an - Shanghai route and go 'off the beaten track' a little. We visited all the usual sites including: The Great Wall – an exhilarating climb and marvellous engineering feat; The Forbidden City – the sheer size of the Emperor's home was startling. But with 3000 concubines (many of whom never even met the Emperor) you would need a big place, wouldn't you? The Summer Palace – where the Empress was served meals of 128 dishes! And left enough food to feed 5000 people each meal-time; needless to say it was just thrown away.

The Terracotta warriors in Xi'an – the sheer scale of the 'army' erected to protect the Emperor in his after-life was staggering. And this is believed to be only a fraction of the number of warriors still to be uncovered. Unfortunately we visited during the national holiday and a goodly proportion of the 1.4 billion population also thought it was a good time to see the warriors! The Three Gorges Dam on the Yangste River – where the river level was raised 100m and 1.4 million people were displaced and re-housed in new accommodation.

We went 'up country' via a slow riverboat trip down the Li River to see the spectacular limestone 'karsts' and saw cormorant fishing at night. Once we arrived in Yangshuo we spent a day cycling to Moon Hill. Chinese driving habits are difficult to imagine and interpret, particularly when there is 2-way traffic on a one-way street! But the bike ride was great fun, as long as you held your nerve. We also visited a traditional farmer's house. It was fascinating to see the most basic amenities but with a flat screen television on the wall next to Chairman Mao's picture. We helped them to produce some milk from soya beans, using their large stone hand mill.

We also saw a spectacular night-time show on a flood-lit lake celebrating some of the 55 ethnic minority groups in China. This was created and directed by the person who stagemanaged the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. Another excitement was when Brenda and I helped a fellow traveller to buy a surgical belt in a pharmacy where no one spoke English. Linda didn't seem to think that the sumo-belt that I found for her was really to her taste!

Our holiday ended in Shanghai, the most westernised city. We admired the amazing skyscraper skyline and the night-time river cruise to see the illuminated buildings was spectacular.



The Great Wall

Karsts - Li River



Terracotta Warriors



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Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington at 8.45pm on Wednesday April 3rd

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



Thursday 4th April - 7.30pm in St Margarets Hall

ang women Dr Burroughes - BRISTOL GLASS 'The Wonderful World of Glass'

Contact: Mrs Jackie Pyne: 01963 370713

The Wincanton Film Society Presents

Snow Cake (2006) Wednesday April 24th at 7.30pm

Director Mark Evans. Alan Rickman, Sigourney Weaver.

An ex convict becomes involved in a car accident and is mysteriously drawn to two intriguing women. The accident involves one of the women's daughters.

For further information contact Les Graney on 01963 371668

NORTH CHERITON AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' SOCIETY

AGM plus Seed Swap - Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine and swap unwanted seeds with fellow members.

Tuesday April 9th at 7.30pm in North Cheriton Village Hall

The first Italian lesson successfully took place in Horsington Church on Monday 25 February with a group of 6 students. Meeting weekly in the morning, the group is enjoying the challenge of learning a new language and is hoping to quickly master the ropes of Italian conversation!

If you are interested in joining, please contact Jeanne Mortarotti - <u>mortarotti@email.com</u>. Also, we are still waiting for more students to start our first French conversation group: shake up your old memories of school French and develop your speaking skills!

Matthew Jamieson's visit to China

"I live in Horsington and attended Horsington Primary School. Then I went to King Arthur's School and am now in my third year at Strode College on "Hospitality and Catering Level 3". I have enjoyed my course and will be looking to further my skills after college. Last October I had the chance to go on a trip of a lifetime as I was one of a group that went on a ten day exchange visit to Yue Yang Technical College in China. I have spoken to John Vallins about my recent visit."

There is space here for only a small selection of Matthew's impressions, and a few of the striking contrasts he recalls.

From Beijing airport the group went straight to key sites - the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and Tiananmen Square. The scale of everything seemed gigantic. Where there were great crowds of lively and relaxed young people, the presence of police or soldiers on every corner seemed more reassuring than threatening (despite our memories of the student who defied the tank.) Discipline and respect for regulations were variable and selective: on the very uncomfortable 24 hour train journey, there was no escape from cigarette smoke whilst officials standing immediately under 'No Smoking' signs were unconcernedly chainsmoking themselves. It was a surprise, too, to see an equally unconcerned driver on the motorway change his mind, effect a U-turn, and travel some distance in the wrong direction. At a ceremonial welcome to the college, there were regimented ranks of teachers and students, applause, and a line of girls in red dresses with sashes to make a presentation of flowers to each of the English visitors (who began to feel that the relatively informal, English hospitality they had offered to the Chinese visitors to Strode had perhaps fallen short). Teaching sessions were formal, rigid by English standards, and went like clockwork, seemingly well rehearsed.

Matthew stayed with a family in their three bedroom apartment in a high-rise block next to a construction site. But if the look of the block from outside was unappealing, the inside of the apartment was beautifully decorated and furnished, and he could not have been made more welcome. His host family spoke English and demonstrated the great Chinese admiration for English or American education and how intensively the students, aspiring to get to the west, are used to working. The daughter of his host family starts college at 6am, gets home at maybe 5pm, and normally does 5 hours of homework. She marvelled when Matthew said that his homework load varied from day to day and on some evenings he might have none at all.

There was an audience of maybe 500 for music and dance at the grand farewell ceremony when Matthew played a piano solo. Then, after a visit to Chairman Mao's gigantic and venerated statue, there was another long and arduous train journey back to Beijing, with its suffocating smog, widespread habit of spitting, and frighteningly aggressive selling in the silk market, where both physical courage and confident haggling skills were necessary, all a stark contrast with the clear air, beautiful countryside and kindly friendship they had enjoyed elsewhere. But even in this jostling throng here there were fine artists at work and beautifully crafted objects to be had. And whilst some of the many street beggars were threatening, others had developed remarkable skills to work for their money. It was a relief when the rain came, smog cleared, and they could breathe easily again.

Matthew (in the blue hat) with friends outside a Temple





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Dear Friends, Greetings.

The very first album – long playing record – that I ever bought was Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. Although the Beatles had been around for a while and Beatle mania was in full swing – it somehow missed me. But then I woke up to it all – and I was riveted by their wonderful music. Of the songs on the record, and I still love them all, "When I'm sixty-four" has a special resonance for me this month. Because I am. The first day of April (what a day to have a birthday!!) saw me hit that grand age. I love old Margery Clarke here in Henstridge who keeps telling me that I'm only a young man. Margery, you understand, is 99. Well, I guess all such things are relative.

Well, as the years go by, and continue to go by, I reckon I'll learn to appreciate "With a little help from my friends." When I bought that record, being 64 seemed as remote as going to the stars! In those days I dreamed of going to the stars - but it never occurred to me that one day, I too would be 64. When I was very young I remember the horror I felt when I discovered that my mother was 36 - how could anyone be that old??!

We do not know how many days we have. We don't know if we'll pass our time relatively unscathed - or whether our days will be full of troubles.

The most important things in life come down to our relationships - the love and friendships we share. Not the years we live, or the wealth we have. And the greatest relationship we can have is with our loving heavenly Father. It's in his love and friendship that all the other things find their place.

Peter Hallett - halatvic @btinternet.com

St John the Baptist, Horsington

7th April 9.15am - Holy Communion and Sunday school 14th April 11am - Morning Prayer 21st April 9.15am - Holv Communion 28th April 8.30am - Holy Communion

St Nicholas, Henstridge

7th April 8am - Holy Communion (BCP) 11am - All Age Worship - 6.30pm Evensong 14th April 9.30am - Holy Communion 21st April 11am - Morning Prayer - 6.30pm - Evensong 28th April 11am - Holy Communion

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe

7th April 11am - All Age Worship 14th April 9.30am - Holy Communion

- 21st April 11am Holy Communion
- 28th April 9.30am Holy Communion





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Garden Watch - The April Garden 2013 by Muddy Wellies



At last, Easter, and with it the hope of a summer to come, or will our summer weather yet again be in spring this year? I have started seeds off and should be potting them on soon. Try to keep on top of the weeds, this way you may actually get the chance to sit in your garden and enjoy it! Buy Growbags now and put them in the greenhouse to warm the soil ready to plant up, this gives crops a quicker start and encourages an earlier crop.

Lily bulbs can be potted up. They are ideal to slip into border 'colour gaps' later in the year. Half fill 20cm pots with compost and put 3 lily bulbs in each, fill compost to just below the rim and water. Plant gladioli corms at weekly intervals through April to give a longer flowering period. Make sure you plant them deeper than the usual 20cms if you plan to leave them in the ground over winter, this will help them to escape frosts. Hardy annuals can be sown directly into borders where they are to flower. Larkspur, nigella, nasturtiums, sunflowers and scabious can all be grown this way. Don't forget to turn seed trays and pots of indoor sown seedlings regularly to prevent them stretching towards the light and becoming leggy. Keep them in a warm, bright place.

Remember to raise your mower blades and don't cut lawns too low the first couple of times. Make sure you allow a minimum of 6 weeks after your bulbs have flowered before you cut the grass and their leaves, where they grow, giving them time to absorb the goodness into their bulbs in order to produce a good show next year. Deadhead daffodils, leaving the stem, and give all your spring bulbs a generous liquid feed,. Lawns can be given a quick boost with a spring feed, high in nitrogen which promotes lush new growth. The grass grows quickly and smothers weeds at the same time, thus saving you time.

Check blades of tools and make sure they are sharp and clean. Check your wheelbarrow tyres are properly inflated. You can get old spades to look new by rubbing with a screwed up piece of aluminium foil.

Give your pond a good clean, removing debris and rotting leaves before the weather and water warm up and give off damaging gases that affect pond life.

Pot on your young bedding plants ready to plant out in June. You could buy in young veg plants if you haven't had time to start from scratch, potting on as necessary. Hang sticky yellow glue traps around the greenhouse, up high. Check all your plants regularly for any sign of pests.

Onion sets and broad beans can both be grown directly in the ground or in pots and trays. Place squares of tightly fitting underlay round brassica stems to stop rootfly adults laying eggs on the soil, these turn into root eating larvae. Once conditions are warm and dry sow carrot seed, sparingly to avoid thinning out later, in a nice warm, sunny spot, and don't add manure or compost to the soil. Water and weed regularly making it easy for the seedlings to come up, usually 2-3 weeks after sowing.

Look out for lots of seedlings such as hellebores, alchemilla, aquilegia, scabious and foxgloves popping up round the garden, these can then be potted up. Tie in and support any perennials that look like flopping, before they actually do. They will soon fill out and disguise their supports if you get them in place early.

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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

<u> Parish Council News</u>

by Angela Clayton

How and What is funded?

Early in the New Year the Parish Council discusses and agrees how much money is needed to cover costs and expenditure for the forthcoming year. The Parish Clerk wil have already prepared a statement showing how much has been spent in the previous year and an estimated forecast of future costs and receipts for the new financial year. Typical expenditure for example will include grass cutting and maintenance of the Play Area, Cemetery, Churchyard and Horse Pond. Other smaller items comprise insurances, clerk's fees, postage and printing, etc. Last year, partly due to the wet weather, we carried out plant cutting along the side of the brook in Horsington with the cost being allocated to the Tidy Village and Open Spaces budget. The Parish Council manages these village assets itself rather than the District Council so we can be more hands-on and control maintenance on a regular basis. For example if there is a wedding or funeral to take place we are in a better position to endeavour to have the Churchyard or Cemetery looking at its best and we often receive favourable comments on our high standards from residents both inside and outside the Parishes.

Where do the Funds come from?

This annual amount of money is known as the "precept" and is raised through the Council Tax. Basically it is a tax charged on each property in the parish (previously known as the parish rate) and is collected on behalf of the Parish Council by South Somerset District Council (SSDC).

This year our precept for 2013/14 will contain a small shortfall from the District Council due to Central Government changes. The Parish Council has decided to absorb this relatively small amount (£127) to avoid any increase in Council Tax. Our precept of £9,500 will therefore remain the same as it has done for the last 3 years.

However, formal funding aside, the Parish Council would like to thank all the residents who maintain their own frontages and boundaries as your efforts are invaluable. We are also indebted to all the volunteers who contribute their time and energy to keeping both villages clean and tidy by cutting hedges, mowing grass, maintaining the phone boxes, litter picking, etc. Again this service is priceless.

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

NAME		CONTACT	TEL NO	
Bellringing		Anna Piechna	370749	
Buses (local)			0871 2002233	
Citizens Advice E	01935 421167			
CAT Bus Ring an			33864	
Doctors Surgerie		ne Port (inc Templecombe) nton Health Centre	250334	
	435700			
Horsington Prim	ary School	Head/Secretary	370358	
Governors		Vicky Franklin	370699	
PTFA		Lucy White	33953	
French/Italian Con		Jeanne Mortarotti	370021	
Ladies' Lunch Gro	oup	Rosemarie Wigley	371478	
		Susan Maltin	371400	
Marsh Meadows 1	Nursery	Mary Taylor	370607	
Mobile Library			0845 345 9177	
MP		David Heath CBE	01373 473618	
Mums & Tots		Carly Markendale	371068	
North Cheriton &	District			
Gardeners' Societ	y	Jean Handy	371720	
Parish Council		David Chapman	370527	
Police			0845 456 7000	
St John's Church	1			
Rector		Rev. Peter Hallett	362266	
Wardens		Anne Jones &	370626	
		Rosemarie Wigley	371478	
Sunday Sch	iool	Deidre Loftus	370091	
Scouts		Geoff Crabb	370623	
Social Services			0845 345 9133	
South Somerset D	cil	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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