

# *The Horsington & South Cheriton* ***Villager***

Issue No. 25

**September 2013**



## **Town Crier Les Ellis opens the village fete**

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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to  
*info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk* by noon on Thursday 12th September 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  
[www.wincantonwindow.co.uk](http://www.wincantonwindow.co.uk) and click on the 'Villages' link.

## Events Diary September 2013

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Mon 2nd</b>	Lunch 6.00pm	<b>Ladies Lunch Group</b> Pilates	Green Man, Kings Stag Village Hall
<b>Wed 4th</b>		<b>Horsington School Term 1 starts</b>	
	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	Village Hall
	8.45pm	Music Night	Half Moon Inn
<b>Thu 5th</b>	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
<b>Fri 6th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Mon 9th</b>	6.00pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tue 10th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	7.30pm	<b>North Cheriton Gardeners' Society</b>	North Cheriton Village Hall
<b>Wed 11th</b>	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	Village Hall
<b>Thu 12th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Fri 13th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Mon 16th</b>	6.00pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tue 17th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
<b>Wed 18th</b>	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
<b>Thu 19th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Fri 20th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Mon 23rd</b>	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
<b>Tues 24th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	7.30pm	<b>Film: Skyfall (2013)</b>	King Arthurs
	8.00pm	Badminton	Village Hall
<b>Wed 25th</b>	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
<b>Thu 26th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Fri 27th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Mon 30th</b>	6.00pm	Pilates	"

### Future Event

**HARVEST FESTIVAL at ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 9.15 am

Everybody is welcome to join this thanksgiving service, so relevant to our Parish

Cover & page 11 photographs by John Leaning & Paul White  
 Page 3 photograph provided by Les Ellis  
 Page 5 photograph by John Leaning  
 Page 15 photograph by Paul Constant

## **Barnardo's Home at Horsington House**

### **by 'Old Boy' Les Ellis**

From 1922, after the Dodington family moved out of Horsington House, it was used by The Pioneer Corp and latterly The United States Air Force during World War 2. After the war the Americans were eager to go home and the house was left empty (almost derelict and in need of repair). It was eventually given to Dr Barnardo's Homes.

In 1944 Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Whitehorn took over a Barnardo's Home at Stanley House in Newmarket, Suffolk. Prior to their engagement, the regime at Stanley House was quite harsh and discipline was very tough. There was little freedom for the boys to do anything and any misdemeanours were punished harshly.

It appears that Mr and Mrs Whitehorn took a completely different approach to bringing up children and showed a lot of love and affection to those under their care. This was alien to what the boys had been used to at Stanley House. Two of the boys in their care were twins Peter and John West and it was Peter who first called Mr Whitehorn 'Dad' and his wife soon became known as 'Ma' – the names stuck and followed them when they took over Horsington House. They have been affectionately known as 'Dad and Ma' ever since.

Mr Whitehorn was eventually despatched to look at Horsington House in the summer of 1946, with a view to running it as a Barnardo's Home. He travelled down with 4 of the boys under his charge – Cecil 'Spanky' McFarlane, Michael Haines, John and Peter West. I am told by Michael Felstead, one of the first boys to arrive at Horsington House from Newmarket, that they all travelled down by bus and that after exploring the grounds they found all sorts of things; guns, ammunition, American 'Lucky Strike' cigarettes, baseball bats and the rules – needless to say, Mr Whitehorn dealt with this appropriately. Most of these 'treasures' were found in the long grass where the car park and garages are now. This was the old playground used by the hundreds of boys who passed through the Home. The Whitehorns ran the Home until 1972 when it closed and they retired to a bungalow in Templecombe a couple of miles away, where they sadly passed away in 1988 and 1989.

Hundreds of boys passed through their care during the 26 years that they ran the Home and they changed the lives of so many vulnerable people. They chose their staff very carefully and ran the Home in a Christian manner; Church was on the itinerary at least once a week. I believe that their commitment to bringing up all these children in a loving environment with strict discipline has transformed the lives of so many and left a profound effect on some children who otherwise without their direction and guidance, probably would have gone on to be criminals. I personally have great admiration for them and the staff that surrounded them. I went on to be a Detective Constable at Scotland Yard and I am sure that the Barnardo's organisation assisted me to do that. There are many more success stories and sadly some not so successful.

I am now the co-ordinator for the annual reunion that takes place in the village and we still get many 'Old Boys' and Girls coming back. This is testament to happy memories and the love of a large family unit, which is what we were and still are.



Les Ellis as a pupil  
at Horsington School

## **London & Horsington House : A Memoir**

by Barnardo 'Old Boy' John S West

It was the Autumn of 1985. I had left the office relatively late that evening, after a quite gruelling day. Arriving at King's Cross underground station en route to Paddington to catch a late train home to Maidenhead, I sank thankfully into a chair in the buffet with a cup of hot tea and then lit a calming cigarette. In a very short time I became aware that the young man sitting opposite, sipping tea, was clearly in an emotional state and near to tears. Even without knowing what was troubling him I instinctively empathised, and he immediately understood that, accepted the cigarette and light which I offered, and then proceeded to explain what had caused his so obvious wretchedness. In a nutshell it was this: the local authority residential children's home in Banstead, Surrey, in which he had spent most of his childhood, and happily and habitually visited almost on a weekly basis since leaving some years ago, to live and work in South London, especially to socialise with several members of staff of whom he had grown extremely fond, had suddenly closed. Further more, he had now lost touch with his former friends and carers, and this at a time when he desperately needed their moral support and friendship for him to cope with recent misfortune in his own private life. When I left him almost an hour and several cigarettes later, I believe that our quiet one-to-one conversation in a very public space had given him the courage and resolve to cope for the time being with his problems. As I left him at the table, in what was by then an almost empty room, I suddenly thought to myself – I have been here before!!

Some 30 years earlier, when I was as young and vulnerable as my friend in the buffet and with a childhood background which echoed his, I too had suddenly been struck by an almost paralysing misfortune in relation to what one can only describe as a very long standing, firm and secure romantic liaison, whose future seemed never in doubt. Overnight, and without any previous warning or intimation, my world was turned upside down, and I felt bewildered, dazed and utterly alone, with no family or friendship networks within reach, experience or inner resources adequate to deal with what had happened. A few days later, provoked by some inner, as yet never before used instinct, I found myself in the warmth and security of the sitting room in the private apartment of Mr. & Mrs. Whitehorn on the top floor (east end) of Horsington House, having taken the early morning train down to Templecombe from London Waterloo. My arrival, and distressed state was to them as sudden and totally unexpected as it was dramatic, but within minutes I knew that I had "come home" and would subsequently be able to face the future. Indeed, by the time I left that evening to return to London, that was emphatically so. Those precious hours that afternoon in the exclusive company of "Dad and Ma" as they were very affectionately known by the many children who had over the years

experienced the good fortune of being in their care, including me, transformed the situation. The abiding memory of that day is of long conversations with both of them together or individually, interspersed with periods alone, during which I had the run of their classical music vinyl record collection – on 78 r.p.m. My favourite that afternoon was the slow movement from Rachmaninov's 2<sup>nd</sup> Piano Concerto, which I played over and over again. I wonder if the sitting room of that apartment (the windows giving a view over the rear courtyard and countryside beyond) still carries a faint poignant echo of the dying notes of that movement...



'Old Boys' & staff at Horsington House –  
40 years after the closure of Barnardo's



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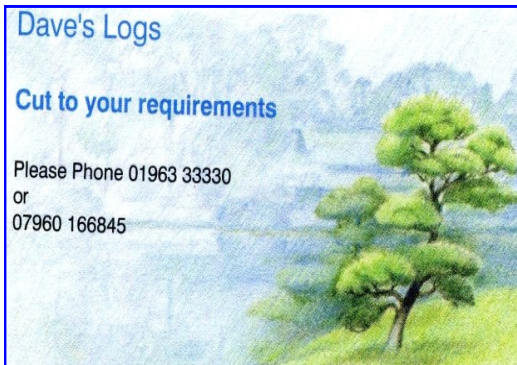
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## **BE PREPARED!**

### **A list that may be useful for you or a neighbour to refer to in case of an EMERGENCY**

It would simplify and hasten action in the heat of the moment if there were a list of information about yourself and others living in your house. This could be printed out and put somewhere easily visible. The following details could be included:

- Names of occupants, telephone numbers, (both mobile and landline).
- Your own address **with post code** (often forgotten in the heat of the moment).
- Medical information such as significant medical conditions and allergies.
- Prescribed medication (very important when calling for an ambulance).
- Name and telephone number of your doctor.
- Name, address and telephone number of a neighbour who is a key holder.
- Close relative(s) name, address and telephone number (mobile and landline).

A suggestion from the Police:

If you carry a mobile phone consider adding **ICE** (In Case of Emergency) number/numbers to your list of Contacts. This helps them contact your nearest and dearest swiftly should you be involved in an accident or incident.

### **WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY**

**Have your list to hand.**

**Call 999 - Emergency number for Fire, Ambulance or Police.**

**Answer the questions asked as clearly and concisely as possible.**

**Trust the operator and do not hang up until requested to do so.**

**If using your mobile phone, keep it switched on.**

Since it is not always possible to think clearly in an emergency, you might consider enlisting the help of a trusted friend, neighbour or keyholder to contact emergency services for you. Such a person may be able to think more rationally, not being subjectively involved, and hopefully assess what action to initiate.

*With grateful thanks to Tony Webster who suggested this article.*

## **Horsington defibrillator and Emergency Telephone Scheme**

Horsington's Parish Council is supporting a move to install a defibrillator in the old phone box opposite the Half Moon. A team of volunteers will be trained to operate the equipment, which will provide rapid emergency help in the event of anyone suffering a heart attack.

**Fact:** The chance of surviving a cardiac arrest (heart attack) decreases by 23 per cent per minute. So you have less than 5 minutes to get help and start treatment. Alongside the defibrillator will be a Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS). This will ring all the volunteers and first aiders simultaneously, and the first one to pick up can accept or refuse the call out. If they are unavailable, it will go on ringing the others until there is a positive response. VETS can be used for any medical emergency, not just heart attacks, the scheme is the brainchild of a Horsington Parish Councillor, who has agreed to provide some financial support – The defibrillator costs just under £2,000 and the VETS system costs £150 a year to run. It is hoped that the local authority will help with funding and donations are welcome from businesses and individuals.

### **About Defibrillators:**

A defibrillator delivers an electrical current through the chest which aims to shock the heart back into a normal rhythm allowing it to pump again. Rapid response using automated technology can significantly improve the quality of life of a survivor, as the longer the brain is starved of oxygen, the more damage can occur. Horsington's proposed portable defibrillator is designed for people with no medical background. When applied to the victim, voice commands and screen messages will guide the user step-by-step through the process and its intelligent technology will only allow it to shock a 'shockable' heart rhythm. In other words, if it's not needed, it won't work.

### **About Sudden Cardiac Arrest:**

Sudden Cardiac Arrest or SCA is an electrical malfunction of the heart (most commonly Ventricular Fibrillation) in which the heart stops pumping blood to the body and brain due to an abnormal heart rhythm known as an arrhythmia. As the victim consecutively loses pulse, consciousness and ability to breathe, the victim is termed "clinically dead" and can only be physically brought back to life in a very small window of time using a defibrillator. The rate of survival of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest is dependent upon time. The quicker the intervention, the better the outcome. Brain death starts after 3 minutes so urgent action is needed, particularly in rural areas where it can take several minutes to get a competently trained person to the scene.



**If you would like to donate or volunteer (no previous experience necessary) please contact Charles James – [charles@otteryantiques.co.uk](mailto:charles@otteryantiques.co.uk) or tel. 371166**



Dear Friends, Greetings.

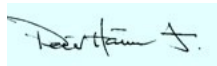
It doesn't seem five minutes ago that I was involved in end of school year events, and here I am writing something for our September Newsletter. It shows how time flies! Of course, as we get older, time passing more quickly is common experience. But a second is always a second – and there are always sixty of them in a minute, and so on. So how can time fly?

Of course it doesn't really – it marches on relentlessly. But if I am caught up in something that I really enjoy then hours can pass with me hardly noticing. Similarly, when I have one of my sleepless nights, tossing and turning, 5 minutes can feel like an hour! One of Jesus's first followers, writing in what we call the New Testament, said that with God one of his days is like a thousand of our years. For a child waiting for a special event – a party – we tell the child to be patient even though a week can seem like an eternity to them. So we should learn the same patience as we wait for God's promises to be fulfilled.

Whether promises are fulfilled or not is not a matter of time, but the dependability of the one who makes the promise. To be patient with a parent or friend or whoever requires us to trust them to keep their word. And so it is with God – as we wait, if we wait with confidence, then we trust him. We have faith in him. Jesus said to the dying thief, "Today you will be with me in paradise." He says to us, "I go to prepare a place for you, so that where I am there you may be also." I long for the day when God makes all things new and all enjoy that security which is God's will. When there is a new heaven and a new earth; when there is no more death, or crying or pain; when wars shall cease.... and God's promises are fulfilled.

Until then – no matter how long it seems – I will try to be patient and as best as I can, in my small way, to make this world, this age a better place.

*Peter Hallett - halatvic @btinternet.com*



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

1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	9.15am	Holy Communion with Sunday School
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11.00am	Morning Prayer
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9.15am	Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.30am	Benefice United Service in Horsington Church

## **Horsington Churchwardens**

Mrs Anne Jones  
370626  
Mrs Rosemarie Wigley  
371478

## **St Nicholas, Henstridge**

1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11.00am	All Age Worship – 6.30pm Evensong
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	9.30am	Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11.00am	Holy Communion – 6.30pm Evensong
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	11.00am	Holy Communion
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.30am	Benefice United Service in Horsington Church

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	11.00am	All Age Worship
8 <sup>th</sup> , Sept	9.30am	Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	11.00am	Morning Praise
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	9.30am	Holy Communion
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10.30am	Benefice United Service in Horsington Church

## Village Fete 2013

by Lucy White, Horsington Church of England Primary School PTFA

Eight PTFA members met in the Half Moon back in March so that we could start the planning process. Stalls and games were agreed upon, refreshments organised and lists were drawn up.

Over the next three months we obtained raffle prizes, a wheelbarrow, booked outside traders and we bought prizes for our games and stalls. We booked musical entertainment and ferret racing, marquees were hired, tables and chairs ordered along with an inflatable slide. We located the skittle alley and stocks, organised the barbecue, got supplies for the bar and hired candy floss and popcorn machines. We also asked to borrow fridges and freezers, gazebos and straw bales. We had more meetings, made decisions and adjustments to the plans.

As June arrived we knew we were into our final fortnight and we had to organise helpers to attend the stalls. Parents were approached in the playground each day until we nearly had enough, luckily on the day two extra dads were roped in to help! We booked a day at Morrisons to sell raffle tickets to shoppers.

The week of the fete was here and we were starting to feel the pressure a little as organising such a large fete is a bit like setting up a small town for an afternoon. A team of us got the site ready by erecting marquees and gazebos and putting up bunting. Unfortunately, as soon as we started putting up the first couple of marquees, the wind decided to make an appearance and we had to do running repairs and anchor down marquees with buckets of sand and tied them to anything sturdy we could find. We joked that we should get some baler twine and then realised that it actually might work so, together with some gaffer tape, we set about strengthening and stabilising the tents. We'd done all we could for now, so we just hoped that the wind would be kind to us overnight.

The day of the fete was here. The team started arriving on site from 7am and the tents were all still in place, so we then set about doing the final preparations. We realised with half an hour to go that our microphone hadn't arrived and that the person who'd been asked to bring it had completely forgotten us! Undeterred, our MC had to do his best throughout the afternoon to make himself heard.

Well, it turned out that the weather gave us a little of everything but the drizzle stopped just in time... We jumped onto the inflatable slide, armed with towels, and it was ready for the children to play on with minutes to spare.

Les Ellis, Town Crier of Dartmouth and Barnardo co-ordinator, had expressed an interest in opening the fete. We were delighted when Les and his wife Liz arrived in full attire complete with bell. Les opened the fete in traditional style, mingled with fete-goers and he also announced the competition and other prize winners at the end of the day.

The 2013 fete was a real success, the bbq and beer tent were busy all afternoon, the children loved the inflatable slide, the games and the ferret racing. All the stalls were busy and there was a really great atmosphere.

Thanks to everyone who helped, and everyone who came to the fete and to those who bought raffle tickets beforehand and donated prizes. We managed to raise over £3000, not bad for a fete held together with baler twine and gaffer tape!



# VILLAGE FETE

## 2013





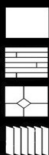
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### **Academy Conversion News**

On Tuesday 9 July 2013, the Governing Body voted to postpone our conversion to an academy as part of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Board of Education's Multi Academy Trust. This decision has been taken simply to allow us more time to ensure everything is in place before the date of conversion. With limited staff available during the holidays, we don't want to end up missing something important due to rushing, especially when we have worked so hard to make sure we have got everything right. We have been advised not to convert part way through a term. Our plan is to convert on 1 January 2014.

As we have strived to ensure that the children and staff are shielded as much as possible from the conversion process, this postponement should in no way impact on school life.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me by email LJAllen1@educ.somerset.gov.uk. Lorna Allen, Chair of Governors.



### **Horsington Race Night**

**To be held at the Village Hall  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2013 – 6.45pm for 7pm start**

In aid of  
St John's Church & Horsington Church of England Primary School

Tickets £6 in advance to include two course hot supper  
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## **Farm Watch** by Chris Bailward

### **LONG MAY HE REIGN**

What a difference a year makes. 2012; cows up to their hocks in Glastonbury Festival standard mud and lots of grass that could not be made into silage until it was well past its best, to a worrying shortage of fodder and bone-hard ground in the summer of 2013. It would be nice if we could have a "proper" year for a change. But what is a "proper" year? I'm not one of those people with a private weather station: my grandfather used to "take the rain" daily. If he went away on holiday, most often salmon fishing in Scotland, the first thing that had to be arranged was someone to record the weather in his absence and it was done religiously by rain gauge and barograph. As a child I was fascinated by this clockwork cylinder with its special lined paper that had to be changed each week and the pen – which needed to be fed with a tiny amount of ink – that moved up and down according to the pressure, tracing a line of peaks and troughs as the week unfolded. Each Sunday, after church, when all the many clocks in the house were wound, the paper was removed and replaced, the barograph re-wound and the information sent, I assume, for I don't remember if I ever asked, to the Met Office. Nowadays, of course, it is all electronic and can be done by telemetry so that nice little weekly ceremony is unnecessary; although I'm sure there are still enthusiasts who continue to use the old methods.

But I digress. As I have explained, I do not have the tools to allow me to record the data on my farm so I must look to the nearest public information centre for records. (No doubt once this piece is published – and, hopefully, read – there will be Horsington and South Cheriton inhabitants telling me that they have all the records for the Blackmore Vale since Noah failed to persuade his friends and neighbours that they were in for a bit of a storm).

So to Yeovilton I look for weather records over the last 30 years, which is the length of time that I have been farming in Horsington Parish. This definitely shows, as if we need proof, that 2012 was wet. The average rainfall over the 30 year period is about 607mm, with an average of about 215 days of rain and snow. In 2012 it was 955mm in 275 days of precipitation. However that is not a record; in 1994 we had a massive 1194 mm of precipitation in only 242 days. When you consider that La Reunion island in the Indian Ocean once experienced 1140mm in 12 hours and that in 1955 Martinstown, a mere 27 miles from Horsington had a dump of 279mm in 24 hours, which resulted in a wall of water that moved down through Weymouth, that figure looks pretty paltry, but when you're underneath it and the stock and crops look as miserable as the farmer, a drama can soon become a crisis. But equally summer drought can be abrasive. I don't have the figures so far for 2013 but, writing this article towards the end of July, we have had a month with little or no rain: the grass is the colour of September straw and has barely recovered from its first silage cut. However in 2007 we only had 126 days of precipitation in the whole year but, at 707mm, a higher than average amount; so we must have had some torrential rain and, I suppose, there's a moral there. Extremes of wet and dry and cold and heat are soon forgotten and we learn to live with what happens.

At least Prince George seems to have brought some much needed rain with him.

## **Parish Council News**

by Angela Clayton

**Defibrillator** – Following a recent suggestion, the Parish Council has been considering the possibility of re-using the Horsington telephone box to house a defibrillator. The idea has been accepted in principle and we are now investigating the costs of installation, maintenance and training operators. Grants and fund-raising will be needed to finance the proposal and further details will follow. Any assistance in promoting this life saving project would be appreciated. Please contact Parish Clerk David Chapman – 370527 or Charles James – 371166 (see page 8 for further details).

**Farm Vehicles** – Over the last couple of months the Council has been alerted to a number of traffic incidents involving large agricultural vehicles. Modern farming is now dependent on bigger machinery, but unfortunately our narrow lanes cannot always accommodate them. Therefore, in order to prevent potential accidents to all road users, extra care and consideration needs to be adopted by drivers. The Council are committed to keeping our roads safe, so if you have any concerns or suggestions please let us know.

**Footpaths** – Due to the warm and wet weather, our public footpaths are now overgrown and in places impassable. In the past local volunteers have been invaluable in keeping the paths open, but unfortunately they have now retired. We are fortunate to have some of the best footpaths in Somerset, so help is now desperately needed to keep them open. Willing helpers please contact Angela Clayton – 371257.

**Barnardo Stall at the Fete** – Belinda Mann and Angela would like to thank everyone for their generous donations and custom, allowing them to raise £191 for this worthy cause.

## **YOGA in HORSINGTON**

Rita has taught yoga in London for the past 7 years and has explored the many forms from eastern traditions to modern interpretations. Her teachings aim to invigorate the body and soothe the mind with emphasis on a strong dynamic vinyasa (breath synchronised movement) practice to connect with the true inner wisdom each person has. She is now bringing her practice to Somerset and will be teaching every Monday evening at Lois Farm, Horsington, BA8 0EW.



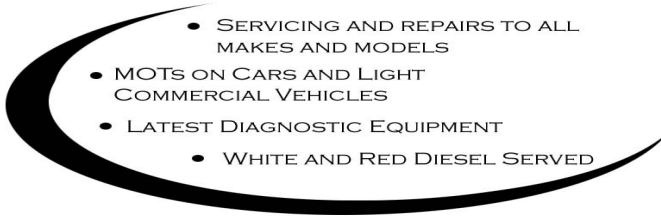
Yoga has numerous benefits including increased fitness, strength, flexibility and mental well being. Muscles and joints will gradually stretch and unlock so that you feel strong inside and out. Yoga works on a much deeper level than most forms of exercise as it detoxifies organs such as the liver and kidneys so the whole organism works more efficiently. Whether you are looking for increased health, weight loss, muscle definition, strength training, flexibility, peace of mind or well being, this type of yoga is suitable for you.

All levels welcome. Each week you will find that you can do more as your body starts to become familiar with the postures (asanas). You can contact Rita on 07725162608 or for more information visit [www.yoganesh.co.uk](http://www.yoganesh.co.uk) (clicking the Somerset tab on the left).

Classes are £8 drop in or £35 for 5 classes (£7p/c). One time offer: Bring a friend for free!

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01747 637763

**Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington  
at 8.45pm on Wednesday September 4th**

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

Free, apart from drinks.

Further details from **Anna - 01963 370749**



**Outing : 5th Sept  
(Members only)**

**Contact: Mrs Jackie Pyne: 01963 370713**

**The Wincanton Film Society Presents**

**Skyfall (2012) PG-13**

Tuesday September 24th at 7.30pm

Director Sam Mendes Starring Daniel Craig, Judi Dench

Bond's loyalty to M is tested as M16 comes under attack. Guess who has to try and destroy the threat.

*For further information contact Les Graney on 01963 371668*

**Macmillan Coffee Morning**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am**

in the Recreation Club, Templecombe. Cake stall, Bric-a-brac and Jumble. All Welcome.

**North Cheriton and District Gardeners' Society**

**Tuesday 10th September 7.30pm North Cheriton Village Hall**

**Talk by Castle Gardens - 'Putting your garden to bed for the winter'**

**Please call Pat Holmes (370017) for further information**

**NOTE TO A LEFT HANDED LADY GARDENER:**

Please ring 370265 if you would like a bag of gardening gloves:

(used but no holes! Left hand only) From a right handed lady gardener...

## **Garden Watch**

by Muddy Wellies

### THE SEPTEMBER GARDEN 2013

Finally we've had proper summer weather in the summer months! It certainly was warm, so much so that I stopped and sat down on occasion to enjoy my garden, unfortunately this also gave me time to realise how much there was yet to do in it! The rain that followed in late July and August, was welcomed by the garden which by this stage was gasping, hand watering though adequate never has the same magical effect as that which falls from the sky!

Summer fruiting raspberries started slowly and smaller than usual, but the rain encouraged them to swell and sweeten. Once the last fruit has been consumed the time has come to prune, this applies to raspberries, blackcurrants, gooseberries, redcurrants and white, to produce a good crop next summer. Cut out all this year's fruited canes to just above ground level, from raspberries, tayberries, loganberries and blackberries etc. to leave the new shoots to ripen up and be tied into and trained along wires. Gooseberries, together with white and red currant bushes, should have this year's growth cut back to 4 buds from the base, encouraging spurs to form and flower producing fruit next year. Blackcurrants are pruned most easily by cutting branches with fruit on when you pick said fruit, much easier on the back and knees to take the fruit covered branches to a table to strip the fruit off, than to pick in situ then go back later to prune out the old fruiting branches. Regularly picked fruit encourages more fruit to ripen, giving it more light and better air circulation.

Harvest main crop potatoes and store in a clean, dry and dark place. Divide herbaceous perennials including astrantia and pulmonaria, replanting where you have gaps, or pot up and pass on to grateful friends. Keep disbudding and deadheading dahlias to get the best out of them before the frosts. Finish planting daffodil bulbs for spring colour by mid September. Plant out spring cabbage and overwintering onion sets. Plant forget-me-not and foxglove plants and sow Icelandic poppies for early colour next year. Move any evergreen shrubs or plants that have outgrown their space towards the end of September whilst the soil is still warm. Collect seeds from perennials on a dry day.

Reduce mowing frequency of lawns and raise the blade height. Begin autumn lawn maintenance, scarify, aerate, feed, top dress and over seed. Reduce watering in the greenhouse. To prepare the greenhouse for winter, remove plants and thoroughly clean the inside to eradicate pests and diseases and the outside of the glass to allow higher light levels.

My sweet peas have been fabulous this year, producing blooms for months, first there was a long period of wonderful roses, then came the sweet peas, the house has been full of them for the last few months. The only thing that comes close to the satisfaction of your own cut flowers is eating your own produce, and that's when you finally believe all that hard work was worth it!



## 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)

### **Phil and Mardi Bennett**

*are delighted to announce the engagement of their younger son  
Christian to Amy Stenner*

### **NOTICE TO RESIDENTS!**



To avoid congestion during drop-off and collection times  
Horsington Primary School parents operate a one-way system for drivers between  
8.45 - 9am & 3.15 - 4pm.

Parents drive from Horsington towards South Cheriton.

The scheme is entirely voluntary but local drivers might like to be aware of it and, indeed, think of adopting it themselves during those times in order to avoid meeting a constant flow of traffic from the opposite direction!

### **News from our Modern Languages Students:**

The Italian conversation class is still on, with our two strongly motivated students! Moving from complete beginners, we are now able to approach grammar issues and oral expression. If you are willing to have a try in Italian, I'm happy to set up a new beginners group or enrol you on a one-to-one course; or if you are advanced enough, you are welcome to join our existing group on Monday mornings.

I have received more and more enquiries about French tuition. I am considering starting a French group in September. Please contact me if you want to join, mentioning which day(s) would suit you best. For private tuitions, I am available mainly on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays mornings all through the year.

Don't worry: no strong commitment required, only a smile and perseverance!

Jeanne Mortarotti, 07894 470 402, [jmortarotti@email.com](mailto:jmortarotti@email.com)

### **THANKSGIVING CONCERT**

by Jean Handy

The concert with the Pilgrim Singers was enjoyed by everyone. The musical programme was varied and the soloist, Camilla Foster-Mitchell, sang some beautiful operatic pieces. Our thanks go to the Choir, their conductor Jane Fenton and their accompanist Sophie Ellis. The concert was to celebrate the finishing of the Church roof repairs, although we still have to pay lots of bills.

*Our thanks are to the people who have donated so much already.*

## **CONTACT LIST**

(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, Yeovil		01935 421167
CAT Bus Ring and Ride Service		33864
<b>Doctors Surgeries</b>	Milborne Port (inc Templecombe)	250334
	Wincanton Health Centre	435700
<b>Horsington Primary School</b>	Head/Secretary	370358
Governors	Vicky Franklin	370699
PTFA	Lucy White	33953
Ladies' Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
	Susan Maltin	371400
Marsh Meadows Nursery	Mary Taylor	370607
Mobile Library		0845 345 9177
MP	David Heath CBE	01373 473618
North Cheriton & District		
Gardeners' Society	Jean Handy	371720
Parish Council	David Chapman	370527
Police		0845 456 7000
<b>St John's Church</b>		
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 Council		01935 462462
Wincanton Town Council		435010
W.I.	Jackie Pyne	370713
<b>Village Hall</b>	Chair	John Macdonald
	Bookings	Emilie Gordon
Art	Gill Elston	371396
	Toni Salmonson	370236
Badminton	Frank Beach	370235
Dance	Louise Holliday	370767
Football	Simon Howell	362689
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07730 314959
Upholstery	Jean Powell	07885 798032
		01747 841126