

The Horsington & South Cheriton

Villager

Issue No. 27

November 2013



Lest We Forget

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info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk by noon on Tuesday 12th November 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 and click on the 'Villages' link

Events Diary November 2013

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Fri 1st	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Mon 4th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
	Lunch	Ladies Lunch Group	Crown and Victoria at Tintinhull
Tue 5th	10.30am	Upholstery	Village Hall
	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 – The History of Soap	"
Fri 8th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 11th	11.00am	Horsington Open Golf Competition	Henstridge Golf Club
	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 12th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	7.30pm	North Cheriton Gardeners' Society	North Cheriton 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	"
Mon 18th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 19th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	7.30pm	Film: Life of Pi	King Arthurs
	8.00pm	Badminton	Village Hall
Wed 20th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 21st	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 22nd	10.00am	Art	"
Sat 23rd	10.00am	Home Farm Trust (hft), Annual Christmas Bazaar	Wincanton Memorial Hall
	10.00am	Horsington School Christmas Fayre	Horsington School
Mon 25th	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 26th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 27th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 28th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 29th	10.00am	Art	"

**Future Event: Christmas Tea and Chat - 4th December @ 2.30pm
in the Half Moon**

Cover photo provided by Chris McCairns

Operation Battering Ram

by Chris McCairns

Seventy years ago, during the night of 12/13 September 1943, three Westland Lysander aircraft of 'A' Flight, 161 'Special Duties' Squadron Royal Air Force flew from RAF Tangmere near Chichester to a grass field, code-named 'Gide', outside the small town of Rivarennes in the Loire valley west of Tours, well inside enemy occupied France. The three aircraft were piloted by Squadron Leader Hugh Verity, Flight Lieutenant Peter Vaughan-Fowler and my father, Flying Officer James 'Mac' McCairns. Although 'Gide' had been visited



once before, by my father and Peter V-F in July, this was the first time that a triple landing had been attempted and it is a great tribute to all personnel involved, both French and British, that it was a total success.

During Operation Battering Ram as this mission was called, eight passengers were delivered to France and eight returned safely to Tangmere. Using the callsigns 'Freeman, Hardy and Willis', more for their own amusement than to confuse any listening Germans, the three pilots and the French reception committee succeeded in completing the entire ground operation, from first landing to last take-off, in a mere nine minutes.

The French team on the ground was drawn from the twenty strong local Resistance group called 'Rabelais'. Their tasks included selection of a suitable field and then guarding it, receiving and concealing incoming and outgoing passengers and packages, and distributing any delivered weapons. All this under the noses of the occupying army and the dreaded Gestapo. Of those who were involved that night, nine were eventually rounded up by the Germans in 1944. One was shot in his own home and the remainder were sent to different concentration camps where six died, one survived and one escaped. However, their names will live for evermore on a magnificent, dedicated War Memorial in the nearby village of Huismes. We salute them.

Moving ahead to the present day, my wife, Sue, and I were privileged to be invited to the ceremonial inauguration of a monument in memory of these events. This took place near 'Gide' during the morning of Sunday, September 15th and about three hundred people attended. The local Mayoress presided and the principal guests were surviving members of the participants' families. There were speeches in French and English, patriotic singing, and anthems played by the local band. Once the ceremony had concluded all present were invited to drink a toast in the nearby town hall where a photographic exhibition of the era had been set up. Following that we were treated to a delicious lunch which lasted most of the afternoon in a local restaurant. All in all, it was a wonderful and very moving experience and we give our sincere thanks to those who organised it.

Further information can be obtained from the Tangmere Military Aviation Museum - please visit www.Tangmere-museum.org.uk for details.

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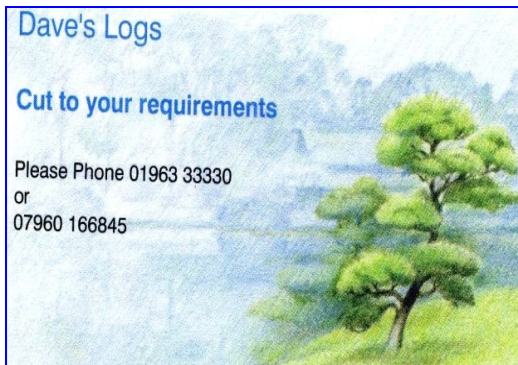
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After the War was over

by Susan Maltin

After 4 years of war in 1918 and 6 years of war in 1945, people in Horsington had different stories to tell. Many soldiers who had been born in Horsington returned home and peace was celebrated.

Sidney Godfrey was born in Horsington in 1896 and returned after the Great War with the Military Medal, having served with the 6th Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment. He was the son of William Henry Godfrey, a builder with a host of builder sons; Edward and Alec were painters, Hubert was a plasterer, and Richard was a carpenter. Their grandfather William Godfrey (born in Horsington in 1827) also lived with the family. Having survived the War Sidney returned home and lived until 1944, but he was not the only soldier in this family, his brother Hubert signed up to the Machine Gun Corps in 1915 and survived to live until 1966. The joy that their mother Elizabeth must have felt when both Sidney and Hubert came home, when so many didn't, can only be imagined, and one of them with a medal!

The Collis family were also luckier than some. In 1881 Samuel Collis and his wife May were living in Horsington with their 8 children, three of whom went to the war. Their sons James and William signed up in September 1914, just after war had been declared, both having previously served in the Dorset Regiment. As far as we know both these sons made it home, no doubt to much rejoicing. Their brother Sidney was less fortunate in that he died on active service in Melcombe Regis on 21st March 1917.

Where the Collis brothers had been in their late 30s and early 40s when they joined up, Edward Cox signed up when he was just 19. He was born in Horsington, and his father, Walter Cox, farmed for many years at Langham near Gillingham. Although he survived, Edward eventually died in 1923 age 32, possibly as a result of his experience in the war.

One mother was not so fortunate. In April 1919 Mrs Haskett of Grove Farm, Horsington, put a notice in the Western Gazette to the effect that her son Private E.C Haskett in the B Company 4th Platoon, 2nd Wilts Regiment was reported missing on 21st March 1918. She asked any man with the 2nd Wilts in France during March 1918 to write to her. What she cannot have known at that time is that her son Ernest Charles Haskett was buried at the Pozieres Memorial Cemetery. She lived until she was 81 in 1943, perhaps still hoping that her son would come home.

How Horsington celebrated the end of the first World War is not recorded, although we know that the Parish Council called a parish meeting on 27th May 1919 to consider the question of Peace Celebrations. However, we do know what happened in 1945. The Western Gazette reported that on 4th August 1945 a fete was to be held at the Grange, Horsington, for the Welcome Home Fund with stalls, competitions, sports and 'loud speaker music'.

A year later, on 14th June 1946, it was reported that Victory Day in Horsington started with a Thanksgiving Service at the Parish Church at 8am. A special Evening Service was followed by a Social at St Margaret's Hall, which lasted until midnight. A record attendance of about 200 people apparently had a most enjoyable time. The proceedings began with a variety programme, in which handbell solos were given by Mr Sparks and his daughter, conjuring tricks by Mr J Cooper of Castle Cary (who also brought his band with him to provide music for the evening) and national songs were sung by one or two of the company. Refreshments were prepared and served by members of the WI. The stage had been decorated with flags of the Allies, and many present wore badges and emblems which had been on sale during the week. Joint proceeds of the sale of badges, a competition and the Social amounted to £18 1s 5¹/₂ d in aid of Hall funds. A cricket match which had been arranged for the afternoon in the Sports Ground had to be cancelled owing to rain.

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Academy Conversion

by Lorna Allen, Lead governor for academy conversion

Following the Governing Body's decision to postpone our conversion to an academy, we are making very good progress. The DfE have amended their guidance on conversion dates and have now agreed to schools converting on the 1st of any month. As such, we have decided to convert on 1st December 2013. Converting on this date will give us some time at the end of the term to iron out any teething problems, so we can hit the ground running in January 2014.

We also wanted to let you know that at the Governing Body meeting in July, the governors voted to change our school name, upon conversion, to 'Horsington Church School'. Our preference would be to remain 'Horsington Church of England Primary School' but we understand why, for the purposes of consistency, the Multi Academy Trust would like all schools to have the same name structure. The reality is that everyone will continue to refer to us as 'Horsington School', just like they do now. The school uniform will not be changing.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me by email
LJAllen1@educ.somerset.gov.uk.

Greetings Cards

At Horsington School, *Earth Class* have set up a business, to raise money to build an extra piece of play equipment for the whole school to enjoy.

Our topic this term is the Vikings, so we are creating greeting cards using our figurehead designs. Recently we had a vote on which designs to publish and have now decided on the five most popular designs. The cards will soon be out and we hope you would like to support our venture by buying a pack of the cards. The children of Horsington School will be delighted to have this new piece of play equipment, thank you for all your support and help in this venture. The cards will be available from the school office.

HARRY JOHNSON – Head Advertiser
ZOE CAMPBELL – Deputy Head
AMBER WRIGHT – Administrative Assistant



www.horsingtonprimary.co.uk
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[www.Twitter.com/HorsingtonS](https://www.twitter.com/HorsingtonS)

The Computer Swallowed Grandma

by Valerie Waite
(Submitted by Sue Morgan)

The computer swallowed grandma.
Yes, honestly it's true.
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online'.

So, if inside your 'Inbox',
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy', 'Scan', and 'Paste' her
And send her back to me



Golfers line up to play in the first Horsington Open

The first ever “Horsington Open” will be played at Henstridge Golf Club on Monday 11th November. The 9-hole charity competition is in aid of the Horsington Parish Church roof fund, and is open to all comers. Ladies and non-handicappers are welcome. Entry is just £12 per player, including green fees.

The prize (as befits an “Open”) is a claret jug, plus many other prizes generously donated by local businesses and suppliers to Horsington’s Half Moon pub. The competition tees off just after 11 am. The prize giving will be held in the Half Moon, Horsington at 6.30 pm, when there will also be a raffle in aid of the Church roof fund.

Entry forms can be obtained from the Half Moon, Henstridge Golf Club, or downloaded from the Horsington Blog. (www.horsington.co.uk/blog) The competition is organised by Horsington’s Richard Gaunt, with the help of Andrew Tarling, landlord of the Half Moon, and Phil Bennett. Please turn up 15 mins before your allocated time.

Further information: Richard Gaunt Tel 01963 371572 gaunt@idnet.com

Take your game to a new level at . . .

THE HORSINGTON OPEN



- * All welcome, beginners too
- * Entry £12, inc green fees
- * In aid of Horsington Parish Church roof fund
- * Claret jug prizegiving at the Half Moon, Horsington at 6.30 pm
- * Entry forms at the bar or on the Horsington Blog

**11.05 am, Monday 11th November 2013
Henstridge Golf Club BA8 0TG**

Photo: Charles C Ebbets 1992

Enter on line at www.horsington.co.uk/blog



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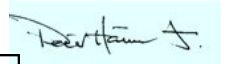
Dear Friends, Greetings: To me the beginning of November is full of contradictions. Perhaps, these days, it's best noted for Halloween. At its best, kids going from door to door, with the great fun of dressing up and collecting sweets. Of course, it's all about ghosts, ghouls, and all things horrible. And yet, it all derives from All Hallows, or better All Saints Day which is celebrated on the 1st November. That's all about remembering the host of nameless people who living Christianly have made the world a better place by a multitude of random acts of love and kindness.

I just conducted a wedding service which included a short reading from *Les Miserables*. The reading included these words: "The great acts of love are done by those who are habitually performing small acts of kindness."

For some doing those small acts of kindness is easy – it's just the type of people they are. For others it can be very difficult - just because their personality is different. But in either case it is *doing* the small deeds that makes the difference – that makes the world a better place, that brings blessing to those around. One of the scariest proverbs I know is: The road to hell is paved with good intentions!

I think that it is true that it is those who know they are loved who are best able to love; those who have received kindness who are better equipped to be kind in their turn. What a privilege and joy we have that we can sow a harvest of kindness and love.

Peter Hallett – halatvic@btinternet.com



St John the Baptist, Horsington

3 rd Nov	9.15am	Holy Communion with Sunday School
10 th Nov	11.00am	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
	11.15am	Service of Remembrance
17 th Nov	9.15am	Holy Communion
24 th Nov	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	6.00pm	Taize Evening Worship

**Horsington
Churchwardens**
Mrs Anne Jones
370626
Mrs Rosemarie Wigley
371478

St Nicholas, Henstridge

3rd Nov	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP); 11am All Age Worship
	6.30pm	Evensong
10th Nov	10.55am	Service of Remembrance
17th Nov	11.00am	Morning Prayer; 6.30pm Evensong
24th Nov	11.00am	Holy Communion

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe

3 rd Nov	11.00am	All Age Worship
10 th Nov	10.00am	Service of Remembrance followed by Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard
17 th Nov	11.00am	Holy Communion
24 th Nov	9.30am	Holy Communion

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Bird Watch

by Keith Davies

A walk down Marsh Lane from South Cheriton will take you along hedgerows containing large mature oaks and other deciduous trees. A thick covering of ivy on many of these trees provides an ideal habitat for common woodland bird species. Ivy provides essential cover for roosting in cold weather. And because it flowers late it is also a valuable plant for insects filling up on its rich nectar before hibernating. These include wasps, hornets, bumblebees, red admirals, small tortoiseshells and peacock butterflies.

On some days you may encounter few or no birds but on others you might meet up with a large flock. In winter many small woodland birds tend to flock together and forage en masse. This is both an anti-predator tactic, as the decreased foliage cover means they are more vulnerable to predation, and is also to increase their chances of finding a food source.

The flock can be anything up to a hundred strong and moves quickly from tree to tree, calling to each other to maintain contact. The flock contains mainly Blue Tits, Great Tits, Coal Tits and Long Tailed Tits, but often several Goldcrests and sometimes a scarce Marsh Tit or two will be present. If you were walking in Orchardleigh Park near Frome you might be lucky enough to see a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, which is the size of a Sparrow, in the flock, but sadly this species is now very rare and fast disappearing.

This habitat of scattered mature deciduous trees is typical of much of our parish so we have good numbers of woodland birds, including Nuthatch and Treecreeper. These birds do not join up with the flocks but remain territorial and sedentary through the winter. They feed on insects in the bark and are adept at clinging to trunks and branches. The Nuthatch also feeds on seeds but the Treecreeper relies solely on insects and spiders so it is very vulnerable in harsh weather.

Nuthatch



Unlike the Nuthatch, the Treecreeper always works its way up a tree before flying down to the bottom of the next one. They are both diminutive and difficult to spot and it is best to search by listening for them. The Nuthatch is very loud with a long drawn out whistling sound interspersed with short trills. The Treecreeper has a penetrating and high-pitched "tsree" that can last for up to three seconds. Once heard they can be tracked down easily in the bare trees.

Treecreeper



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

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

Free, apart from drinks.

Further details from **Anna – 370749**

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Thursday November 7th – 7.30pm at St Margaret's Hall

Mrs Libby Syddall – Soap and Bath Bomb Making and the History of Soap

**The Wincanton Film Society Presents
Life of Pi (2012) PG**

Tuesday 19th November 2013 at 7.30pm
Director Ang Lee. Salma Hayek, Marc Anthony.

A young man survives a disaster at sea and is hurled into an epic journey where he forms an unexpected connection with another survivor – a Bengal Tiger.

For further information contact Les Graney on 371668

NORTH CHERITON AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' SOCIETY

Tuesday 12th November @ 7.30pm – North Cheriton Village Hall

'Winter Propagation and Pruning'

Please call Pat Holmes (370017) for further information.

When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion



Announcements

Including: *Births * Deaths * Birthdays * Weddings* Anniversaries * Congratulations*

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CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE
at
HORSINGTON CHURCH



Getting off to a good start is an essential secret of success. The Candlelit Carol Service on Christmas Eve at Horsington Church is such an occasion. You could be an active participant by joining our choir for this – great talent is not necessary, and you will enjoy it (this is guaranteed!)

To find out more concerning practices, etc. please phone
John or Sheila Cross on 370249

CHRISTMAS TEA AND CHAT
 2.30pm Wednesday 4th December
 at The Half Moon Pub

Bring & Buy and Cakes
 Proceeds for local charities

CONTACT LIST

(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

NAME	CONTACT	TEL NO
Bellringing	Anna Piechna	370749
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Citizens Advice Bureau, Yeovil		01935 421167
CAT Bus Ring and Ride Service		33864
Doctors Surgeries	Milborne Port (inc Templecombe)	250334
	Wincanton Health Centre	435700
Horsington Primary School	Head/Secretary	370358
Governors	Vicky Franklin	370699
PTFA	Lucy White	33953
French/Italian Conversation	Jeanne Mortarotti	370021
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
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 Council		01935 462462
Wincanton Town Council		435010
W.I.	Jackie Pyne	370713
Village Hall	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