

The Horsington & South Cheriton *Villager*

Issue No. 33

June 2014



Zimbabwean children speak for themselves

Co-Editor	Mary Lynn Walker	371731	Articles	Sheila Leaning	370899
Co-Editor	Mindy Lucas	371218	Articles/Secretary	Jane Jones	370562
Chair/Treasurer	Les Graney	371668	Articles	Shirley Price	370870
Distribution	Sue Morgan	370265	Advertising	Bob Jones	370562

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info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk by noon on Thursday 12th June 2014.

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 June 2014

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Mon 2nd	Lunch 6.00pm	Ladies Lunch Group Pilates	Bennett Arms, Semley Village Hall
Tues 3rd	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 4th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
	8.45pm	Music Night	Half Moon Inn
Thu 5th	10.00am	Art WI – Outing	Village Hall Wilton House & Garden Centre
Fri 6th	10.00am 7.30pm	Art Talk on The European Union	Village Hall St John's Church
Mon 9th	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 10th	10.30am 6.00pm	Upholstery North Cheriton Gardeners' Society	" Hilltop Garden Nursery, East Stour
Wed 11th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	Village Hall
Thu 12th	10.00am 7.30pm	Art Parish Council Meeting	" "
Fri 13th	10.00am	Art	"
Sat 14th	2.00pm	The Village Fete	School Playing Field
Mon 16th	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 17th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 18th	6.15pm 7.30pm	Adult Tap Dancing Film: Captain Phillip + AGM	" King Arthurs
Thu 19th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 20th	10.00am	Art	"
Sun 22nd	12.00	Fun Golf Day	Folke Golf Club
Mon 23rd	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 24th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 25th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 26th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 27th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 30th	6.00pm	Pilates	"

The European Union – a Talk by **Roland Rudd** – Chairman of Business for New Europe, takes place on Friday 6th June 2014 at 7.30pm in St. John's Church, Horsington. Suggested donation of £8.00 welcomed, refreshments will be provided.



'Knit for Africa' Jean Handy's Coffee Morning (bring & buy).
Hosted by Christine Pratt on 28th June, 10am at
'Springfields', Horsington Marsh, Horsington.

A Zimbabwean Journey Begins ...

by Christine Pratt

Mother of Peace Community (MOPC) Zimbabwe was started in 1994 as a direct response to the AIDS pandemic. The HIV rate in the country then was 80% with life expectancy for men of 36 years and for women 32. There were also thought to be around 1 million orphans.

In January 1999 I drove with my daughter Caz from Harare towards the Mozambique border with Zimbabwe. Caz had spent her Gap Year in Zimbabwe working as a Volunteer in a Primary School and we were revisiting the village. Needing to buy food to take there, we stopped at a small store in a town called Mutoko, about 150 kms east of Harare. I started talking with another woman there, who told me that she and four others were running an Orphanage locally and would we like to visit them? About a week or so later we did and that is what began a journey that I am still making!

I returned to Zimbabwe in October 1999 and lived in a caravan at the Orphanage for four months and have returned every year since, staying for three months initially and, more recently, six to eight weeks. I have always been prepared to accept any task and consequently have found myself driving tractors and lorries (with either stores and day old chicks from Harare or cattle from some remote place along a dirt road); working in the Clinic, taking sick children and women in labour to the local hospital (sometimes in the middle of the night!) or sitting for hours with countless babies in the immunisation clinic of the local hospital and, more poignantly, following tiny coffins to the Community's Cemetery for burial. At the other end of the scale I have negotiated the many roadblocks en route to receptions at the British Ambassador's Residence and am getting quite good at begging for donations!

The Community cultivates 200 acres and now produces nearly all its food requirements; being chiefly maize, ground nuts, vegetables, milk, eggs, some pork and beef. The younger children attend the Primary School at the Community and the older ones go to a Secondary school in Mutoko. The Clinic at MOPC looks after all the children and staff and extends support to those in the local community who pay either in cash or in kind i.e. eggs, chickens etc.

The Zimbabwean people are always happy and welcoming; however little they have is shared with a visitor. Their wonderful sense of humour invariably provides an excuse to 'party' where people can dance and sing.

Over the years I have seen many changes at MOPC. The rate of HIV infection continues, but in 2004 Anti Retroviral drugs (ARVs) entered the country. Those who are positive and receiving ARVs can now live healthy and full lives; they are able to look after their own children, so the number of orphans has reduced dramatically.

MOPC's source of income comes mainly from overseas donors supplemented by their own small-scale Income Generating Projects (IGPs) such as selling of eggs, broilers, milk. In 2005 I founded the MOPC UK Charity in response to the ever-increasing donations from this Somerset community.



Jean (one of the Founder Members) with some of the little ones.

Cover photograph also provided by Christine Pratt

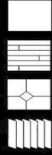


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Craft and Music Festival

To quote from an earlier edition of the Villager – “with John Sansom’s enthusiasm, this promises to be a memorable day” Well it was, and it is thanks to this well-known local resident and his friends that the Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) fund is now richer by £1400. A full day and evening event of this nature requires extensive planning and organisation and John’s ‘marshalling of his troops’ was meticulous. Sponsorship and donations were sought and won, friends and colleagues were persuaded to volunteer their services and thanks to Andrew and Philippa, the Half Moon became the venue for this huge undertaking. The 5th April dawned damp and dreary, but enthusiastic volunteers soon had the 18 Craft stalls erected. There was a carousel, face-painting and ice cream for the children and the adults enjoyed barbecued burgers and sausages washed down by beer and wine from the bar, as they strolled among the stalls or listened to the music in the marquee. A total of 11 Bands – including the relatively newly formed King Arthur’s School Rock Band – entertained until late into the night and the whole event was securely ‘policed’ by yet more helpers. Scrumptious home-made cakes and delicious cream teas were served by the ladies (including the WI) and, to add to the ‘fun of the fair’, John had persuaded old friend Eric Doman to bring along a wealth of Circus memorabilia. The colourful posters of famous circus families



revived many childhood memories – as did the presence of fairground and circus ‘Spieler’ David Weeks, clad in his bright blue ‘ringmaster’ suit and top hat.



John Sansom and David Weeks

The fact that David had journeyed by train from Hampshire (via London) that morning just to support John, says much for the ability of this modest man to encourage so many folk to join him in raising funds for such a worthy cause.

Submarines by Commander Robert Beveridge

A career in submarines is not something that would appeal to everyone; indeed many people would place it high on their list of worst nightmares. Claustrophobia seems to be a particular fear and, truth to say, being confined underwater for long periods in what can most aptly be described as a mobile sewer tube never really appealed to me. But, anyway, that became my trade for the best part of twenty years and I did eventually get used to it – sort of!

My first submarine was HMS ONSLAUGHT, an old-fashioned diesel-electric boat of the OBERON class. And, yes, submarines are always referred to as boats even though some of them are now as big as battleships. The OBERONS were fundamentally a World War II design – long and thin, with two very small propellers and a big battery which took up most of the living space. There were two inefficient and noisy diesels to charge the battery. On the surface the diesels were run constantly. When submerged – that is, in the normal operating mode of the submarine – the diesels were only run intermittently when one needed to recharge the battery. The air for combustion was drawn into the boat through a hollow mast and then pushed out again as engine exhaust. The submarine was very vulnerable during this process as it had to wallow around at slow speed just below the surface. The noise and exhaust were highly detectable and masts, although barely visible to the eye, were clearly apparent to modern radar. Submariners regard being found by a ship or aircraft as potentially bad for their Occupational Health and Safety. Thus preserving the meagre power in the battery – and thus obviating the need to snort – was a constant pre-occupation.

In ONSLAUGHT, when on patrol, we snorted for an hour or so before sunrise and then for a similar time after dark. The resulting charge was enough to permit a speed of around 3.5 knots (say, 4 miles per hour) and support a minimal hotel load (lighting, air-conditioning etc). In extremis, these boats were capable of 16 knots – but not for very long. Half an hour would be enough to flatten the battery completely, even from a full charge. Thus this class of submarine, when submerged, had a very short endurance indeed.

Notwithstanding the limitations of the OBERON boats, they were excellent for training and formed the mainstay of the British squadrons until the 70s. In Australia (and elsewhere) they lasted till the turn of the century. My family and I migrated to Australia in 1986 and I was given command of one of these boats – appropriately named ONSLOW. My officers and most of the sailors kept a standard one-in-two watch-keeping routine which meant that they were in the control room 12 hours a day. The 12 hours were split into two periods of six hours. The off-duty periods were spent performing rounds, eating meals, participating in training exercises, administration and perhaps getting a few hours' sleep. I, as the C.O., did not keep watches, but I was on call 24/7. We all earned our pay.

On patrol, we followed the standard practice of minimising the demand on the battery. All non-essential machinery was switched off including the water distiller. Subsequently, we had to make do with the water in the tanks. For a six-week trip, this gave everyone a daily washing allowance of two litres. This was enough to clean one's teeth and splash a bit of water over the other bits – but not much else. There were no laundry facilities. Towards the end of the patrol we all got rather smelly – not that you could detect it because the all-pervading odour of diesel fuel overpowered the senses. However, we were generally able to take a shower the day before we entered harbour. Many of the older sailors did not avail themselves of this opportunity though, preferring to wear their smell as a sort of “badge of office”. I felt a sense of deep sympathy for their lady friends.

Food in the Australian boats was very good – three cooked meals a day with “duff” at dinner time. The food was prepared in a tiny galley by two extremely skilful chefs. How they produced food of such quality for seventy people under such demanding conditions was, and remains, a mystery to me. Waste food, cans and the like were compressed into bags and then jettisoned over the side using a device called the “garbage ejector”. You can’t just throw rubbish from a submerged submarine.

The quality of the atmosphere in diesel electric submarines is maintained by the snorting process – the air drawn into the boat purges the interior before supporting combustion in the engines. The submarines atmosphere remains quite fresh for an hour or two thereafter but deteriorates during the course of the day. To remedy this situation, oxygen generators are installed along with a device for absorbing carbon dioxide called a CO2 scrubber. In 1998 the newer COLLINS class boats were introduced in Australia; these boats had a compact version of this piece of equipment that was built in Australia.

I think most of us had a modest amount of fun in diesel boats despite the long hours, confinement and the squalor, but they aren’t much good for war fighting. The Germans lost over 600 boats in the final years of WW2. Since then technological advances in diesel engine and battery design have been more than offset by developments in anti-submarine warfare. For this reason, the major powers of the world have made the transition to nuclear boats - SSNs, as they are known, never need refuelling during their entire designed life. They can remain at sea undetected for as long as the food lasts, and, can, if required, deploy at high speed to wherever they might be required. Modern missiles and torpedoes make them a formidable and almost invincible weapon system.

Nuclear submarines are also quite comfortable – indeed, pure luxury compared to the old diesel boats. But, they are still tubes and they spend even longer underwater than the old diesel boats. Thus claustrophobia is still an issue and remains a valid subject for a nightmare. Indeed, I occasionally wake up at night having dreamt I was back in submarines. It is always a great relief to find myself comfortably tucked up in bed with Mrs B.



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A Piece of Persuasive Writing by Zoe Campbell (Year 6 Pupil)

Going on a Residential:

Many children believe that Kilve Court is a great time to: experience new things, work in a team, build your confidence and have fun. Some people live in towns and don't often get to go on beautiful walks or walk in a stream. This gives them a chance to experience it.

Others think:

Kilve Court is a place where you play all day and they should go to Kilve in the holidays instead of wasting precious school time. They think you should be sitting at a table working not going to Kilve Court.



The reasons they give are:

Reason for:

1. It helps you build your confidence and experience new things.
2. It teaches you to work in a team and most importantly have fun.

Reasons against:

1. Kilve Court is something you should do in the holidays.
2. You should be working getting ready for SATs not playing all day.



I believe that:

Kilve Court is a great thing, I'd never experienced high ropes before and Kilve Court let me go on it and I loved it. I think Kilve Court is a great time to experience new things. It also helped me work in a team. On team building we had to work together to make it work.

Horsington Village Fete

Saturday 14th June 2014 2-5pm

At Horsington Church School

Traditional village fete stalls and games also ice creams, teas, cake stall, tombolas, skittles, pony rides, coconut shy, stocks, bouncy slide, plant stall, craft and jewellery stalls.

Barbecue all afternoon, plus beer & cider tent.

Raffle with £100 first prize donated by Astley Motors, Yeovil

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From the Rector, Greetings.

It seems to me that many of those arguing against Scotland's independence from the UK are, on the other hand, siding with UK's independence from the European Union. "Better together"?

I can also feel this paradox when I remember being in Crieff in Scotland, reading the Declaration of Arbroath dating from 1320 when the Scots wrote to the Pope appealing for Scottish independence from England. It is stirring stuff and appeals to that sense of independence and self determination that we hold so dear and value so much.

Yet in a College in Brugge I heard the Principal explain the driving vision of the European Union: the desire for peace between our European nations and the need to knit our lives together through trade and other means: how regions were part of bigger nations and nations were in turn part of something bigger. This was not for domination or power but just being "Better Together".

This June we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost (Whitsun). It is about healing rifts between human groups, tribes and nations. It is about undoing what happened at Babel. One of the outcomes of Christian understanding of Pentecost is to value the contribution that each can make to the whole. I long for the time when groups, regions, tribes and nations can really find fulfilment in their culture and traditions and can do so without the need to feel superior or threatening. So that together, under God, we can be a rich tapestry of liberty, fraternity and equality.

Peter Hallett – halatvic@btinternet.com



St John the Baptist, Horsington

1st June	9.15am	Holy Communion with Sunday School	
8th June	10.30am	(Pentecost): United Service at Henstridge Parish Church	
15th June	9.15am	(Trinity Sunday): Holy Communion	
22nd June	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Horsington Churchwarden
29th June	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Mrs Rosemarie Wigley 371478

St Nicholas, Henstridge

1st June	11.00am	All Age Worship	
	6.30pm	Evensong	
8th June	10.30am	(Pentecost): United Service	
15th June	11.00am	(Trinity Sunday): Holy Communion	
	6.30pm	Evensong	
22nd June	11.00am	Holy Communion	
29th June	<i>No morning Service at Henstridge</i>		
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong with Wells Cathedral Voluntary Choir	

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe

1st June	11.00am	All Age Worship	
8th June	10.30am	(Pentecost): United Service at Henstridge Parish Church	
15th June	11.00am	(Trinity Sunday): Morning Praise	
22nd June	9.30am	Holy Communion	
29th June	9.30am	Holy Communion	

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Tales From The Gardening Club

by The Members

You might think you would have to travel to Provence or at the very least to another county to see fields of lavender, but less than an hour away between Frome and Radstock lies Somerset Lavender.

We recently had a talk by Judith Green who with her family owns the Farm and she told us how they changed from dairy farming to lavender in the interests of 'diversity'. It was very much a gradual learning process for them as they knew a lot about cows but very little about lavender, however they now have a thriving business distilling the oil from their harvest into many natural products. There is also a garden where many of the 26 different varieties of lavender are grown.

Legend has it that the Romans first brought lavender to this country and used it for its soothing and healing properties. They also used the flowers to scent their baths, hence the original Latin name *Lavendulum* meaning fit for washing and today it is still used for the same purposes.

The hardiest plants are the English Lavenders such as 'Munstead' and 'Hidcote' for example and if grown in a sunny spot with free draining soil the plants will last for many years. Judith advised giving these plants a light trim after flowering and then towards the end of August be more adventurous and prune back about two thirds of the bush, it will then have time to grow and form a neat mound before the Winter. There are many other varieties such as the French Lavenders but these are not as hardy and cannot be pruned so hard – although they can make lovely specimen plants.

Lavender is a quintessential part of an English Country Garden and with so many varieties to choose from you are bound to find one that suits your needs. A visit to the Farm in late June or early July is a must to see the fields in bloom. You will receive a warm welcome, a great cup of tea and plenty of advice about growing these beautiful plants.



Horsepond Farm, Faulkland,
Nr Radstock, Somerset BA3 5WA

www.somersetlavender.com

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

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

Free, apart from drinks.

Further details from **Anna** on **370749**



**Thursday June 5th – Outing to
WILTON HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRE**

Contact Mrs Jackie Pyne on 370713

**The Wincanton Film Society Presents
AGM + Film: Captain Phillips PG-13**
Wednesday 18th June 2014 at 7.30pm
Director: Paul Greengrass, starring Tom Hanks

Based on the true story of the first American ship to be hijacked in over 200 years. Captain Phillips is in charge of the Maersk Alabama when the vessel is attacked by Somali pirates

For further information contact Les Graney on 371668

NORTH CHERITON AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' SOCIETY

Tuesday 10th June – Garden visit to Hilltop Garden and Nursery at East Stour. Please contact Pat by the end of May if you would like to attend.

Meet at the venue at 6.0pm

Please call Pat Holmes on 370017 for further information.



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU

The Parish Council is looking for *one new member* and co-option will take place at our next meeting to be held on Thursday 12th June 2014 at St Margaret's Village Hall Horsington. Anyone from Horsington or South Cheriton wishing to be considered for the vacancy should contact the **Clerk, Mr David Chapman**, 7 Slades Hill, Templecombe, Somerset BA5 0HF telephone **370527** or e-mail horsingtonpc@hotmail.co.uk by **Monday 9th June**.

Announcements

Including: *Births * Deaths * Birthdays * Weddings* Anniversaries * Congratulations*
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Jane Taylor – BBC Radio 2 favourite

Concert on Sunday 27th July at Horsington Village Hall

7.30pm Doors. Starts 8pm – 10pm.

Fresh from recording a session at BBC Maida Vale Studios, after opening for Jools Holland & winning 'Best Album' at the Independent Music Awards, Jane Taylor and her band (John Holmes on double bass & Lizz Lipscombe on violin). Will perform a special concert as part of their UK Rural Tour.

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Horsington Church 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
Warden	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
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W.I.	Jackie Pyne	370713
Village Hall	www.horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk	
Chair	John Macdonald	370444
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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