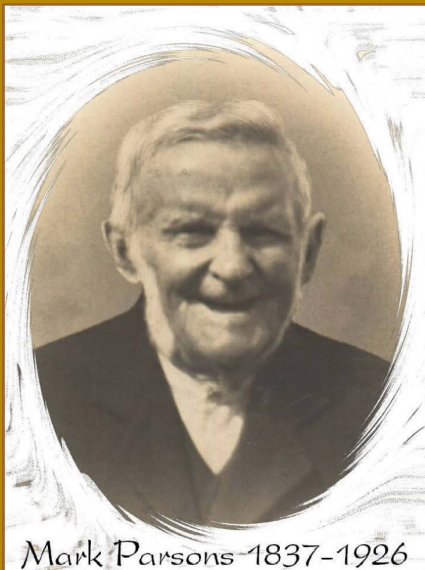


The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

Issue No. 42

May 2015



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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to
info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk by noon on Tuesday 12th May 2015

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 May 2015

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Fri 1st	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Mon 4th	TEA	Ladies Lunch Group (please note tea not lunch)	Cole Manor Tea Rooms
	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tues 5th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	6.45pm	North Cheriton Gardeners' Society <i>Discount Evening</i>	Castle Gardens
Wed 6th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	Village Hall
	8.45pm	Music Night	Half Moon Inn
Thu 7th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 8th	10.00am	Art	"
Sat 9th	5–10.30pm	V.E. Day Anniversary	Half Moon Inn, Horsington
Mon 11th	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 12th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 13th	2.00pm	Horsington Pins and Needles	Springfield, Horsington
	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	Village Hall
Thu 14th	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	"
Fri 15th	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	WI 90th Birthday Party	"
	7.30pm	Talk on Renewable Energy by Chris Maltin	St John's, Horsington
Sun 17th	7.30pm	Wincanton Choral Society Concert	Wincanton Sports Hall
Mon 18th	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 19th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	7.30pm	Film: The Book Thief	King Arthurs
Wed 20th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	Village Hall
Thu 21st	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 22nd	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 25th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 26th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 27th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 28th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 29th	10.00am	Art	"
Sat 30th	10.00am	North Cheriton Gardeners' Society <i>Plant Sale</i>	"

Future Event: Village Fete – June 13th, 2–5pm

Badminton Horse Trials, Cross Country Day
Coach trip from South Cheriton on Saturday 9th May.
 For more details telephone Alison at Pevlings Stables
01963 370990

Cover photo provided by Mr Leonard Rowden

My Life Story by Mark Parsons

Edited and abridged by John Vallins

Leonard Rowden, great grandson of Horsington resident, Mark Parsons, sent to the Villager Mark's account of his life as dictated to his daughter. What follows is a much condensed summary using Mark's own words (italicised) where possible.

I was born at South Cheriton...on 25 April 1837.....baptised at Horsington Church....But in 1845 a Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School was opened at Cheriton....there I learnt to read. In the same year (aged 8) Mark began work at Hull Farm, South Cheriton, for one shilling and sixpence a week...he worked later at Ringclose Farm on Horsington Marsh, then at Cheriton House where he worked until over the age of 20. *Those were hard times, and more than once I have seen a fellow boy-worker frighten away the half-mad dog, that he might steal the animal's dinner. I undertook odd work in farms and gardens and mowing and reaping in summer and draining in winter. The first summer I mowed, I was about eighteen years old, and went to Fisherton-Delamore in Wiltshire....we slept in a barn with six Irish 'taskers' whose kindness I have never forgotten.* Whilst there, Mark's uncle challenged the Wiltshire Champion Cudgel player to fight for £5 and won. Their master advised them to flee from violent reprisals from the champion's supporters, and they were hidden by a kindly landlord in the loft of an inn, leaving hastily at dawn, to get safely home.

That Spring, when working high up at Wilkinthroop, he and his father watched the first train on the new London and South Western Railway coming out of the Buckhorn Weston tunnel.

Mark began to feel unfulfilled in his life, and on October 30 1844, when he heard Mr Silas Dyke preach at Cheriton on the text "Seek ye the lord while He may be found... call ye upon him while he is near". Mark went up to the penitent rail and *gave all to Christ...I received the conscious pardon of all the past, and the peace of God which passeth all understanding.*

He was working for Squire Bailward, who asked him to tell him what conversion meant.....*when I had finished, he said: 'If that is conversion, I have never known it; and there are others in higher circles of religious life, Mark, who could not have explained it like that.*

Two years after his conversion (in 1846) Mark was recommended to train as a lay preacher, and after 2 years' trial, he passed his examination.

One Sunday night, on his way home he reached Milborne Wick and passed three men apparently asleep..As he passed *they began to move and mutter to one another. I had not gone far when they were chasing me.* He hid his watch in his trouser leg and ran. After half a mile, by Stowell crossroads, the pursuers' pace lagged, and he was safe.

Mark and a friend made a pact that each would give a Bible and Hymn book to the Wincanton Methodist Church which was then being built. His friend died before the time came, but one day Mark heard his voice saying 'Remember your promise, Mark'....*so I wrapped up some food and bought a bottle of ginger beer, hiding them in a pigsty* and when Sunday morning came, he collected them and set off to walk to Wincanton to fulfil the promise.

Harvesting near Tisbury, he was asked to take a service there. It was arranged in the quarries. He had only working clothes with him and, although the folk offered to find him a suit, preferred to wear his smock frock. *I suppose the novelty of it brought in the people, for about 300 came together in those quarries., and the singing was so hearty.....'Jesu, lover of my soul'..* Later he again preached in his smock at Monkton Deverill, and people from all the adjoining Deverills came.

At Holwell, he met Emily, who was to become his wife and *“one of the greatest helps that any man could have”* .. They were married in Sherborne Methodist Church. Taken ill with typhoid fever, he was given up as unlikely to recover, but the Methodist meeting prayed specially for him, and *while they were praying, the fever took a turn for the better...*

A daughter was born in Feb 1867. *I had seven children in all, three sons and four daughters...his eldest son died young, and for a while Mark wondered How can God be good to take my boy?* In time, Mark returned to Horsington to work for the Bailwards at the manor as gamekeeper and gardener. Mr Bailward was blind but still loved his gardens *We rolled the lawns together for him to have exercise.* Their conversations had particular interest because *He was a churchman, I a Nonconformist; he a Conservative and I a Liberal.*

When the Temperance Society needed land on which to build a Hall, Mark asked the Squire who gave them a plot to build on. In January 1891 *My greatest sorrow befell me ... Emily, died.* Mark was now class leader and superintendent of the Sunday School, and *these duties, with the preaching, Temperance work, and my daily labour were almost too much for me...* He joined the Horsington Provident and Friendly Society (Whose banner is still, in 2015, on display in St John's Church) when it was first formed. Mark married again in 1892.

In 1907 he was ill and admitted to Templecombe Hospital. The nurses were so kind, and he had so many visitors that *It was one of the happiest times of my life.* But soon there was another sorrow; he lost a good friend, *my master's butler, T Vile...for 30 years we had been close friends.* In 1909 Mark was presented with the Silver Local Preachers' Medal. *How unworthy I felt...*

Then *My old, respected master* (the old Squire Bailward) *died... and life did not seem the same without him.* Mark went on to work for the heir, Captain J Bailward, *from whom I receive great kindness. Now I am old, I have had visions of the Heavenly City, and when I think that that will be my future home, it is almost too much for me. You know I am a bit of a visionary.*



Contemporary tributes:

‘The figure of Mark Parsons is familiar to all inhabitants of Horsington...seen for years travelling to school and chapel at South Cheriton, unless called to some special preaching for Methodists elsewhere. He earned the esteem and confidence of his employer, the late Mr Bailward, and many a time the welfare of the village was jointly considered by Squire and man. It was no surprise that he was appointed a member of the Parish Council: all knew him as a just, truehearted representative of the parish. Unswerving in his allegiance to the Methodist Church...yet he could piously resort to the parish church on such days as the Friendly Club Anniversary, or on Royal Coronation Day’. (Rev. W. E. Daniels, Rector of Horsington).

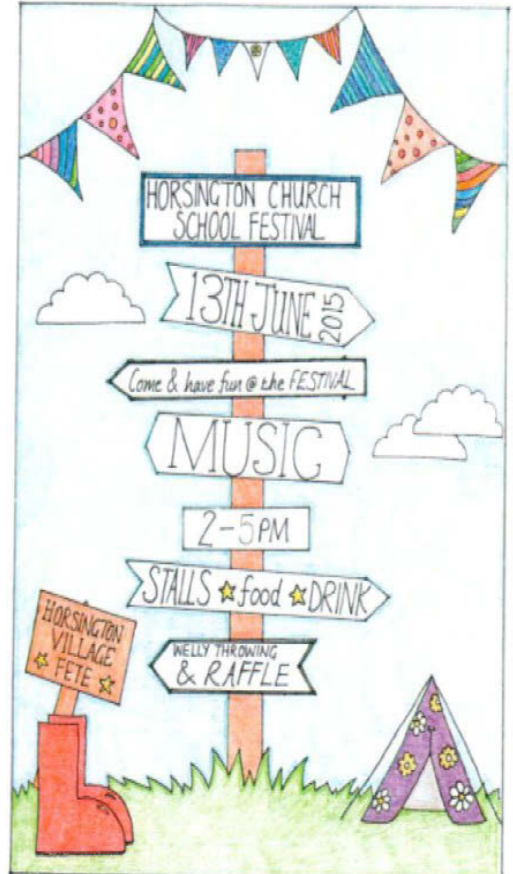
‘I came to the Sherborne Circuit in 1914... Before I had been in Sherborne many days I found him in my congregation; he had travelled five miles to make the acquaintance of his new minister. With the Bible and Methodist Hymn book for a library and the Methodist Church as his college, he has rendered excellent service in this wide circuit’. (Rev. Sheldon Knapp, Sherborne).

‘Mark Parsons was with my father before I was born and though he is now eighty years old he still does a better and longer days work than many a younger man...he is a wonderful old man. He has always taken the greatest possible interest in all of us, as children and afterwards. My family has been fortunate to have such a faithful servant and friend as Mark’. (Captain J. Bailward)

Horsington Church School

Horsington Village Summer Fete Saturday 13th June 2015 2pm – 5pm

Horsington Church School PTFA are currently busy preparing for this year's summer village fete. The PTFA have decided to theme it this year with a mini festival. We are currently sourcing any bands or singers who may want to come and perform, along with any outside traders who have individual or bespoke products to sell and promote. The children at school will be joining in as usual with the making of festival flags to decorate the stage area. The event brings together the school and villages and we look forward to working together to create a successful and fun event. Please contact Lucy Mackay on **01963 824866** if you are a band or singer and would like to perform on the day. All help and suggestions are welcomed.



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[www.Facebook.com/HorsingtonSchool](https://www.facebook.com/HorsingtonSchool)
[www.Twitter.com/HorsingtonS](https://www.twitter.com/HorsingtonS)

Art Exhibition in Mere

The artists who meet in St Margaret's Hall on Thursday mornings will be exhibiting in Mere as part of the Wylde Valley Art Trail, from **23 to 31 May**. Do come and see what they get up to behind closed doors in our Village Hall! The exhibition will be in the old Lecture Hall in Mere. Going eastwards along the old A303, it's on the right, just before the big public car park. Refreshments, including very good and popular home-made cakes, will always be available. Pictures will be on sale at reasonable prices but you will be very welcome if you just come to look.



Toni Salmonson



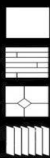
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The UK Friendship Tour 2014

by Leah Macey

August could not have been any more exciting for 2nd Templecombe Scout Group; it was jammed packed with fun, activities and friendship. Why? Because we were hosts for the International UK Friendship Tour which involved hosting scout groups from 31st St Cyprian's, Calgary, Canada, 1st Engadine, Sydney, Australia, and 1st Thorley, Hertfordshire. Sadly our friends in New Zealand were unable to join us.

After months of planning, our visitors arrived in a rainy Somerset for a three week stay, where everyone was welcomed with a hog roast to allow the meeting of old and new friends. There was no time to recover from the jet lag as the programme started with a bang at the Bovington Tank Museum. Two weeks were spent in Somerset allowing our international visitors to explore the countryside and history of the area and scouting. A trip to Bristol involved a visit to the SS Great Britain and a sail on the replica of The Matthew, many years ago in 1497 The Matthew captained by John Cabot founded North America. We also visited Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral, Stourhead and the Roman Baths in Bath where all the scouts worked on their heritage activity badge.

A highlight of the tour was an overnight stay on Brownsea Island, especially for one 2nd Templecombe Scout, Charlie who was invested into scouting around the Baden-Powell stone witnessed by scouts from around the world. 108 years ago Lord Baden Powell held the first scout camp on the island with 21 boys from various backgrounds.

The International Scouts had a chance to explore the Dorset coast, with a day's hike from Swanage to Worth Matravers, a visit to Corfe Castle and a swim in the sea at Swanage. All of the International Scouts had a home stay with a Templecombe scouting family, where many of them were taken to the beach, and a few were introduced to The Giant at Cerne Abbas. The leaders were treated to a mystery tour which included a trip up Zig Zag Hill, a walk down Gold Hill, and visit to Milton Abbas.

Week three we left Somerset and relocated to Tolmers Scout Activity Centre, Hertfordshire. From here we visited London and saw many of the famous sights such as Parliament Square, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, Greenwich, and Windsor Castle, Hampton Court, Wimbledon, the statue of Captain Cook and had relaxing cruise down the Thames. One of our scouts even managed to find his ancestor in Westminster Abbey who was the Dean of Westminster in 1561.

The final day of the tour was a day at Gilwell, the home of scouting, learning about the history of scouts and allowing the scouts to let off steam with a climbing activity. The following morning at 4.30am we said our goodbyes and promised to meet in Calgary in three years time to continue our adventures and to meet up with our scouting friends.



The Friendship Tour
2014 (outside
Salisbury Cathedral)

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COUNTIES OF ENGLAND

Submitted by Les Graney

1. In which county would you find Leeds Castle?
2. The region known as the Peak District is mainly in which county?
3. Which is the most northerly county in England with a boundary with Wales?
4. Until 1974 the county of Yorkshire was officially divided into three regions called Ridings which were named after the points of the compass. Which of North Riding, South Riding, East Riding and West Riding did not exist?
5. Which is the county town of Wiltshire?
6. The county of Cumbria was formed from the amalgamation of which two traditional counties?
7. The English Cricket County Championship is contested by 18 first class counties. Which of these counties no longer exists as an administrative centre?
8. In which county would you find the town of Ashby De la Zouch?
9. Which English county which adjoins the sea has the shortest coastline?
10. In which county was the last pitched battle to take place on English soil?

1. KENT
2. DERBYSHIRE
3. CHESHIRE
4. SOUTH RIDING
5. TROWBRIDGE
6. CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND
7. MIDDLESEX
8. LEICESTERSHIRE
9. DURHAM
10. SOMERSET (Sedgemoor, 6th July 1685)

Sincere thanks to all who donated items for the Children's Corner in the Church. The Corner provides books, crayons and toys to occupy young children whose parents are attending Church Services.

Jean Handy

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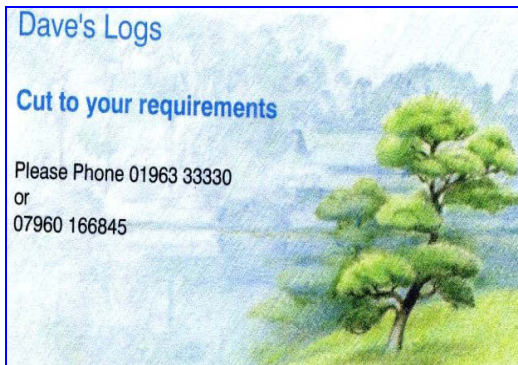
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From the Rector, Greetings.

A little while back there was a great deal on the television about the funeral of Winston Churchill. It is to Churchill that we look as the great leader that took us through the Second World War and to victory over Naziism. In that particularly modern way of deconstruction we have also been reminded of Churchill's many weaknesses and failures. His granddaughter rightly responded by pointing out that he was a human being with feet of clay – like the rest of us.

He was deeply involved in the leadership of our nation in the First World War as well as the Second. Perhaps it is important to remind ourselves that amongst all the other things those wars were about, we were fighting for democracy against oppression and dictatorship.

Many gave their lives to enable us to have the freedom to vote Churchill out of office in 1945!! The right to do that was won with the blood of those whose names we read out every Remembrance Sunday. Thus it is to me, heartbreaking when I see so many people today treating this privilege with such contempt.

We live in a land that enjoys amazing freedoms. Part of the responsibility of enjoying that is to play our part in choosing who governs.

Think about it - pray about it - use your vote.

Peter Hallett – halatvic@gmail.com



St John the Baptist, Horsington

3rd May	9.15am	Holy Communion with Sunday School	
10th May	11.00am	Morning Prayer	
17th May	9.15am	Holy Communion	Horsington Churchwarden
24th May (Pentecost),	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Mrs Rosemarie Wigley 371478
31st May (Trinity Sunday),	10.30am:	United Service in Henstridge Church	

St Nicholas, Henstridge

3rd May	11.00am	Morning Worship; 6.30pm Evensong
10th May	9.30am	Holy Communion
17th May	11.00am	Morning Prayer; 6.30pm Evensong
24th May (Pentecost):	11.00am	Holy Communion
31st May (Trinity Sunday),	10.30am:	United Service in Henstridge Church, including the three parishes of our Benefice with Templecombe URC, and the churches of the Milborne Port & co Benefice.

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe

3rd May	11.00am	Morning Worship
10th May	9.30am	Holy Communion
17th May	11.00am	Holy Communion
24th May (Pentecost),	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
31st May (Trinity Sunday),	10.30am	United Service in Henstridge Church



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HETAS registered

May is the month for opening the **Children's Society** collection boxes. Please could those who have a box please return it to Sheila Cross at The Smithy, South Cheriton.

The
Children's
Society

**“Talk on Renewable Energy and The World’s Most Environmentally Friendly Fuel”
by Christopher Maltin in St John’s Church at 7.30pm on Friday 15th May**

Christopher Maltin the founder of the Organic Power group of companies has spent a lifetime working in the field of clean energy all over the world. His integrated Maltin[®] System for producing biomethane, renewable carbon dioxide and clean fertilisers from organic wastes was developed in Horsington and has had patents granted in 87 countries.

Bird Watch

by Keith Davies

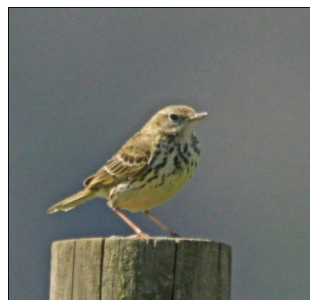
In over ten years I can count on the fingers of one hand the number of cuckoos heard or seen in Horsington and South Cheriton. This is not surprising since we have lost over half our breeding cuckoos over the last twenty five years. And we do not know why this is so. Until recently we did not even know where in Africa they spend the winter or the routes they take to get there. Historically such information is gained by ringing birds and then relying on the rings being recovered when the bird is found dead. But such recoveries are few and far between. The development recently of lightweight satellite tags has revolutionised this situation. Since May 2011, the British Trust for Ornithology has fitted these tags to thirty one cuckoos. And the information gained is transforming our knowledge of the comings and goings of a bird that spends less than three months of the year in the UK. In fact one tagged bird spent only six weeks in the UK, indicating that the Cuckoo is very much an African bird not a British one.

We now know that the birds spend the winter in the Congo rainforest. And the migration journey there and back appears to be a riskier business than was expected. It was a surprise to learn that the birds take a wide variety of routes to and from the Congo. Some fly via Italy and others France and Spain. There were examples of birds reversing their journeys northwards during bad weather, presumably to find their last source of food. Some crossed the Sahara desert in one go. Others skirted it by flying down West Africa.

It seems that changing conditions on UK breeding grounds are unlikely to be the major cause of the bird's decline. We still have lots of favoured habitat and good numbers of host species – Meadow Pipits, Dunnocks, Reed Warblers – to foster the young cuckoos. It seems that the major factors underlying the headlong decline are adverse weather conditions on their long migration journey. With climate change we are seeing more extremes of weather and many of the tagged birds that have perished have done so in storms in southern Europe or from starvation. It will be some time before the information gathered from the satellite tagging of cuckoos will be conclusive, but answers will eventually be found and hopefully some solutions.



Cuckoo by kind permission of Chris Galvin



Meadow Pipit

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

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

Free, apart from drinks.

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



Friday 15th May at 7.30pm

90th Birthday Party

Talk and demonstration of 18th Century Dance

Invitation extended to Past Members and Group W.I.s

Buffet Supper

Contact Mrs Jean Handy on 371720

The Wincanton Film Society Presents

The Book Thief (12)

Tuesday 17th May at 7.30pm

Director Brian Percival. Stars: Sophie Nelisse, Geoffrey Rush.

A young girl is sent to live with a foster family in WWII Germany. She begins to collect books as she finds them and creates a world that inspires them all.

For further information contact Les Graney on 371668

NORTH CHERITON AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' SOCIETY

Tuesday 5th May

Discount shopping Evening at Castle Gardens Sherborne at 6.45 pm

Saturday 30th May

Plant Sale at Horsington Village Hall at 10.00 am

All plants for sale have been grown by the club members. Those unsold will be given to the Village Fete. There will be tea and coffee available. Also on sale will be a variety of cakes. Should any attendees have a surfeit of anything they would like to offer, it would be much appreciated.

Please call Pat Holmes on 370017 for further information

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

Wincanton Choral Society

Simon Twisleton - Conductor

1990 ~ 2015 25th Anniversary Concert

The Spirit of England - Elgar
Songs of the Fleet - Stanford
The Argument of his Book - S K Twisleton
25th Anniversary Commission

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REMINDER

V.E. Day Anniversary – Horsington 1940's Night

at The Half Moon Inn on Saturday 9th May 2015

from 5pm – 10.30pm

music by

Berties Big Swing Band

Templecombe celebrates **VE Day**, with the bells ringing, and a coffee morning at High Gables, High Street, from 10.30am on Friday the 8th May, in aid of St. Mary's Bell Restoration Fund.

Coffee and Cakes, Raffle, and Sales Table. **Tel.370382.**

CONTACT LIST

(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

NAME	CONTACT	TEL NO
Bellringing	Anna Piechna	370749
Buses (local)		0871 2002233
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 Church School	Head/Secretary	370358
Governors	Vicky Franklin	370699
PTFA	Lucy Mackay	824866
French/Italian Conversation	Jeanne Mortarotti	370021
Ladies' Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
	Susan Maltin	371400
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		101
St John's Church		
Rector	Rev. Peter Hallett	362266
Warden	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
Sunday School	Deirdre Loftus	370091
Scouts	Geoff Crabb	370623
Social Services		0845 345 9133
South Somerset District Council		01935 462462
Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)		602500
Wincanton Town Council		31693
W.I.	Jean Handy	371720
Village Hall	www.horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk	
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