

The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

Issue No. 43

June 2015



Around the outdoor table at Windsor Hill Wood

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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 June 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 June 2015

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Mon 1st	Lunch 6.00pm	Ladies Lunch Group Pilates	The Ship, West Stour Village Hall
Tues 2nd	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 3rd	6.15pm 8.45pm	Adult Tap Dancing Music Night	" Half Moon Inn
Thu 4th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 5th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 8th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 9th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 10th	2.00pm 6.15pm	Horsington Pins and Needles Adult Tap Dancing	Springfield, Horsington Village Hall
Thu 11th	10.00am 7.30pm	Art Parish Council Meeting	" "
Fri 12th	10.00am	Art	"
Sat 13th	2-5 pm	Horsington Village Summer Fete	School Playing Field
Mon 15th	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 16th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 17th	6.15pm 7.00pm	Adult Tap Dancing The Imitation Game and AGM	" King Arthurs
Thu 18th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 19th	9.30pm 10.00am	WI Outing (trip to Mottisfont Abbey) Art	Mottisfont Village Hall
Mon 22nd	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 23rd	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 24th	6.15pm	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 25th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 26th	10.00am	Art	"
Sat 27th		North Cheriton Gardeners' Society	Somerset Lavender Farm
Mon 29th	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 30th	10.30am	Upholstery	"

FUTURE EVENT :

Open Garden at the Grange, Horsington on Saturday August 1st, 3 – 5pm
Courtesy of Mr. Peter Longman and with grateful thanks to John Sansom

Donations to St John's Church, Horsington funds
Suggested : £2.00 for adults (children 12 and under free)
Home made refreshments for sale and some entertainment

Windsor Hill Wood

by Toby Jones

Six years ago my wife and I started a residential refuge for people going through a period of crisis in their lives. As the site was a woodland at the end of Windsor Hill Lane, near Shepton Mallet, we called it Windsor Hill Wood. Over the years, we've had over a hundred people come and live with us, most staying for a few months, and some for more than a year. People come for all sorts of reasons - typically depression, addiction, PTSD, eating disorders, bereavement, homelessness, separation and so on. We don't charge rent, but run a common purse for food and bills. We normally have five guests with us at any one time, which as we're a family of five, makes a micro-community of ten.

Communal living is extremely tough. Some people have a bucolic notion that all we do is strum guitars round a campfire and run hand-in-hand through flower meadows. In reality, living with troubled, wounded people, whilst trying to hold down a day job and raise three kids, is gruelling. The learning curve has often been so steep it has seemed vertical. Plenty of things have been stolen or broken. Often there's not enough hot water to go round. The quality of the cooking is erratic. Some people don't wash as often as they might. We've occasionally been on the brink of compassion fatigue.

But although it's challenging, it's incredibly rewarding. We've seen people turn their lives around as they share in our activities: we make rustic furniture, breed pigs and sheep, make charcoal, coppice and plant trees, grow vegetables and bake bread. We share all our meals and have a rustic chapel, with straw-bale pews, where we go twice a day. Like the Pilsdon Community in Dorset, which inspired us, the day is punctuated by bells for mealtimes and prayer.

The learning curve has slowly levelled out. To begin with we thought people needed to rest, to relax and to work at their own pace. We thought it was helpful to be democratic and laid-back. All of which only created chaos. So we now joke that Francesca and I are benevolent dictators and that if anyone ever doubts our benevolence they're free to leave. We've realised that people who have led chaotic lives actually yearn for rhythm and structure, and we now give our guests a very clear timetable through the week. I'm a stickler for punctuality and graft and, especially, for putting tools away. As we're a dry and drug-free site, we have a breathalyser and drug-testing kit, and a one-strike policy. If anyone is using or boozing, or is verbally or physically violent, we ask them to leave.

Over the years we've had to add other rules like no pornography, no gambling, no romantic entanglements and no borrowing money. But they are more or less the only rules we have. The funny thing is that we're actually far more easy-going now that people know that not anything goes. We work hard together, but the lifestyle is also very relaxing: monastics used to talk of manual labour as being "laborious leisure", and manual labour is very healing. With more clarity about responsibilities, people don't feel guilty for not doing enough, or resentful for doing too much. The place now feels like a combination of a family home, a psychiatric unit and a boot camp. What's not to like?

We're very fortunate to have a strong connection to Horsington. I grew up in the village, where my parents still live. Beyond Pilsdon, our other inspiration was their slightly unorthodox home: Combe Mead was always open, offering hospitality – even family holidays – to those going through a tough patch. And over the years we've been extraordinarily supported by the village. I won't embarrass anyone by naming them, but the list of donations from Horsington is very long: everything from fence posts and manure, to money, blankets, saplings and spuds. You know who you are – thank you.

Years ago I wrote a weekly column about our communal experiment for the *Observer*. It didn't last long – I was replaced by blinking Mariella Frostrup! – but it made me realise what a yearning there was out there for communal living. And despite all the challenges, I'm still an evangelist for communalism: I'm convinced that it can offer solace and succour to those in trouble – and not just the obvious troubles, but also the more nuanced ones like loneliness, lack of belonging and of purpose. I felt our hard-won experience might help others do something similar, so I wrote a book about Windsor Hill Wood which will be published by Quercus. It's called *A Place of Refuge*.

We welcome visitors, though it's really helpful to make an appointment. And we're grateful for any donations. But most of all, we welcome applications from anyone who feels they might benefit from spending time in a place which offers both a lot of discipline and a lot of love.



The Chapel designed by one of the guests



Making the cob oven

Kilve Residential Trip

What a fantastic residential trip Horsington school had at Kilve Court in April. The greatest success must have been the weather – not a drop of rain over all four days and some beautiful sunny days which were perfect for the many varied outdoor activities available to the children.

It is always a privilege to witness children away from the classroom, seeing them flourish in a more practical environment. Children who sometimes find the confines of an academic setting restrictive, often become full of confidence; developing leadership skills, communicating more freely and understanding the benefits of co-operating as a team. This year the trip began with a lovely (5 mile approx.) round walk to the beach and back. A new route discovered by Mr Rumbelow enabled us to stay off the road, how satisfying to see the children spread out in varying groups, chatting companionably and enjoying the fantastic scenery. (It was actually a cunning plot by Mr Rumbelow to ensure the staff a trouble-free first night in the sleeping departments!)



Kilve instructors were always on hand, accompanying groups to different activities. They are knowledgeable, affable and good role models – One advantage of being a village school means we have small groups, usually with more than two instructors, which means for sports like archery children get a tremendous opportunity to really hone their talents.



The highlight of the trip had to be the glorious sunset which was the backdrop for our beach bonfire on the final night, marshmallows all round.

Horsington Village Summer Fete

Come and join us for a festival day of fun and music
2 – 5pm on 13th June 2015

*Opened this year by our special Guest **Syrie Swire** the grandchild of Dr Barnado*

We are looking for prizes and donations for this year's Prize Draw which is sponsored by the **Tour Of Wessex**.

FOOD, STALLS, LIVE MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT

Other sponsors already supporting our fete are Charlton Horethorne Village Shop, Astley Saab & Somerset Mini Marquees.

If you want to hold a stall please call Lucy on **07899 994124** or **01963 824866**

JUNE WOOD

by Gill Elston



June Wood's death signals the passing of an era. Perhaps there are not many left in South Cheriton and Horsington today who can appreciate the enormous influence she had on the villages, the improvements for which she was largely responsible, and the facilities she enabled to be built. It is doubtful that, without her drive, knowledge, contacts and passion for progress, there would ever have been a modernised and extended village hall, a proper school car park and other school extensions and a children's playground. And these were only some of her many achievements.

A politician to her finger tips, for many years she represented our ward as an Independent county and district councillor, always topping the poll. People knew she was committed and genuinely involved in their local affairs and problems. She chaired, and effectively ran, the Parish Council nearly to the end of her life in spite of grappling with a chronic and disabling illness.

Always supported by her husband, Dick, who predeceased her, June was not always easy to deal with. She knew what she wanted, and would sometimes go to extraordinary lengths to get it. This produced both tremendous loyalty from some and disenchantment from others.

It is rare nowadays for anyone to care for, and contribute so much, to their environment and community. June will be sorely missed.

Church Crawl from Milborne Port to Blackford Saturday June 20th

Anyone interested in joining a programme of church visits organised by the Somerset Churches Trust on Saturday afternoon, June 20th will receive a warm welcome. The theme is a study of some of the outstanding stained glass windows in some lovely and interesting local churches.

We meet at Milborne Port, St John the Evangelist at 2 p.m. There we will admire a set of windows by the prolific Clayton and Bell studio. We go on to Stowell St Mary Magdalene to view Arts and Crafts glass by Alice Erskine. We proceed to Horsington St John the Baptist to see glass by the Kempe studio, and then to Maperton St Peter and St Paul to admire real gems by Powell and Sons of London : finally to Blackford for tea in the Reading Room after looking in at St Michael's to see John Hayward's Good Shepherd east window.

For catering purposes please register your interest with Hugh Playfair, Blackford House, Blackford. Yeovil. BA22 7EE. Tel. 01963 440611. If you want a lift please make your own arrangements. There will be an opportunity for donations at teatime.

From the Rector, Greetings.

Well, I guess we can all breathe a sigh of relief for another five years! No more political broadcasts!! But what a shock the result was. For some a very pleasant shock indeed. For others, devastation.

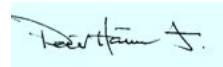
One of the things I love about this country, and of which I am proud, is how the outcome of the election has been handled. In many a land overseas, if the opposition had been trounced as thoroughly as the Labour Party was there would be cries of "Foul!" Maybe the result would not be accepted without the threat of civil unrest. Here, the Labour Party and others who did not perform as well as they hoped, rather than throw accusation, reflect on what they did wrong – and how they can improve their performance next time.

One of the peculiarities of our electoral system is that it can produce a so-called, strong government with a minority vote. What I mean is this: We now have a majority Conservative government – but it was elected by only 36.9% of those who voted. That means, of course 63.1% of those who voted, voted for something else. The turn out was only 66.1%. So this means that our present government was elected by only 24.4% of those who could have voted.

It is not surprising if folk as varied as UKIP to Green feel disgruntled at this – and I note that on the internet cries for some kind of Proportional Representation are growing again. Churchill said, (to paraphrase) "Democracy is the least worst form of government." If we want democracy to be our servant, and not our master, maybe it's time, once again, to reflect on this system that has served us so well for so long.

May God bless our Queen, and those appointed to authority under her. May God bless our land.

Peter Hallett – halatvic@gmail.com



St John the Baptist, Horsington

7th June	9.15am	Holy Communion with Sunday School
14th June	11.00am	Morning Prayer
21st June	9.15am	Holy Communion
28th June,	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Horsington Churchwarden
Mrs Rosemarie Wigley 371478

St Nicholas, Henstridge

7th June	11.00am	Morning Worship; 6.30pm Evensong
14th June:	9.30am	Holy Communion
21st June:	11.00am	Holy Communion
28th June:	11.00am	Holy Communion

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe

7th June	11.00am	Morning Praise
14th June	9.30am	Holy Communion
21st June	11.00am	Morning Praise
28th June	9.30am	Holy Communion

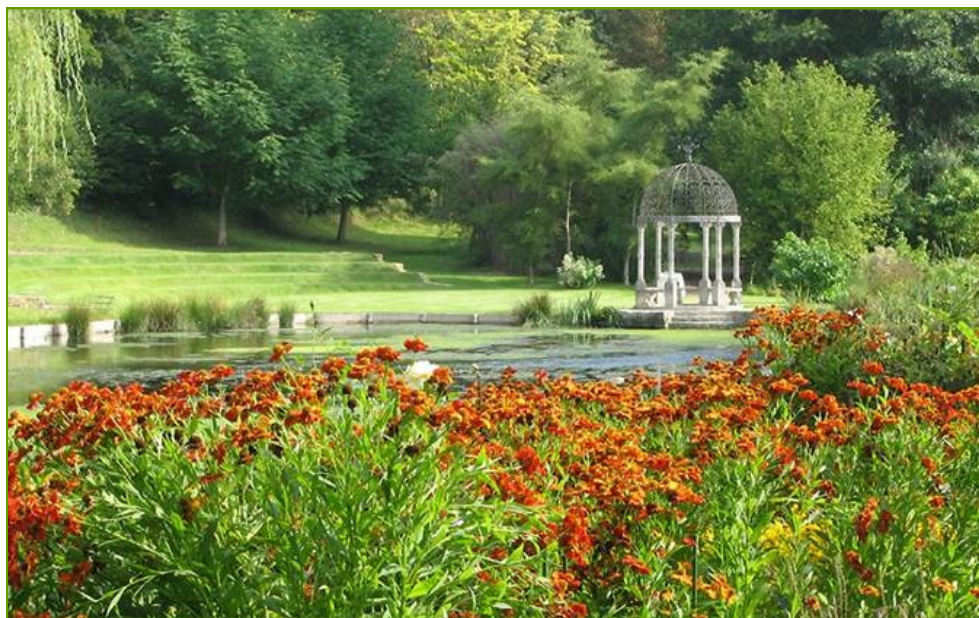
Tales from the Gardening Club

Spring is such a wonderful and busy time in the garden. It is time to get all those seeds sown, tidy up from the previous season, get digging your veg beds, start mowing the lawn – not to mention keeping on top of all those fresh, keen weeds... What we must not forget to do is to take time to sit back and enjoy all our hard work, to marvel at nature and of course enjoy an evening out with your local gardening club!

In March many of us turned up to do the latter and we all enjoyed a really fabulous evening with Edward Parker, a renowned and prize winning photographer and writer who specialises in environmental issues, travel and education. He has been lucky enough to literally travel the world with his profession and has been to some amazing places. Edward's talk told the stories of many plants – their origin, how and where they are grown, the people who earn their living from them, and their modern day uses. It really was something very different, his photographs were stunning and his knowledge and delivery was so interesting that we were all rather sad when the end of the evening arrived.

Edward is now the Manager of the Springhead Trust, a rural centre for creative and sustainable living, in Fontmell Magna, and our garden club is planning a visit in the summer of 2016.

If you are interested in joining our friendly group, we would love to see you. Please call Sarah Holmes on 01963 34711 for details of our next event.



VE DAY CELEBRATION

A big thank you to John Sansom and all who helped at the Half Moon on the evening of Saturday 9th May.



Bertie's Big Swing Band and the singers were sensational and had just the right sound to celebrate the 70th anniversary of VE Day.





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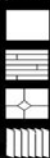
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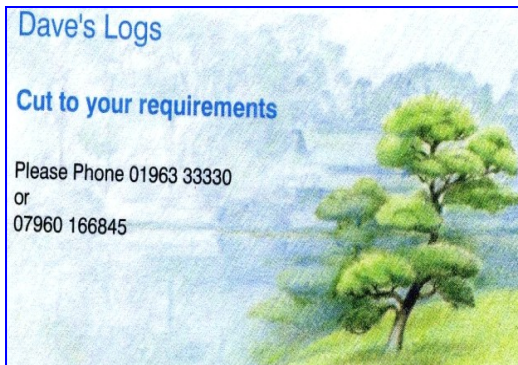
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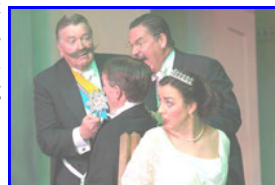
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The Members of the Milborne Port Opera Company would like to thank **Horsington villagers** and their eponymous magazine for their support for "Spring Fate". This musical comedy – a new work by Neil Edwards – played to full houses on 3 nights out of 4, and many of the audience were from the village. Judging by the reviews, Facebook and word of mouth, the show was enjoyed by everyone. Thank you all – without an audience we do not have a show. Now we have to wait to see if we have been nominated for any awards. If you missed the show, you can see it on You Tube, pour a glass of wine and enjoy! Simply search for Milborne Port Opera Spring Fate. Next year the MPO will return to Gilbert & Sullivan to perform "The Sorcerer", G & S's third show, written immediately before "HMS Pinafore", a wonderful comic opera about a village where a magic potion causes everyone to fall in love with the first person they see when they wake up – with very funny (and dire) consequences. MPO members will tell you that being in the show is a fantastic way to get through the long winter. Choral singing is very uplifting and learning lines and going to rehearsals sharpens the wits and focuses the mind. If you think you can sing, and can give up a Thursday evening every week during the winter contact us via our website : www.milborneportopera.co.uk.



We would love to have you on board! All welcome



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

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

Free, apart from drinks.

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

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

**Friday June 19th at 9.30am
Coach trip to view Roses at Mottisfont Abbey
(depart from Village Hall)**

Open to non-members space permitting, please telephone
Mrs Jean Handy for further information
on **371720**



**The Wincanton Film Society Presents The Imitation Game (12A)
& AGM
Wednesday 17th June 2015 at 7.00pm**

During World War II, mathematician Alan Turing tries to crack the enigma code with help from fellow mathematicians. Director: Morten Tyldum Stars: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode.

For further information contact Les Graney on 371668

**NORTH CHERITON AND DISTRICT GARDENERS'
SOCIETY**

**SATURDAY 27TH JUNE
VISIT TO SOMERSET LAVENDER FARM**

**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

The White Horse South Cheriton 2 day BEER FESTIVAL



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27th and 28th June

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CONTACT LIST

(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

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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
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