

The Horsington & South Cheriton *Villager*

Issue No. 48

December/January 2016



Drawing created by an ex-pupil of Horsington School.

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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 December 2015

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Tue 1st	10.30am	Upholstery	Village Hall
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 2nd	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	"
	8.30pm	Music Night	Half Moon Inn
	8.45pm	Father Christmas Visit	Horsington
Thu 3rd	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
	7.30pm	WI – Christmas Party	"
	7.45pm	Father Christmas Visit	South Cheriton
Fri 4th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Sat 5th	11-3.00pm	Horsington Christmas Fayre at Gartell Light Railway	Yenston
	12.00pm	Bake Off Competition	White Horse Inn, South Cheriton
Mon 7th	Lunch	Ladies Lunch Group	Crown & Victoria, Tintinhull
	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 8th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	7.30pm	North Cheriton Gardeners Society	N/C Village Hall
	8.00pm	Badminton	Village Hall
Wed 9th	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	"
	7.30pm	Film: Woman in Gold	King Arthurs
Thu 10th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	"
Fri 11th	10.00am	Art	"
Sun 13th	7.30pm	Wincanton Choral Society Winter Concert	King Arthurs
Mon 14th	6.00pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Tue 15th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
Wed 16th	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 17th	10.00am	Art	"
Thu 24th	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	St John's Horsington

The Villager would like to wish all their readers, advertisers and contributors a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We very much look forward to receiving further input, comments and suggestions from you in 2016.

If anyone would like to become involved in any aspects of the magazine, we would love to hear from you, just contact one of us (phone numbers on the cover).



Events Diary January 2016

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Mon 4th	Lunch 6.00pm	Ladies Lunch Group Pilates	Camelot at South Cadbury Village Hall
Tue 5th	10.30am 2.30pm	Upholstery Blackmore Vale U3A Talk Asteroid Impact and How It Will Affect Us	" Henstridge Village Hall
Wed 6th	8.00pm 10.00am	Badminton Adult Tap Dancing	Village Hall "
Thu 7th	8.30pm 10.00am	Music Night Art WI – Members Lunch	Half Moon Inn Village Hall "
Fri 8th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 11th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 12th	10.30am 8.00pm	Upholstery Badminton	" "
Wed 13th	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 14th	10.00am 7.30pm	Art Parish Council Meeting	" "
Fri 15th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 18th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 19th	10.30am 7.30pm 8.00pm	Upholstery Film: The Water Diviner Badminton	" King Arthurs Village Hall
Wed 20th	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 21st	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 22nd	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 25th	6.00pm	Pilates	"
Tue 26th	10.30am 8.00pm	Upholstery Badminton	" "
Wed 27th	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Thu 28th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 29th	10.00am	Art	"

Please note North Cheriton Gardeners Society will not meet in January.

Future Event: 19th February at St John's, Horsington

There will be a talk on the work of
The Born Free Foundation
by **Will Travers OBE**



Cover photo provided by Jeanne Mortarotti

Scouts awaiting Kit Inspection



A Scout and a Beaver waiting to go tunnelling



Enjoying the carousel

Assault Course



Archery



Around the bonfire

2nd Templecombe Scout Group Summer Camp 2015

by Leah Macey

The beginning of August is the traditional time for a scout camp because Lord Baden-Powell held the first camp on Brownsea Island on 1st August 1907. This year 33 members from 2nd Templecombe Scouts, Cubs and leaders packed their rucksacks and headed towards Collard Bridge Scout Campsite near Barnstaple on Saturday 1st August.

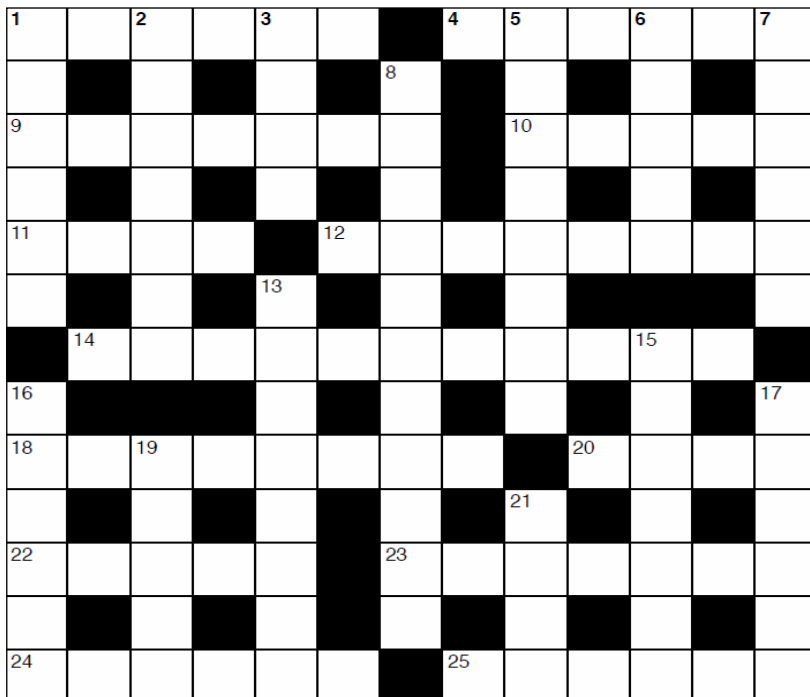
When we arrived the sun was shining and everyone set to and pitched the tents looking forward to the week ahead. The camp site was set in a small paddock next to a river in a wooded valley with lots of mature trees to give us shelter from the wind.

Sunday was warm and sunny a great day to play on Woolacombe beach, eat ice creams and swim in the sea... Perfect! The next day the Scout Group explored Lynton and Lynmouth, where we rode on the Lynton and Lynmouth Cliff Railway, had lunch on the beach followed by some rock pooling and then a walk along the river to Watersmeet for a very welcome cream tea.

Then came the rain! And the Beavers! The Beavers are the youngest members of the scout group (6-8 years) and this was the first time they had joined the older sections on camp for a night camping. Eight happy, excited beavers and their leaders arrived at camp and joined in with the scouts and cubs to do tunnelling, orienteering, run an assault course and the highlight of their stay the camp fire. The following day when their parents came to collect them the Beavers were still excited, tired and dirty but proud to be awarded their first nights away badge.

Despite the rain, the group camp continued, everyone was wet and muddy, but that didn't stop us from having fun. We went air rifle shooting, had a go at archery, explored Barnstaple, played wide games against scout groups camping in the neighbouring fields and on our penultimate day the sun returned and we spent the day at the Big Sheep letting our hair down on the carousel, and other similar rides. Sadly Saturday came and we had to strike camp and head home looking forward to our next adventure. Where are we going? Who knows! But for certain next year's camp will be as much fun as this year.

Crossword by MAX



Across

1. Three men leading on a sled. (6)
2. Rejected old flame after girl needs extension. (6)
9. Sounds like naked near mine is wildlife arena. (7)
10. School for discipline. (5)
11. Back hoar frost into Middle East leader. (4)
12. This cleaner might lose right to do what he is paid for. (8)
14. Shortened book becomes a wail. (11)
18. Forebear is mixed cane which decays regressively. (8)
20. Made of this for shoe. (4)
22. Baby killer came from this mingling horde. (5)
23. You need to be to reach this canvas without its top. (7)
24. Slayer is agitated to get on air. (6)
25. Sapper is sort to ask stenographer to do this. (6)

Down

1. After a confused battle the combatants might be required to take one. (6)
2. A terrorist organisation commander backs old instrument. (7)
3. Swimming fish tops Foreign Legion. (4)
5. Vanity danced around what a 1920's girl had to produce a seasonal scene. (8)
6. Consumed when vanquished lost their head. (5)
7. A salaryman is probably one. (7)
8. To supply low-pressure enables animals to drink. (5,6)
13. Easter could be fairy carrying cardinal and old penny. (5,3)
15. 60 minutes loses its head and the baroness becomes Madonna. (3,4)
16. Instead of operating system this comedown could reverse about to produce swimmer. (6)
17. Creepy crawly could jut out. (6)
19. She could sing this song. (5)
21. An inkling of mine (4)

Answers on page 19

Bird Watch

by Keith Davies

Stourhead, the National Trust estate near Mere, is a popular venue for walkers and sightseers seeking out its landscaped gardens, ornamental lake and Palladian mansion. It is also a favourite venue for birdwatchers attracted by its great variety of countryside ranging from pine forest and ancient deciduous woodland, through parkland and chalk downs to farmland. This huge estate, covering over two and a half thousand acres and managed with wildlife in mind, supports a plethora of birdlife.

The woodland is a remnant of the huge Selwood Forest that, in Anglo Saxon times, used to stretch north from Stourhead all the way to the Cotswolds. Much of what remains has been planted with conifers and in these you can find two of our smallest birds, the Firecrest and the Goldcrest. In the depths of the pines lurks the mighty Goshawk, one of our largest birds of prey. It is very difficult to see one of these furtive raptors and the best method is to climb to the top of King Alfred's Tower in early spring and try to catch sight of one displaying above the tree tops. There is also a good number of Common Crossbills whose crossed-bill is adapted for extracting seeds from pine and spruce cones. These are easy to find as they feed noisily in flocks at the top of the tallest trees.

There is an estate booklet containing a number of suggested walks and one of these takes you on a circular route through one of the four working farms on the estate. The farms are in Environmental Stewardship Schemes and thus you can count on seeing many of our typical farmland birds whose numbers are in steep decline elsewhere. These include three species that have been red-listed for conservation purposes. They are Yellowhammer, Skylark and Linnet. There has been a decrease of almost 60% in Linnet numbers since 1970, but they are flourishing in the Stourhead fields as there is an abundance of seeds and insects.

It is easy to extend this walk to include the chalk grassland of White Sheet Hill. This gives superb views over the whole estate and surrounding countryside. It also comes with wildflowers and rare butterflies and the walk back down the hill can include a visit to the welcoming Red Lion Inn which is on an old coaching route and which used to stable the extra horses required to tackle the steep hill.

The Linnet



Common Crossbill

Sloe, sloe, quick quick sloe.

by Millicent MacGregor



At the start of each new season, I always consider it to be my most favourite of the year. Winter brings the joy of wrapping up both myself and the garden against those biting winds, Summer the endless luxurious days spent at the beach watching the unbridled ecstasy on my children's faces as they leap about in the waves. And Spring – well, that is the time to shed a few layers, turn our face to the sun and revel in the promise of what our gardens will provide (before most pests and diseases have had a chance to get a hold).

But what of Autumn? Well this year we have had a pretty spectacular one. With fabulous weather in September and most of October, we have been able to reap the rewards of this very colourful season without too much shower-dodging. We grew 2 pumpkins for the children to carve at the end of October and they were truly splendid specimens – perfectly ripened by the late season's sun. Our tomatoes and cucumbers in the greenhouse were providing us with delicious sweet fruit right up to the end of October. My dahlias and chrysanthemums are still giving as I write, but as soon as the frost arrives, I shall say a fond farewell to them until next year.

The other huge excitement of Autumn in our household is because it is sloe berry picking time. We take the children across the fields to collect our own body weight in berries – and they were absolutely amazing this year! Oh my, we were totally spoilt for choice. With the gin already waiting, we rush home to start the magic. Last year's batch has now been bottled up and labelled ready to give as Christmas gifts and it is eagerly awaited by those in the know.

My husband is the preserve king in our house and we have been collecting jam jars from neighbours to cope with the amount of produce that we had. Our cupboards and freezer (and those of our neighbours) are bulging with chutneys, jams, pickles, passata, dried chillies, stewed fruits, cakes and just about every other way of being able to enjoy our harvest well into the winter and beyond.

So, what shall I be doing this Saturday evening? Sitting down with my seed catalogue in front of the wood burning stove, the moggy will probably join me and together we shall watch another of my favourite things about Autumn – Strictly Come Dancing! With a glass of last year's sloe gin to hand of course.

Report on The Horsington Open

by Richard Gaunt

The 2015 Horsington Open was the biggest and best yet. 42 golfers turned out at Henstridge Golf Club on Friday 23rd October to raise, with Gift Aid, over £750 for the St Margaret's Hospice charity.

Horsington's golfers performed extremely well. John Macdonald came a close second, beating Richard Walker, David Blake, George Wagland and Peter Gripper by a tiny margin. George Wagland, John Macdonald and Richard Gaunt all improved their scores considerably over last year, and Paul Mann won the "Nearest the pin" competition on the 8th hole. Sadly Chris Bailward, playing for the first time for many years, was narrowly pipped for the "Putt of the day" competition.

The Half Mooners team, led by landlord Andrew Tarling, were poised to win the team competition but failed on the last stroke on the final hole.

A special mention should be made of the Foresters team, of Joan Palmer, Bob Foot, Joy Crabb and Kath Rolls. These brave souls had never been on a golf course in their lives, and although they came last, it was no humiliation, and several keen shots were observed.

The competition was so close that the scorers had to take into account performance on the last six, and then the last 3 holes to decide a winner. There were 7 players contending for the first 3 places with just 3 points between them.

The amount raised for charity was far in excess of previous efforts, helped by the generous donation of raffle and auction prizes by Hunts Foodservice Ltd, the Half Moon, the White Horse, Wincanton Racecourse, Jerry's Electrical and Henstridge Golf Club.

Come on Horsington! Make a diary note to enter next year.



The Foresters team, making their golf debut: Joy Crabb, Kath Rolls, Bob Foot and Joan Palmer

The Half Mooners – David Blake, George Wagland, Peter Gripper and Andrew Tarling



St John's Church Horsington

St John the Baptist, Horsington – December Services

6th - 9.15am Holy Communion with Sunday School
 13th - 11.00am Morning Prayer
 20th - 9.15am Holy Communion
 Christmas Eve, 6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service
 Christmas Day, 9.15am Holy Communion
 27th - 10.30am United Service in Henstridge Parish Church

St Nicholas, Henstridge – December Services

6th - (Patronal Festival) 11.00am Morning Worship; 6.30pm Festival Evensong
 13th - 9.30am Holy Communion; 4.00pm Messy Christingle; 5.00pm Christingle Service
 20th - 11.00am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
 Christmas Eve, 4.00pm Dressing Up Crib Service, 11.30pm First Communion of Christmas
 Christmas Day, 9.30am: *Peace to God's People ~ Holy Communion for all ages*
 27th - 10.30am United Service in Henstridge Parish Church

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe – December Services

6th - 11.00am Morning Praise
 13th - 9.30am Holy Communion; 5pm Christingle Service
 20th - 6.30pm Carol Service
 Christmas Eve, 11.30pm First Communion of Christmas
 Christmas Day, 11.00am *Peace to God's People ~ Holy Communion for all ages*
 27th - 10.30am United Service in Henstridge Parish Church

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St John the Baptist, Horsington – January Services

3rd - 9.15am Holy Communion
 10th - 11.00am Morning Prayer
 17th - 9.15am Holy Communion
 24th - 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
 31st - 10.30am United Service in Horsington Parish Church

St Nicholas, Henstridge – January Services

3rd - 11.00am Morning Worship; 6.30pm Evensong
 10th - 9.30am Holy Communion
 17th - 11.00am Morning Prayer; 6.30pm Evensong
 24th - 11.00am Holy Communion
 31st - 10.30am United Service in Horsington Parish Church

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe – January Services

3rd - 11.00am Morning Praise
 10th - 9.30am Holy Communion
 17th - 11.00am Holy Communion
 24th - 9.30am Holy Communion
 31st - 10.30am United Service in Horsington Parish Church

From the Rector, Greetings.

And here we are in the run up to Christmas. How many shopping days are there? Plans are being made, presents bought, cards soon to be sent. Yet there's another side to this time of year with the long winter nights. For so many people this is a time they dread – especially those who are on their own.

For myself, I have always liked the dark nights. That is for one simple reason – you can see the stars. As a young teenager I loved the stars – and borrowed a small telescope from our school as often as I could. Although I am not into star gazing as I was then – I still love a clear dark winter's night when you can lift your head and see the Milky Way across the sky, and Orion and The Plough (or whatever name you want to give it). That young teenager that was me could do his paper round blindfolded because I did it looking up rather than where I was going! Then I would have called myself an atheist – but I couldn't help looking at the stars and wondering, "Are you there, God...?"

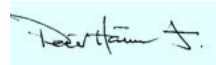
As I look at the stars I wonder at the majesty and beauty of the universe; but at the same time it brings home the smallness, and apparent insignificance of humans, and our bit of cosmic dust that is so important to us, the Earth. "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:3,4).

In pre-Christian days 'longest-night' was approached with fear. As the sun got lower and lower in the sky – what if it disappeared? Sacrifices were offered to appease the gods to persuade them to give us another year. It is no wonder that the early Christians chose this time of year to celebrate the birth of the Son who rises with healing in his wings. The one who brings not fear, but peace and joy.

The Psalm continues: "Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour..." We see this most fully fulfilled in the one whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. As we place our hand in his hand, he takes our fear and gives us his peace; he takes our darkness and fills us with his light. He gives us eyes and a heart to see and rejoice in the beauty of his world.

May our loving God give you a happy Christmas, and a truly blessed New Year.

Peter Hallett – halatvic@gmail.com



HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS...

Why not join our choir for the Horsington Church Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm. The benefits are limitless!!

For further information phone John or Sheila on 370249.



HORSINGTON CHRISTMAS FAYRE

at Gartell Light Railway, Yenston
 Saturday 5th December 2015
 11:00–15:00

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New Children in Water Class

by Helen Barker

The reception children have just completed their first half term in school and their first four week's full time and what a busy time they have had. Getting to make new friends, learning new skills and meeting all the challenges of starting school.

We have been amazed at how well the children have settled in, quickly learning where to hang up their coat, which tray to put their book bag in and which group they work with. We cannot believe how quickly they settle down to do their tasks and do what is required of them.

A highlight of each week has been our time in The Spinney. The children have enjoyed making dens, playing in the leaves, making potions and mud pies, climbing trees and building bridges.

The children have also been lucky enough to cook each week taking home such delights as cakes, cheese straws, pumpkin soup and chocolate crispy cakes. We are also in the middle of a sewing project making bears out of old tights.

The first half term has been exhausting for us all but very enjoyable and we hope the rest of the year is just as busy and exciting!





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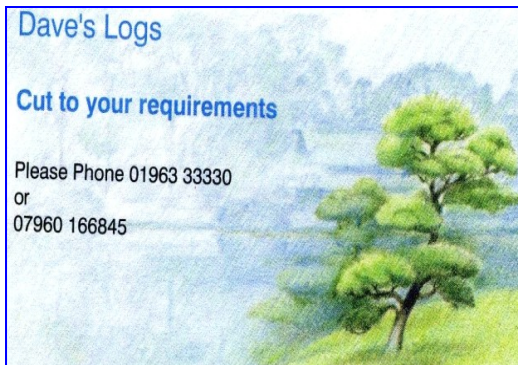
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**Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington
at 8.30pm on Wednesday 2nd December
& 8.30pm Wednesday 6th January**

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

Free, apart from drinks.

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



**Thursday December 3rd @ 7.30pm at Village Hall
Christmas Party**

**Thursday January 7th
Members Lunch**

Telephone Mrs Jackie Pyne for further information on **370713**

**The Wincanton Film Society Presents
Woman in Gold (12A)**

Wednesday 9th December 2015 at 7.30pm

Director: Simon Curtis, written by Alexi Kaye Campbell. Stars: Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds.

Sixty years after fleeing Vienna, Maria Altmann (Helen Mirren), an elderly Jewish woman, attempts to reclaim family possessions that were seized by the Nazis.

The Water Diviner (R)

Tuesday 19th January 2016 at 7.30pm

Director: Russell Crowe. Stars: Russell Crowe, Olga Kurylenko, Jai Courtney.

An Australian man travels to Turkey after the Battle of Gallipoli to try and locate his three missing sons.

For further information contact Les Graney on 371668

NORTH CHERITON AND DISTRICT GARDENERS SOCIETY

Tuesday December 8th at 7.30pm in North Cheriton Village Hall

Christmas Wreaths and Decorations by Thorngrove Nurseries

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

BLACKMORE VALE LIONS



For the second time in the history of the Blackmore Vale Lions, the Lions Christmas Float is coming to Horsington and South Cheriton.



Wednesday 2nd December Father Christmas will be arriving at the Half Moon Inn, Horsington at 8.45pm.

Thursday 3rd December the Float will be arriving in South Cheriton at approximately 7.45pm.



I am looking for someone who would be able to help me to top a 1 acre paddock which is too overgrown for a sit on mower.

We are in Horsington. Please call Emma or Kev for details and with a quote on 07741 314813 or 07917 644720

Advance Notice - Art Classes

Deirdre Loftus will be giving a series of five weekly Art Classes in Oils for beginners and also those more experienced, at the White Horse Pub beginning Tuesday 1st March 2016 10.00am to 12.30pm. Cost of course £60.00. For further details please ring me on 01963 370091.



Across
 1. Troika 4. Annexe 9. Bearpit. 10. Tutor 11. Emir 12. Scavenge. 14. Lamentation 18. Ancestor 20. Tree 22. Herod 23. Gallant 24. Relays 25. Retype

Down
 1. Tablet 2. Ocarina 3. Kepi 5. Nativity 6. Eaten 7. Earner 8. Stock trough 13. Feast day 15. Our Lady 16. Bather 17. Beetle 19. Carol 21. Clue

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
French/Italian Conversation	Jeanne Mortarotti	202265
Horsington Church School	Head/Secretary	370358
Governors	Vicky Franklin	370699
PTFA	Lucy Mackay	824866
Ladies' Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
	Susan Maltin	371400
Mobile Library		0845 345 9177
MP	David Warburton	0207 219 5225
North Cheriton & District		
Gardeners' Society	Pat Holmes	370017
Parish Council	David Chapman	370527
St John's Church		
Rector	Rev. Peter Hallett	362266
Wardens	Anne Jones & Rosemarie Wigley	370626 371478
Sunday School	Deirdre Loftus	370091
Scouts	Geoff Crabb	370623
Social Services		0845 345 9133
South Somerset District Council		01935 462462
U3A	Jean Lindley	251256
Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)		602500
Wincanton Town Council		31693
W.I.	Jackie Pyne	370713
Village Hall	www.horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk	
Chair	John Macdonald	370444
Bookings	Emilie Gordon	371396
Art	Gill Elston & Toni Salmonson	370236 370235
Badminton	Frank Beach	370767
Dance	Louise Holliday	362689
Football	Keith Norman	370332
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07885 798032
Upholstery	Jean Powell	01747 841126