

The Horsington & South Cheriton

Villager

Issue No. 63

June 2017



Horsington Provident and Friendly Society Circa 1925

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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 2017

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Thu 1st	9.30am	WI Outing	Taunton
Fri 2nd	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Mon 5th	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
Tue 6th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
		Ladies Pub Lunch	Bennett Arms, Semley
Wed 7th	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	Village Hall
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	"
	8.30pm	Music Night	Half Moon Inn
Thu 8th		GENERAL ELECTION VOTING	Village Hall
	2.00pm	Charlton Horethorne & District Gardening Club	Cherry Bolberry Farm
Fri 9th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 12th	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
Tue 13th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 14th	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Fri 16th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 19th	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
Tue 20th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 21st	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Fri 23rd	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 26th	5.30pm	Pilates	Village Hall
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
Tue 27th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Wed 28th	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	"
Fri 30th	10.00am	Art	"
	7.00pm	Wincanton History Society Talk	Wincanton Memorial Hall

Front cover photo provided by John Vallins.

Horsington Provident and Friendly Society - Update

by John Vallins

The Horsington Provident and Friendly Society was founded around 1850 and, in its modern form, survived until finally wound up in 1982. Its splendid banner lay unregarded in the Village Hall store-room for many years, and then recently spent a few years proudly displayed in the parish church. And now it has been warmly welcomed by South Somerset's Community Heritage Access Centre in Yeovil as a precious artefact with significance for our local heritage.

The late Bill Candy, who, like his father before him, had been a member of the Club (as it was familiarly called), cherished the banner and hoped that it would always be looked after and admired. And now it is indeed admired by discerning eyes and receiving expert care from conservationists.

As well as keeping an eye on the banner, Bill had also kept much information about the Club (rule books, accounts, membership books and other papers) in a box which now, having been recovered from the attic of his home, is, like the banner itself, deposited at the South Somerset Heritage Access Centre where its contents are being eagerly studied.

Some extracts from the papers indicate something of the Club's role in the Horsington of earlier times, when the village community was mainly involved in agriculture and associated trades, when there was no welfare state, and when Parson and Squire took their accepted place at the head of local institutions like the Club. And you may see them, Parson and Squire, sitting together in the middle of the front row in a formal group photograph (circa 1925) of Club members. The backdrop is the fine cedar tree which still today spreads over the lawn of the Grange, formerly the Rectory. The club members, all men, look hard at the camera as they sit in front of their banner wearing hats, suits and club badges.

The rule book of 1889 states that the club's first aim is '*to promote thrift among the labouring classes*', and then '*to enable the members to make provision for sickness and old age*'...and '*to enable members to provide for medical attendance and medicine in times of sickness*.' ..though a warning follows directly: '*such payments shall cease in case he shall be seen at any fair, revel, or house of public entertainment*'. In the schedule of medical payments, amputation of the leg or hand is rated at £5.

The club's concern for proper behaviour is repeatedly made evident. *'Any member guilty of grossly immoral conduct may be expelled by the committee'* and sickness benefit shall be due to any member suffering from an ailment *'unless it shall have been brought on himself by a loose and wicked way of life or by excessive drinking or fighting.'*

The banner was paraded through the village on May Day on its way to church for the club's annual service, and on such occasions, and at the club's other gatherings, behaviour was to be correct. The rule book states that *'for the preservation of good manners, and to avoid profaneness, any member who shall, during the time of the general meeting, funeral or annual feast, be intoxicated, or shall curse, swear, challenge, insult or abuse any of the members present, or shall otherwise conduct himself disorderly, shall forfeit sixpence at the first, and one shilling at the second offence, and on a third shall not be allowed to remain at the meeting.'*



Its off to the polls again

**GENERAL ELECTION
THURSDAY 8TH JUNE**

**Voting at the Village Hall
Between 7am and 10pm**



MARY WATTS' SCHOOL DAYS

by Mary Butler (nee Watts) 2005

I was born Mary Watts. I had one brother – George – who was 18 months older than me. Our parents were village bakers at South Cheriton. My brother and myself both attended Horsington School from the age of 5 to the age of 14 when we left.

After the summer term of 1929 I started school. Opposite our home a family lived called “Davey”. They had a little girl, Sylvia. She was just 12 days older than me and we started school together. Her older sister Edna took us. We went all through school together. We are now in our eighties and have been friends all of our lives. In my days Miss Miller took the infants, then Miss Stockwell, then Miss Burge and finally Mrs



Skuse. When Miss Burge left to get married Mrs. Skuse took her place. They were all good teachers, but it is Mrs. Skuse that left the biggest impression on me. I can recall several things that I have never forgotten.

1 ... I used to enjoy sewing and embroidery and I made a really nice sewing or knitting bag. When it was completed Mrs. Skuse said “well done Mary, now you can take it home”. I always found it hard to accept things and so I said “Oh I could not do that”. So I was told to put it into the cupboard. Now I really wanted to give this bag to my dear Mum, and one day I plucked up the courage and asked if I could buy it. I was told to take it and if in the future anyone offered me anything and I wanted it, I must learn to accept .

That was lesson number one!

2... We often wondered why Mrs. Skuse sent so many of us into her home so often. One day she announced that she had a very honest class as she had sent all of us in turn into her home and left things lying about to see if we would take anything, which no one had. I felt proud to think we were all honest. It has stood me in good faith throughout my life. If I have ever seen anything lying about I think “it is a plant”.

Lesson number two!

3.....Another day Mrs. Skuse left the classroom for a while and left a boy in charge who was a real bully. I was afraid of him. He had to tell Mrs. Skuse who was the best behaving and who was the worst. I felt in my bones he would say that I was the worst, so I hung my head and worked as hard as I could. Imagine the shock when he said I was the best. I could hardly believe it.

Lesson number three. Do not always put yourself down!

When the girls were in the top classes we used to go to Templecombe to cookery classes on a Wednesday. That was great. We all had some fun! The boys did woodwork on Fridays and the Templecombe boys joined our boys for that. At Christmas we always had a lovely party, tea and games and a play. Mrs Skuse worked hard going around the big houses collecting funds for it. We used to have a lovely time. I enjoyed all of my time at Horsington School and I thank God for the school and teachers and all they taught us.

A GP's Anecdote

by Bob Jones

For my first 25 years or so as a Wincanton GP we used to get called, by the Ambulance Service, to road traffic accidents if they thought that they needed our assistance. We had a car-boot full of equipment, and used to attend courses from time to time to keep us up to the mark. One summer evening I was just about to leave home to go to a farewell party for one of our receptionists at the Unicorn pub in Bayford when I had a call asking me to attend an accident at the bottom of Church Street in Wincanton. A motor-cyclist had failed to turn sufficiently and had hit the nearside kerb and come off.

I raced there, to find the Police and Ambulance already there, and the victim with a fracture of the Femur (thigh-bone) and a significant head injury. We stabilised him, got an IV going and off he went to Yeovil Hospital (where he eventually made a full recovery.)

I offered to help the Police-woman, who I had known for many years, tidy up the glass and signs of the accident. All the kit for doing so was in the boot of her Panda car; she couldn't turn the key in the lock, so I offered to have a go. I jiggled it around, as one does, and pushed it in and out, and eventually the lock engaged and the boot flew open. Together we swept up the broken glass and put sand over the signs of injury. The police-woman then said she was fine now thanks, she'd finish off, and so I went on my way to the farewell party in Bayford.

After 10 minutes or so there I put my hand in my pocket to buy a drink. And in my pocket I found the keys to the police car ...

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her
Husband stalking around with a fly swatter



'What are you doing? She asked.
'Hunting Flies' He responded.
'Oh! Killing any? she asked.
'Yep, 3 males, 2 Females,' he replied.
Intrigued, she asked..



How can you tell them apart?' He responded,
3 were on a beer can,
2 were on the phone.

BIRDWATCH

by Keith Davies

One of the most intriguing changes in bird movements over the previous twenty or so years is the appearance in Buckhorn of what are usually thought of as Mediterranean wading birds. Little Egrets used to be a rarity for us and it was not until 1996 that the first ever breeding took place when a pair raised three chicks on Brownsea Island in Dorset. In the short period of time since then Little Egrets have colonised the southern half of Britain with over seven hundred pairs now breeding annually. And you do not necessarily have to visit a wetland nature reserve to see them. They are reasonably common locally with Horsington Marsh, the river Cale and any flooded field being the place to see them. There is also a strong suspicion that a pair bred in Moormill Withy Bed, which is halfway between Templecombe and Buckhorn Weston because a family party, including very young juveniles, was seen in that area in 2013.

A number of other large Mediterranean wading birds have been seen in Somerset in recent years. Cattle Egrets successfully bred at two sites in 2008 and although there have been no further examples of breeding, a number of single birds have been seen sporadically. Since 2010 there have been year-round sightings of Great White Egrets and it looks as though these have now colonised the Avalon Marshes. These wetlands include the wildlife reserves at Shapwick Heath and Ham Wall, which are well within an hour's drive of Horsington. Other sightings at these RSPB and Natural England reserves include Little Bittern, Purple Heron, Glossy Ibis and Black-winged Stilts. And some of these have attempted to breed. Great White Egrets and Glossy Ibises in particular are a startling sight when first encountered and initially look out of place.



The most obvious reason for the spread of these Mediterranean birds to Somerset is likely to be climate change. Not only do warmer temperatures suit them but our unseasonal flooding and warmer, wetter springs are also likely to benefit these water birds. An allied factor is the drying out of their home habitats which must encourage them to disperse further afield. Whatever the explanation it seems likely that the trend will continue and we will see these exotic birds more regularly and more locally in the future.

From the Rector, Greetings.

Our archbishops have issued a 3 page Pastoral Letter relating to the General Election. Our diocesan bishop, Peter Hancock has supported it, and commented on it. The letter can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website, where you can also read Peter Hancock's comments (<http://www.bathandwells.org.uk>).

Peter Hancock says, "The Church's role in national life is clear. It seeks to remain politically neutral, whilst at the same time calling on its members to play a full part in the political life of the nation and to support politicians and the government with their prayers." I know what he means – I have been a member of a political party for most of my adult life, but have never seen the pulpit as the place to promote a particular party, And yet, is not one of the charges against the church in Germany in the 1930s that it failed to challenge the rise of National Socialism? And did not the House of Bishops, in 2014, declare that being a member of the BNP was incompatible with the teaching of the Church?

Some time ago I read something that contained extracts from the manifestos of the main political parties. The challenge was to work out which extract came from which manifesto. It was nigh on impossible! I encountered this quote at the beginning of a book I read many years ago, I think it is from *Alice through the looking glass*. Humpty Dumpty speaking says, "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean." This, it seems to me, the beginning of the road to the post-truth society, and alternative facts.

The question is not, What do the politicians *say*? but rather, What do they *mean*? The answer to *that* might guide us how we vote.

Peter Hallett – halatvic@gmail.com



St John the Baptist, Horsington

4th June	9.15am	Holy Communion with Sunday School	12.30pm Baptism
11th June	11.00am	Morning Prayer	
18th June	9.15am	Holy Communion	
25th June	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	

Churchwardens

Mrs Anne Jones 370626
Mrs Rosemarie Wigley 371478

St Nicholas, Henstridge

4th June	11.00am	Morning Worship	6.30pm Evensong
11th June	9.30am	Holy Communion	
18th June	11.00am	Morning Prayer	6.30pm Evensong
25th June	11.00am	Holy Communion	

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe

4th June	11.00am	Morning Praise
11th June	9.30am	Holy Communion
18th June	11.00am	Morning Praise
25th June	9.30am	Holy Communion



**Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington
at 8.30pm on Wednesday 7th June**

Please come and join us, play and sing whilst enjoying a beer. Free, apart from drinks.

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

Fancy a trip to Taunton?



**Thursday 1st June @ 9.30am
(open to non members)**

**Morning: Shopping/Museum
Afternoon: Cothelstone Manor Tour and Tea**

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

Horsington Church Quiz

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's quiz, which raised £101 for church funds. This amount included some generous donations. The prizewinners are as follows:

1st prize: Jerry and Isobel Wood
2nd prize: Tina Wons
3rd prize : Chris McCairns

Thanks,

Sallie Vallins

Charlton Horethorne & District Gardening Club

I hope all our members took advantage of the Castle Gardens discount evening in April and are busy watering in the plants until the promised rain arrives.

Our June event is the car share outing to Cherry Bolberry Farm on Thursday 8th. Address is Surge Lane, Henstridge BA8 0RN but please contact Kate Hill on mchugh_hill@hotmail.com if you wish to join us. We shall meet at the farm at 2pm. Entrance is £5.00 to include tea or coffee – cake extra!

There is also a Feast Day celebration in Charlton Horethorne on 24th June, when many clubs and societies will be represented and various events are planned. See the village website for details. We shall have a stall on the village green, selling plants. If you have any excess plants that you can offer us, please let Kate or me know.

Schedules (£1) for the Charlton Horethorne Summer Show on August 12th will be in the village shop from the beginning of June. All instructions are contained in the schedule if you wish to enter any flowers, vegetables, pictures, photographs etc.

Jane Maxwell, Chairman

WINCANTON MUSEUM AND HISTORY SOCIETY

Friday 30th June @ 7.00pm—Wincanton Memorial Hall
Refreshments available beforehand

Talk: **Wincanton soldiers at Passchendaele**
by **Tony Goddard of the Royal British Legion**

The cost is £2 for members and £5 for non-members.

wincantonmuseum.org.uk

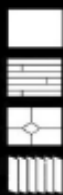


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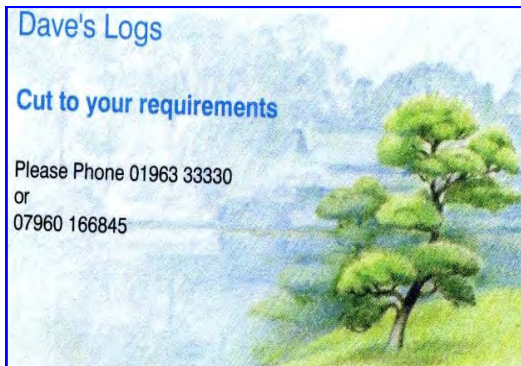
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CONTACT LIST

(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

NAME	CONTACT	TEL NO
Bellringing	Anna Piechna	370749
Buses (local)		0871 2002233
Citizens Advice Bureau, Wincanton		0344 88 9623
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
Parish Council	Jackie Pyne & Charles James	370713 07770 923955
	www.horsingtonpc@gmail.com	
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 & Alison Clements	370236 370866
Badminton	Frank Beach	370767
Dance	Louise Holliday	362689
Football	Keith Norman	370332
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07885 798032
Upholstery	Andrée MacLeod	351918