

# The Horsington & South Cheriton

## Villager

Issue No. 65

September 2017



**Village Pond after recent restoration**

Chair	Les Graney	371668	Treasurer/Adverts	Chris McCairns	370049
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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to  
***info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk*** by noon on 12th September 2017

*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](http://www.wincantonwindow.co.uk) and click on the 'Villages' link.

## Events Diary September 2017

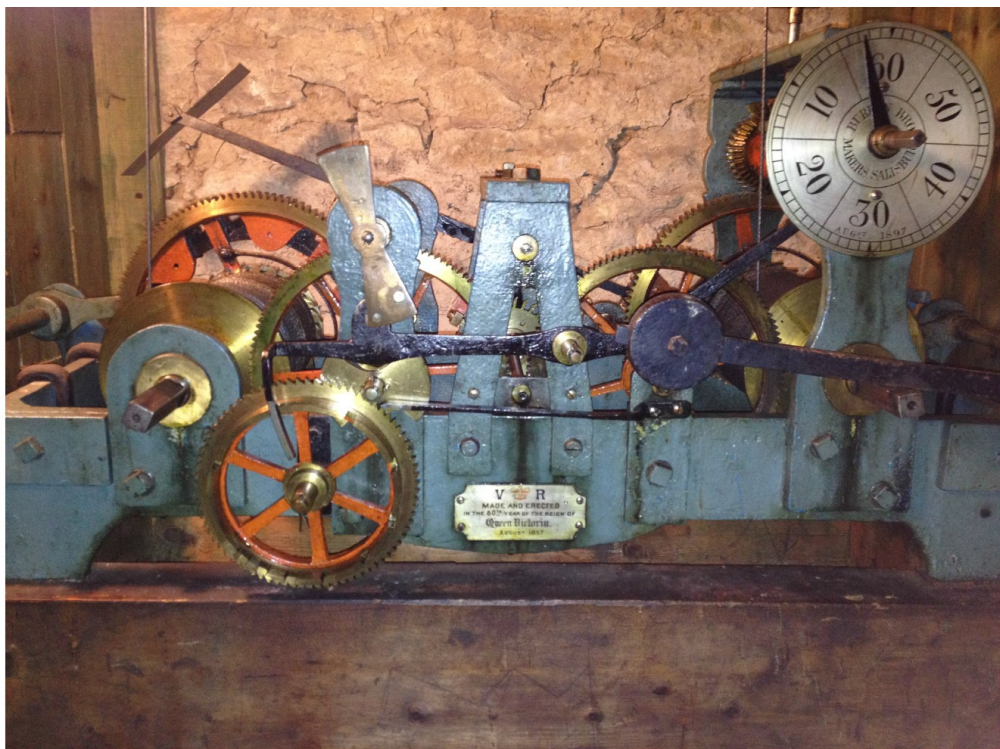
Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Sat 2nd</b>		<b>Horsington Open Golf Day</b>	Henstridge Golf Leisure Centre
<b>Mon 4th</b>		<b>Ladies Pub Lunch</b>	Black Dog Inn, Chilmark
<b>Tue 5th</b>	2.30pm	<b>U3A Open Day</b>	Henstridge Village Hall
<b>Wed 6th</b>	8.30pm	<b>Music Night</b>	Half Moon Inn
<b>Thu 7th</b>	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
	7.30pm	<b>WI - Behind the scenes with the National Trust</b>	"
<b>Fri 8th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Mon 11th</b>	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tue 12th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	7.15pm	<b>Charlton Horethorne &amp; District Garden Club Talk</b>	C.H Village Hall
<b>Wed 13th</b>	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	Village Hall
<b>Thu 14th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	"
<b>Fri 15th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Mon 18th</b>	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tues 19th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
<b>Wed 20th</b>	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	"
<b>Thu 21st</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Fri 22nd</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Mon 25th</b>	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tues 26th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
<b>Wed 27th</b>	10.00am	Adult Tap Dancing	"
<b>Thu 28th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Fri 29th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	<b>Wincanton History Society Talk</b>	Wincanton Memorial Hall

Best Wishes to Mark Tucker as he set sail on the 20th August from Liverpool as part of the Great Britain Team on the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race.

Bon Voyage

## HORSINGTON CHURCH CLOCK

by John Macdonald



The church clock in the tower of St John the Baptist Church at Horsington reaches another milestone this month. The clock was built by Salisbury clock makers, Burden Brothers, and installed for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in August 1897. A flatbed tower clock with a deadbeat escapement, it is an eight day clock with two winding mechanisms, one for the bell and one for the clock face. While the timepieces of that era could be relatively sophisticated, this clock has no winding or temperature compensators. The large metal pendulum has a screw mechanism to adjust the length of the swing to compensate for the speed of the clock, although the adjustment for most clocks of this type is carried out now by weighting the pendulum. They still use old pennies on Big Ben's pendulum. This 120 year old clock will never be as accurate as Big Ben, and because of the size of the gearing it can strike anything up to twenty seconds early or late compared to the previous hour. Nowadays, old timepieces can be wound with automatic winding mechanisms and adjusted with clever solutions such as magnets attached to the pendulum adjusted by radio controlled clocks. It is left to me to continue the constant battle to place the correct weight to compensate for the ambient temperature and all the other factors that influence the speed of the clock; a task which I take a delight in, especially when the timing is relatively accurate.

Previous keepers of the clock have been the late Rory MacLeod and Martin Fenn, both of whom have tutored me in the workings of the clock.

## **WHAT A HAPPY RETIREMENT I'VE HAD!**

by Valerie Pratt

(this article and poem were submitted by Valerie just before her untimely death on the 6th of August)

As I cannot spend time with my sheep any more, I have been gaining pleasure from wild birds. I have listed 43, some resident, others regularly seen, some occasional visitors, others seen passing but not visiting. I was amazed by a goldfinch sitting in Toni Salmonson's cherry tree the other day. It waited for a van to pull away and then looked left and right before flying safely across!

Some people drive moderately slowly; rather too many drive faster. There are some who drive furiously because the road is straight. One car I call 'Jehu' because it comes so fast and is then revved up between the two houses as if to say, 'Notice me!' You are noticed - and numbered.

The swooping bird silhouettes on my windows are not for decoration. They deter birds from stunning themselves on the glass. When that does happen though, it's a good idea to have a plastic loose mushroom-sale box and, when you find an unconscious casualty, to put it and a small dish of water in the box, cover it loosely with a tea-towel, put it in your garden near a bush and check it at intervals. If the patient is alive and active, tip it gently towards the bush. If dead, at least it died with dignity, not eaten, half-dead, by a predator.

Some years ago I had a very sad early summer. One week I found a dead green woodpecker youngster in the road, still with its crown of fluffy red feathers. But worse was to come. We rarely see a thrush down here but in the road twice I found the next generation, so beautiful, their breasts so silky, their spots so wonderfully clear and their legs totally unblemished. I have not seen more than a single thrush since. So, if you are a moderate driver along the country roads, I thank you.

Fortunately my dogs have survived. I've always had poodles but never even thought of keeping sheep. I knew about associations of dog breeders but not about associations of sheep breeders. Friends took me to my first sheep show and I chose the ones with smiley faces and curly fleece. Toni said, 'Let's take them to the Bath and West!' We knew little about preparing and showing and, needless to say, stayed at the end of the line. The wrong end. As the judging was finished and the judge began to leave, the steward said to him, 'That lady only has 6 sheep,' so William Wakeham, as I learnt to know him, turned back and picked a Highly Commended card out of the steward's box to give to us. And that launched me on a new 30-year career with Grey Face Dartmoor sheep.

I have spent my retirement here much more actively than I ever expected, done things I never dreamt of and made so many new friends. I should like to thank Horsington and the Marsh and South Cheriton for the kindness and help you gave Toni, and me too, during December when Elfriede died and I had pneumonia, and for all your kindness to both of us since my diagnosis of motor neuron disease. Thank you all very much.

**Birds seen at and near Hearne Cottage and Hearne House**

**Usual birds:** blue tit, great tit, coal tit, long-tailed tit, sparrow, robin, blackbird, chaffinch, goldfinch, swallow, wren, woodpigeon, collared dove, greater spotted woodpecker, pheasant, crow, magpie, jay.

**Less frequently seen:** pied wagtail, thrush, blackcap, greenfinch, green woodpecker, starling.

**Seen in the vicinity:** buzzard, raven, red kite, rook, jackdaw, kestrel, partridge, moorhen, widgeon.

**Heard in the vicinity:** tawny owl, little owl, cuckoo.

**Occasionally seen in neighbouring fields:** fieldfare, heron, snipe, woodcock, small white egret.

**A long time ago:** kingfisher, lapwing.

**A POEM**

by Valerie Pratt

Now I'm growing older and time is a-flying  
 I've thought of a job and I'll soon be applying.  
 If the good Lord will have me, I'll look after his sheep –  
 No nasty diseases, no shortage of keep!  
 Raise your eyes to the skies and you'll laugh out aloud,  
 There'll be big fluffy Dartmoors on every white cloud.  
 Forgive my conceit but I think that's quite clever,  
 I'll be shepherding Dartmoors for ever and ever!  
 And if, when your time comes, you'd be on his staff,  
 Don't go on your knees, getting up is no laugh!  
 Just pray very hard, put your hand where your heart is  
 And come up and join with the HEAVENLY DARTIES!  
 Flock number – Infinity



## **Parish Council Report**

by Angela Clayton

### **Play Area**

Following the annual health and safety inspection of the play area two pieces of equipment were deemed to be in a dangerous state of repair. The multi-unit climbing frame has been dismantled and the seesaw will also be removed. The removal of the unit was a difficult decision but the safety of children is paramount and unsafe equipment would have invalidated our insurance cover.

Unfortunately, the play area is coming to the end of its life and we will need to fund new equipment. However, the play area will remain and will not be used for anything else. The Parish Council will consult with the villagers to discuss what will replace the condemned equipment, we can then obtain quotes and look to source the funding.

We were extremely grateful to receive ideas from several villagers who attended the July meeting. Their views on what would be most popular with the children will be considered further. One idea, for example, was the levelling of the adjacent playing field to enable better use as a football/cricket pitch. We welcome your ideas and suggestions, please contact Jackie Pyne or any member of the Parish Council.

### **Pond**

The work to the pond has been completed and the photos on the front cover and below highlight the transformation. With a special thank you to Charles James for all his hard work and dedication in bringing this major project to fruition.

### **Vacancy**

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council and if you are interested in joining us please contact Jackie Pyne (Chair) on 370773 or email [horsingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:horsingtonpc@gmail.com). We meet on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30pm.



## **Charlton Horethorne & District Gardening Club**

Our September meeting promises to be something special. We have Neil Lucas as a special guest speaker. Neil was an early adopter of the prairie style of gardening, at Knoll Gardens, near Ferndown in Dorset. Knoll Gardens is a renowned example of how grasses and perennials can be used, not only for stunning visual effect but also as a solution to the effects of climate change in gardens. Please join us on September 12<sup>th</sup> to learn from an experienced professional, who has appeared on Gardener's World and other television gardening programmes, how to create more 'wow' in your garden, for less effort. If you don't think this style of gardening is for you, come and let Neil persuade you of the benefits of using grasses in your garden in a fresh and exciting way.

We are running this event with Milborne Port Gardening Club and hope that this may be the start of a series of joint events to bring more nationally acclaimed gardening experts to the village. Members' tickets can be bought in advance for £2.50 from Kate Hill, contact 01963 220044 or [mchugh\\_hill@hotmail.com](mailto:mchugh_hill@hotmail.com).

Non-members are also most welcome and non-members can buy their tickets from the Charlton Horethorne Village Shop at £7.50. As usual, tea and coffee will be available in the Charlton Horethorne Village Hall from 6.45pm. The talk will begin promptly at 7.15pm.

### **Charlton Horethorne & District and Milborne Port Gardening Clubs**

An illustrated talk by Neil Lucas, owner of Knoll Gardens in Dorset  
 "More Wow, Less Work - grasses and their place in our gardens."

Neil is renowned for his pioneering use of ornamental grasses and flowering perennials in a naturalistic style. Attend his keynote lecture, illustrated with glorious photographs from Knoll Gardens, to discover how grasses offer the busy gardener stunning design with easy maintenance.

**Tuesday 12 September 2017**

**Charlton Horethorne Village Hall, DT9 4NL**  
**Tickets £2.50 for members of Charlton Horethorne or Milborne Port Gardening Clubs. £7.50 non-members.**

**Doors open 6.45pm, Talk starts 7.15pm**

**Tickets available from Alison Bently 01963 251598, Charlton Horethorne Village Shop, or Wayne Pullen Butcher, Milborne Port.**

## **The Life of Olive Marie Tomkins 1921-2017**

by Keith Tomkins

Olive was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1921 at Lawrence Hill; she had two brothers and one sister. Her father was a haulage contractor who worked with horses delivering coal to the gas works in Wincanton, and on the roads for the Council.

Olive left school at fourteen and worked as a nursery housemaid, governess and then under-housemaid for various local families.



At the outbreak of WWII she enlisted in the army and was sent to Honiton for initial training and then to Arborfield where she received anti-aircraft predictor training.

Her first AA gun site was at St Pauls Cray in Kent, No 499 a mixed battery, where she met Fred, a carpenter who had a workshop behind the guardroom. They often chatted and exchanged coupons; he gave her chocolate coupons and she gave him cigarette ones. Fred was posted to Hull and arranged for his sister to take Olive to London to choose an engagement ring.

At that time Olive saw plenty of action during the bombing campaign. She followed the aircraft on her predictor and it was her job to align all eight guns in the battery. She used to sleep, fully clothed, in an underground bivvy, and when the alarm sounded grabbed her helmet and manned her machine.

Altogether she served in twenty-one different locations, mostly around London, but she also went to Scotland and Ireland.

At the end of the war Fred came home and they eventually married in 1948 in Bexhill but subsequently moved to North Cheriton where her first son Brian was born. After a year they moved to Houndsmill and Fred started working in the building trade and later as a boilerman for Cow & Gate. Her second son Keith was born in 1954 and Olive undertook various cleaning jobs to help out.

Later still she became caretaker at Horsington primary school in charge of school meals, and there she stayed for over nineteen years until Fred sadly passed away in 1981.

Olive continued working at the methodist hall for the WRVS serving meals to the elderly. She also joined the ATS and proudly went on parade every November 11<sup>th</sup>, poppy day. As she got older she moved into a bungalow in Wincanton and then, as time passed, to Carrington House where she spent her final years. She died on 7th July 2017.



## From the Rector, Greetings.

Well, I can now say for sure that I will be retiring on 31st October this year.

The last Service that I shall be taking will, fortuitously, be a United Service in Henstridge Church on 29th October.

Bridget and I moved to Henstridge at the end of May 1986, and I was Inducted and Installed as Rector of Henstridge and Charlton Horethorne with Stowell on 6th June. And so it was for 20 years, until we were re-organised in 2006. The new Benefice of Abbas & Templecombe, Henstridge and Horsington formally came into being on 1st April 2007.

Having lived in Henstridge for over 31 years - we have been here nearly half our lives. Our family has grown up here. Some still live here, or nearby. Inevitably Henstridge is, in a special way 'home' for us. Having said that I have greatly appreciated and enjoyed getting to know folk in Templecombe and Horsington over the last 11 years.

In November we shall be moving to North Common – technically it is in South Gloucestershire, but practically speaking it is on the edge of Bristol. It is almost midway between Bristol and Bath. It is said, that when you hear someone say, "I'm busier now than I ever have been." you know they're retired! Soon I'll be putting that to the test!

*Peter Hallett – [halatvic@gmail.com](mailto:halatvic@gmail.com)*



### **St John the Baptist, Horsington**

3rd Sept	9.15am	Holy Communion with Sunday School	
10th Sept	11.00am	Morning Prayer	<b>Churchwardens</b>
17th Sept	9.15am	Holy Communion	Mrs Anne Jones 370626
24th Sept	6.30pm	Harvest Thanksgiving	Mrs Rosemarie Wigley 371478

### **St Nicholas, Henstridge**

3rd Sept	11.00am	Morning Worship	6.30pm Evensong
10th Sept	9.30am	Holy Communion	
17th Sept	11.00am	Morning Prayer	6.30pm Evensong
24th Sept	11.00am	Holy Communion, inc Baptism	

### **St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe**

3rd Sept	11.00am	Morning Praise
10th Sept	9.30am	Holy Communion
17th Sept	11.00am	Holy Communion
24th Sept	9.30am	Holy Communion



## Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington at 8.30pm on Wednesday 6th September

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

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

## WINCANTON MUSEUM AND HISTORY SOCIETY

Friday September 29th @ 7.30pm - Wincanton Memorial Hall

Talk: **The Glorious Revolution of 1688 and William of Orange**  
by **John Baxter**

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

[wincantonmuseum.org.uk](http://wincantonmuseum.org.uk)

## Horsington Church School

We have a vacancy on our Governing Board. This is a challenging but worthwhile job. We are looking for someone with an enthusiasm for the education of children. Skills in Finance would be an advantage as would availability during the school day. The full Governing Body meetings are on Tuesday evenings six times per year. If you are interested in knowing more please phone the school on 01963 370358



## **Blackmore Vale U3A Open Day**

Tuesday 5th September 2.30pm  
Henstridge Village Hall

Please join us with a glass of wine and chat to our talented group leaders, see what they do and learn something new.

***Become a member in September and get three months for free!***

For more information about Blackmore Vale U3A call 01963 371544 or visit our website  
[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

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Please call Ann 01963 370093

For Sale - Toddler Bed (from John Lewis) 'Anna' hardly used in excellent condition. Was £140 would like £75.  
Please phone 01963 370767

## **Neighbour Watch Coordinator required for South Cheriton.**

Sadly due to a house move, I will be unable to continue in this role which I have enjoyed doing for 13 years.

In essence, one is a point of contact between the police and the village. Nothing too onerous I assure you!

Please do contact me for further information on 07767672415 or email

[s.m.jackson@btinternet.com](mailto:s.m.jackson@btinternet.com)

or contact

Lindsey Stone, Watch Scheme Administrator,  
Somerset Neighbourhood Policing Team, Bridgwater Police Centre  
Sandy Padgett House, Express Park, Bristol Road  
Bridgwater TA6 4RR

**Tel: 101** (or 01278-644799 direct line)

[lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

## **MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS AT THE HORSINGTON OPEN 2017**

I hope you will enter this year's Charity **HORSINGTON OPEN** on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017** at Henstridge Golf & Leisure Centre.

Please come and play in this fun event – now in its fourth year. Bring some colleagues, friends and family and form a team. All welcome.

Full details are on the [Horsington Blog](#) , where you can view and download a poster, enter on line or get more information.

This year you can [enter on line](#) and pay on the day. Just follow the simple instructions on the Blog.

Or you can pick up an entry form from our two village pubs, which are generously sponsoring the event – Horsington's Half Moon, and South Cheriton's White Horse. Also the Henstridge Golf Club.

I look forward very much to seeing you there, and to an entertaining morning's golf in aid of local charities – St Margaret's Hospice and Wincanton Live at Home, which helps elderly people to lead independent lives at home.

If you would like to provide a competition or raffle prize it will be most gratefully received. Please contact me (Richard Gaunt) or my co-organiser David Blake - [dmvblake@btinternet.com](mailto:dmvblake@btinternet.com).

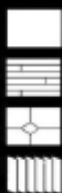


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## **CONTACT LIST**

(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>TEL NO</b>
Bellringing	Anna Piechna	370749
Buses (local)		0871 2002233
Citizens Advice Bureau, Wincanton		0344 88 9623
CAT Bus Ring and Ride Service		33864
<b>Doctors Surgeries</b>	Milborne Port (inc Templecombe)	250334
	Wincanton Health Centre	435700
French/Italian Conversation	Jeanne Mortarotti	202265
<b>Horsington Church School</b>	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
<b>Parish Council</b>	Jackie Pyne	370713
	<a href="mailto:www.horsingtonpc@gmail.com">www.horsingtonpc@gmail.com</a>	
<b>St John's Church</b>		
Rector	Rev. Peter Hallett	362266
Wardens	Anne Jones &	370626
	Rosemarie Wigley	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
<b>Village Hall</b>	<a href="http://www.horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk">www.horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk</a>	
Chair	John Macdonald	370444
Bookings	Emilie Gordon	371396
Art	Gill Elston &	370236
	Alison Clements	370866
Badminton	Frank Beach	370767
Dance	Louise Holliday	362689
Football	Keith Norman	370332
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07885 798032
Upholstery	Andrée MacLeod	351918