

# The Horsington & South Cheriton

## Villager

Issue No. 77

November 2018



The Old Creamery as it looks today.

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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to  
[info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk](mailto:info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk) by noon on 12th November 2018

*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 November 2018

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Thu 1st</b>	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
	7.30pm	<b>WI</b>	"
	7.30pm	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	"
<b>Fri 2nd</b>	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	A talk entitled ' <b>Leading from the Home Front</b> '	Horsington Church
<b>Sat 3rd</b>	2.30pm	<b>National Trust Association Talk</b>	Digby Hall, Sherborne
<b>Mon 5th</b>	5.30pm	Pilates	Village Hall
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
	Lunch	<b>Ladies' Pub Lunch</b>	Kings Arms, East Stour
<b>Tue 6th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	Village Hall
<b>Wed 7th</b>	8.30pm	<b>Music Night</b>	Half Moon Inn
<b>Thu 8th</b>	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
<b>Fri 9th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
	10.00am	<b>Service for the 'There but Not There' campaign</b>	War Memorial
	10.30am	<b>Followed by a Service at Church</b>	Horsington Church
<b>Mon 12th</b>	5.30pm	Pilates	Village Hall
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tue 13th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
<b>Thu 15th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
	7.00pm	<b>Charlton Horethorne &amp; Dist. Gardening Club</b>	Trent Village Hall
<b>Fri 16th</b>	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
<b>Mon 19th</b>	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tue 20th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
<b>Thu 22nd</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Fri 23rd</b>	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	<b>Wincanton History Society Talk</b>	Wincanton Memorial Hall
	7.30pm	<b>Film: Journey's End</b>	Milborne Port Village Hall
<b>Mon 27th</b>	5.30pm	Pilates	Village Hall
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tues 28th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
	8.00pm	Badminton	"
<b>Thu 29th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Fri 30th</b>	10.00am	Art	"

### Thank you

#### **Harvest Festival at St. John the Baptist Church, Horsington, 7 October 2018.**

A great team decorated the church for this Thanksgiving Service, bringing flowers and produce to showcase the abundance of locally grown produce particularly from the farming community. Thank you to all for helping to make this lovely church even more beautiful!



## The Mystery of the Horsington Mill

by Jonathan Packer

In 1989 we bought a two storey stone building on the A357 in Horsington Dip. It was empty, had handsome arched windows and only part of the building had an upper floor. It was called the Old Creamery, and there was evidence of its life as a Creamery in the huge garage and various loading bays, as well as a stray milk churn or two. Only when we began to explore did we discover what the estate agents' particulars had not told us: that there was a twenty foot water wheel in the basement. This sparked my interest in the history of mills and farming in Horsington Parish and beyond; also the fact that there had been a mill in Horsington since before the Domesday Book of 1086 recorded "there is a mill of 42d rent.....".

I investigated the workings of our Creamery mill and its origins whilst we undertook the restoration and rehabilitation of the building during the 1990s.

The mill wheel is an overshot wheel with 24 buckets, each 3 foot wide and of about 2 gallons / 10 litres capacity. The water enters from the mill pond onto the top of the wheel and exits, after a 20 foot drop, down a channel past Mill Cottage back to the village stream. This is a comparatively large wheel and the substantial masonry structure surrounding it suggested a high power output. However, my calculations showed that maximum output would have been less than one horsepower (0.75 KW) and this would only be available for part of the day given the size of the mill pond and the limited volume of water available from the little stream which flows down through our village and the duck pond, particularly during a dry period. Gear teeth on the circumference of the wheel engage with a small cog wheel on a shaft the other end of which is in the basement and has a 4 foot diameter belt driving wheel. It was clear from other bits and pieces found on site that a drive shaft along the rear wall of the building and below the ground floor ceiling drove, using other belts, machinery on the ground and first floors and a lift hoist between the two floors. There was no evidence of mill stones or other horizontal rotating grinding machinery and so we concluded the building was not a flour mill as described on the 1904 OS map, although it probably did mix grain and animal feeds for the farms, as suggested by other sources. We concluded the building was really a small factory with multiple uses. We subsequently discovered in the rear of the building the foundations for a gas oil engine and, problematically, also a half full leaking underground tank which contained gas oil at least 60 years old. This engine would have been added because of insufficient water in the stream.



The gear teeth and buckets on the twenty foot water wheel.

The nameplate on the riveted steel wheel shows it was supplied by Taylor and Bodley in 1881. Unfortunately, the wheel was built into and assembled inside the structure of the building and it has rusted solid over its 137 years life. Reluctantly we had to conclude the wheel could not be accessed for restoration and so it remains in place rusting away whilst water from the remaining mill pond and leat flows underneath.

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Mill Cottage built in 1776, below our Creamery building, predates the Creamery. It would have been the site of the earlier mill and the home of the miller. I believe there was a mill on this site for many years before.

In 1875, the Dodington family of Horsington House, after amalgamating a number of their farms, started to build the large model farm complex which included their second grand house (subsequently renamed Manor Farm), extensive outbuildings which are now the Manor Court development, a re-building of the mill (our Creamery building) and a fresh water supply from a well towards Wilkinthrop. These comprise an impressive group of stone buildings with fine built features and are a tribute to their Victorian builders.

Manor Farm and its model farm complex, we understand, was subsequently around 1890 rented by, and probably eventually sold to, the family owners of the West Surrey Central Dairy Company. Our mill building became the Horsington dairy where local farmers brought their milk. The milk was processed and loaded out to Templecombe station from where it was transported to Surrey and London. The loading out bay still exists and I recollect seeing an old photograph of three vintage milk lorries parked in front of the large garage at the rear of the building. The Dairy company expanded, renaming itself Cow & Gate and building the large creamery and milk powder factory next to the Wincanton railway yard; it eventually became Unigate and the base for the huge Wincanton Transport logistics business. Our Creamery building continued to accept local milk through to the late 1930s also making cheese and milk powder. Parachutes were made in the building during WW2. Later it was let to an upholstery business and then remained empty through the 1980s. This fine building presented us with a project we could not resist.

Horsington had a grassland for grazing economy with many small farms and some larger producing milk and meat. By 1839, following enclosure and the subsequent amalgamation and purchase of smaller farms, the Dodington and Bailward families owned about two-thirds of the land in the parish. The overall land area was 3,271 acres, of which 90% was grassland and only 10% arable; another reason why our building could not be a flour mill.

In Autumn 2014 we had a chance visit from two mill historians who, passing the Old Creamery on the A357, thought they should inspect this mill site. They were amazed by the size of the wheel and the structure of the building. They had authored with the backing of the National Mill Archive a history of the watermills of Sussex and were now embarking on a history of the many watermills of the Stour Valley from the Blackmore Vale to the sea. They corresponded with me over the next 18 months concerning the Old Creamery and the other two mill sites in the Village, namely Houndsmill and Ringmarsh. "Hounesmill" was first recorded in the late 1500s and gives its name to the street in the centre of the village; there is some evidence of a simple mill structure along the Horsington stream below the tall chestnut trees. The Ringmarsh grist mill was first recorded in 1317 as Veale mill and eventually became part of Horsington manor before going out of use in the 1800s; there are signs of buildings in the field alongside Bow Brook south of Ringmarsh Cottage. All three mills are contenders for the mill in the Doomsday record, but which is it?

The mill historians' work was sadly not completed but I have been inspired to undertake more research into the history of the mills and agriculture in our region from 1086 to 1900. Maybe this will form the basis of a future contribution to the Villager. Meanwhile, I would welcome any comments, recollections and photographs you may have.

*Sources: British History Online (by county and town/village) [www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk) ; A History and Guide Book of Horsington by John Cross; The Mills Archive Trust <https://millsarchive.org> ; The Domesday Book <https://opendomesday.org>*

The Christmas Fair that supported the hft (Home Farm Trust) for forty years was wound up at the end of 2017. Early in 2018 the Committee decided to continue with a new Winter Fair that would support local charities. The intention is to provide funds to a local Charity for two years running. This year the Charity nominated is the wonderful Balsam Centre in Wincanton.

We all hope that as many people as possible will come on the day and continue to enjoy a pre-Christmas shopping experience!

Gillie Waddington 01963 371662 and Christine Pratt 01963 371215 continue to run the Tombola stall which consists of Bottles! Those who may like to contribute please do so and leave with us!

**THE  
WINTER  
FAIR**

In support of  
**THE BALSAM CENTRE**

**Saturday 17th November 2018  
10.00am - 1.30pm  
WINCANTON MEMORIAL HALL**

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Bags, Art Gallery, Jewellery, Books, Gifts Kitchen Stall,  
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Formerly The HFT CHRISTMAS FAIR  
Patron The Countess de Salis

## HORSINGTON SCHOOL PTFA School Grounds get an Autumn Makeover



On Friday 28th September something a little strange could be seen happening in the grounds of Horsington Church School; parents and grandparents were turning up to school with, not only their children, but also their gardening tools. In the playground there was a hum of intrigue, as these tools were seen going into the Spinney, “Parents don’t normally go into The Spinney”. It was Gardening Day, and the PTFA had organised a working party to clear and tidy up tired-looking areas of the school grounds.

The first task of the day was The Spinney. This much used and

dearly loved area of the school was in need of an autumn tidy up. A small group got to work clearing ivy off the entrance archway and laying down scalplings to build up the entrance pathway that had been worn down from years of trampling feet. Another group had a lot of fun clearing out the pipes in the stream bed, removing numerous items including footballs! A third group, which included Ms Barker, undertook general tidying and cutting down of some much overgrown willow.



After a well earned tea break, the working party moved on to Air Class’ garden area and were joined by Mrs Alexander. The raised bed was weeded and topped up with a tonne of topsoil. Willow trees were pruned to reopen archways, a walkway was re-edged and topped with fresh bark chippings, and pathways were swept and cleared of debris.



Over the lunch time a group of pupils from Earth Class, dressed in overalls, joined the working party to move some worn and broken furniture to a skip. It was great to see the children joining in to help improve their school environment.

The day ended with a final sweep around and smiles spread as the party realised what they had accomplished. The teachers were extremely pleased and were already making plans for what to plant in the refreshed raised bed and garden areas.

It was a wonderful day to be a part of and a great sense of community was felt by all involved.

With a renewed sense of pride in the school grounds, the PTFA are hoping that more people will join them during future working parties.

Dear Villagers

Hurrah! – we have a new Vicar, The Reverend Kevin Rogers.

The Service of Installation and Induction will take place on the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019. He has only just finished his Curacy at Parkstone, Poole and it will be his first post as Vicar of our three Parishes, so he will need our prayers and support. We welcome him, together with his wife Lorna, and hope they will be very happy in their new home in Henstridge.

The next important thing is to thank all the ladies who decorated the Church for the Harvest Festival – such a marvellous display of flowers and vegetables. The donations of tinned food for homeless people went to the Lord’s Larder in Yeovil.



Sunday School is held on the first Sunday of the month at 9.15am in the Parish Room at Church. The Vicar welcomes them with a prayer and a blessing and we try to make it a fun-filled hour, with a Bible story, games and activities to keep the children amused. We would love to see more children. Parents have the choice of either staying with their child, attending the Service, or going home.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30 in Church Lt. Col. Lucy Giles will deliver a Talk entitled ‘Leading from the Home Front’.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November is “All Souls Day” and there will be a special half-hour service in the Church at 3pm, followed by tea and cake. We invite everyone in the Benefice who has lost a loved one – however long ago - to just come along, light a candle and remember them.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November. The School commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWI, with a special service “There but not there” in Church at 10.30am.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November.. The Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 10.50am will be followed by our Remembrance Day Service in the Church at 11.15am.

God Bless  
Rosemarie

**St John the Baptist, Horsington**

4th Nov	9.15am	Holy Communion with Sunday School	
	3.00pm	All Souls Day Service at Horsington	
11th Nov	10.50am	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial	
	11.15am	Service of Remembrance	
18th Nov	9.15am	Holy Communion	11.00am Baptism
25th Nov	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	

**St Nicholas, Henstridge**

4th Nov	11.00am	Morning Worship	6.30pm Evensong
11th Nov	10.55am	Service of Remembrance	
18th Nov	11.00am	Morning Prayer	6.30pm Evensong
25th Nov	11.00am	Holy Communion	

**St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe**

4th Nov	11.00am	Morning Praise	
11th Nov	10.00am	Service of Remembrance	10.50am Act of Remembrance War Memorial
18th Nov	11.00am	Holy Communion	
25th Nov	9.30am	Holy Communion	

# 'Leading from the Home Front'



Lieutenant Colonel Lucy M Giles from Wincanton recounts her experiences of being the first female Commander of the Sandhurst Military Academy.

During her career Lt Col Giles has led soldiers on operations and deployments in Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, East Timor, South Africa and Northern Ireland. She spent two years as the first female Officer Commanding at 47 Air Dispatch Squadron.

*St John's Church*

Friday 2nd  
November

7.30pm

Suggested donation £8 to

include refreshments





## Ronald Alan Peters (1935-2018)



Ron was born in Croydon, South London; the only son of a boot and shoe shop owner. At the start of WWII he was evacuated to a family in Westbury, Wiltshire where he remained for the next ten years.

After leaving school he was enrolled in the British Boys for British Farming course at Cadbury Court where he learned the basics of farming which he loved and which became his trade throughout his working life. Following graduation he moved the short distance to Lovington where he put all

his training into practice on a local farm.

At Lovington he met Mary Smith whom he finally married in 1960 after a six year courtship. A short time thereafter the happy couple moved into Dark Harbour Farm, Cabbage Lane in Horsington where they remained for the next forty years, successfully contributing to the dairy industry and raising two children, Sally and Richard, who joined in with the farmwork as they became older.

As an adjunct to dairy farming, the Peters family also reared turkeys for the Christmas market; a Dark Harbour turkey was a gold standard bird!

Ron was a keen shot and was well known and respected throughout the area. As a member of the Pulham shoot he supported them as a gun and more recently as a beater for over thirty years.

In 2001 Ron and Mary withdrew from farming and moved to Templecombe where they enjoyed a well deserved retirement. Not one to give up easily, Ron set about helping others with gardening and general land maintenance for many more years until deteriorating health slowed him down and eventually forced him to stop.

Ron died unexpectedly but peacefully in Yeovil hospital on 24th September. He will be remembered as a much-loved and loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and genial friend. He will be sorely missed.



RIP



**Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington  
At 8.30pm on Wednesday 7th November**

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

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



Thursday November 1st at the Village Hall

**Celebration Garlands by Jennie Barham**

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

**Wincanton Museum and History Society Talk**

Friday 30th November at 7.30pm - Wincanton Memorial Hall

**The Last of the French Impressionists by Philip Schofield**

£5 for non-members or £2 for members.  
[Wincantonmuseum.org.uk](http://Wincantonmuseum.org.uk)



**Blackmore Vale U3A**

Tuesday 6th November 2018  
**'Chiropraxy'**

Henstridge Village Hall 2.30pm, Member £1.50 Visitors £2.50  
refreshments included

**Blackmore Vale and Yeovil National Trust Association**

Saturday 3 November 2018

Blackmore Vale and Yeovil NT Association presents  
a talk by Felicity Herring: ***Artist's view of 19th Century Rural Britain.***  
at the Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne | 2.30pm |  
£3.00 / £5.00 (includes tea and biscuits).

This fully illustrated talk shows how 19th Century artists portrayed rural Britain. Many of them showed idyllic pastoral scenes but others showed the reality of the hardworking life led by the agricultural worker. Reflections of life in the countryside: the homes, working conditions, health, education and leisure are highlighted.

## Parish Council Fingerpost Project - Update Oct 2018

The Fingerpost Restoration Project has been substantially completed. Three out of four posts in the Parish have been fully renovated and the fourth one (at the junction of Stowell Lane & Meade Lane) will be completed once repairs to the post have been undertaken.

The Project Team, of Robin Worsley, Tony Parsons and David Clayton, have done a splendid job of restoring the posts to their original condition and have even returned the post opposite the White Horse Pub back to its 1964 black & white striped livery!

The costs of the Project have been kept to a minimum and it has been fully funded by the Parish Council. It is hoped that the posts will not require further attention for at least 10 years.



## Bobologism No 5

Did you enjoy our wonderful summer, and did you enjoy lots of PUNCH? Fruit Punch, Rum Punch, any Punch. Where do we get the word “Punch” from? You might be surprised.

Punch is the Punjabi or Urdu\* word for five. When the British were in India they took to a local drink which had five constituents –Alcohol, Sugar, Fruit, Water, and spice or herbs. So using the local word for Five they called it Punch. (It might well have been called Punch before the Brits got in on the act, I’m not sure)

The area north of Mumbai is a fertile area where **five** rivers meet. Because of this it became called –and still is- the PUNJAB.

So whenever I meet my Anglo-Punjabi grandsons I don’t say “give me Five”, I say “give me Punch”.

\*Incidentally, and I expect that most Horsingtonians and South Cheritonians know this, the Punjabi language (a close relative of Hindi) and Urdu, which is mainly spoken in Pakistan, are virtually the same language. But Urdu uses the Arabic-type script, and Hindi uses the Sanskrit script.

Funny what you pick up in the Villager isn’t it!



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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
<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
Governor	Jean Boyd-Lee	371137
PTFA	Abby Spoons <a href="mailto:abzspoors@gmail.com">abzspoors@gmail.com</a>	
Ladies' Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
	Susan Maltin	371400
MP	David Warburton	020 7219 5225
<b>Parish Council</b>		
Chair	Jackie Pyne	370713
Clerk	David Chapman <a href="mailto:www.horsingtonpc@gmail.com">www.horsingtonpc@gmail.com</a>	370527
<b>St John's Church</b>		
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
<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 & Alison Clements	370236 370866
Badminton	Frank Beach	370767
Football	Keith Norman	370332
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07885 798032
Upholstery	Andrée MacLeod	351918