

The Horsington & South Cheriton

Villager

June 2019 Issue No. 83



**Horsington wildlife pond which is looked after by
The Parish Council, see page 10.**

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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to
info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk by noon on 12th June 2019

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 2019

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Mon 3rd	5.30pm	Pilates	Village Hall
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
	Lunch	Ladies' Lunch Club	Black Dog Inn, Chilmark
Tue 4th	10.30am	Upholstery	Village Hall
Wed 5th	8.30pm	Music Night	Half Moon Inn
	9.30am	WI	Riverside Pub Lunch Cruise on the Avon
Thu 6th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 7th	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 10th	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
Tue 11th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Thu 13th	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	"
Fri 14th	10.00am	Art	"
Sun 16th		Father's Day	
Mon 17th	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
Tue 18th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Thu 20th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 21st	10.00am	Art	"
Mon 24th	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
Tue 25th	10.30am	Upholstery	"
Thu 27th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 28th	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	Wincanton History Society	Wincanton Memorial Hall

**Horsington WI have some places available on our outing
if anyone would like to join us.**

Wednesday 5th June 2019

Boat trip up the River Avon for a pub lunch and back.

**Departing St.Margaret's Hall @ 9-30am,
returning approx. 5-30pm.**

Cost: £32 per person plus lunch.

Contact Jackie on 01963 370713

THEY CAME TO A VILLAGE – HORSINGTON, SOMERSET

In July 1946, I was living in Stanley House, Newmarket, Suffolk, one of sixty boys in a residential care home established by Barnardo's in the autumn of 1939, in accordance with a policy of housing its children in very rural areas, and therefore far less likely to be subjected to the hazard of bombing/strafing by hostile aircraft. Those children already resident when I arrived (together with my twin brother Peter) had been evacuated from The Boys' Village Home in Abridge, on the East London/Essex borders, a specially built complex in the 1920/30s to accommodate several hundred boys, together with all requisite services and facilities: housing, school, hospital, swimming pool, communal dining hall/assembly hall, staff training/employment, sports fields, administration, Governor's residence and office. Stanley House was the private Newmarket residence of Lord Stanley (eldest son of Lord Derby, famed for his interest in the ownership and breeding of race horses), who retained a small part of the house exclusively for private use by him and his family plus a minimal number of servants – including his butler.

In July 1944, Stanley House still had a full complement of boys (sixty) and staff, superintendent and wife, housemaster, two senior and two general female assistants, plus a female cook. That month the existing Superintendent and his wife left and were replaced by Mr and Mrs G.J. Whitehorn, who had previously been on the staff of a larger Barnardo's residential home for boys in Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey. As I have previously recorded (see my personal Chronicle available online at <http://www.john-s-west.uk>) Mr & Mrs Whitehorn (very affectionately known as 'Dad and Ma') were very successful in their vocation, and much loved and respected by staff and boys. In April 1946 I left Stanley House to live in London and take up a scholarship to a very modern technical school, and immediately thereafter entered the related Technical College in Waltham Forest, London E17, as a full time student.

In the autumn of 1946 Barnardo's vacated Stanley House and all the staff and children were transferred to Horsington House, Somerset, which during the preceding war-time years had been occupied initially by a girls' boarding school, and latterly by military personnel, both British and American. In July 1946 I happened to be staying at Stanley House on holiday, and, together with three other boys motored with Dad down to Somerset for a couple of days to reconnoitre Horsington House, empty and ready for occupation, having been completely redecorated and full services installed by a building company based in Wincanton.

En route on the B3081 (at that time the A303 did not reach beyond Mere) we drove off through Wincanton, and stopped at the Sally Lunn Café for a veritable banquet of hot sweet tea and platesful of sandwiches, cream buns and cakes. At

that time, Wincanton was a small country market town with several large residential hotels, a main Post Office, branches of the four main banks, used by the local farming community for shopping and socializing, but important also as a source of employment, containing the architecturally impressive modern depot and administration offices of Cow & Gate Ltd., together with the premises of several building/construction businesses (including Bayford Builders), the embryonic Wincanton Garage & Engineering Services, and Wakes bus and coach services, one of whose employees was Douglas Davey (ex Stanley House boy) who later married a member of the staff at Horsington House, but was subsequently killed in a traffic accident driving a bus in Bath. There were no supermarkets of any kind but a variety of shops in terms of size and merchandise sold, including in particular Knights (chemists) and Clementina (furniture and drapery). There was also a cinema (The Plaza) at the top of the town – in later years I visited this cinema many times as it was such a delightful and useful facility in the area. On one famous occasion in the 1950s, I was accompanied by the elderly wife of the Minister of Horsington Church (Rev Carter) and her daughter Jennifer. On leaving the cinema at the end of the programme, we somehow became lost in the darkness and eventually had to leave by descending the iron exterior fire escape staircase from the top floor of the building. Mrs. Carter took it all in her stride!

Leaving Wincanton on the A371 in the direction of Templecombe we reached Lattiford, but just prior thereto on the left hand side we passed a field gate bearing the inscription in bold black script on a white wooden background ‘GOD IS GOOD’ and a little further on the right hand side the entrance to what is now a children’s holiday centre, but then was the war time premises of GREEN ACRE GIRLS SCHOOL – evacuated from Banstead in Surrey. Among the day pupils at the school was Joan Apsey (in 1955 to become my wife and subsequently the mother of four children) the only daughter of the late Mr. Guy Apsey of Butts House Farm, Marsh Lane, Horsington. When the school returned to Banstead in late 1946, Joan Apsey remained a pupil, but as a boarder.

Several miles further into the open countryside on the A371, we quite suddenly came across the signpost we had been looking for – on the left hand side at the bottom of a relatively steep hill, and it simply read ‘HORSINGTON’. It is quite impossible now to describe how I felt at that moment, but one emotion was quite paramount – joy at the thought of being once again permanently connected with Somerset, an English county which I truly loved and felt I belonged to, having lived in it (Chilcompton, near Bath) as a very young child in the years running up to the commencement of WW2. My late twin brother Peter, a cricket fiend, shared these feelings also, and all his life, where ever he lived, was a very enthusiastic supporter of Somerset

County Cricket Club. After driving into the village, we stopped by the bridge over the stream near the turning to Horsington House and the church, and took a leisurely stroll around the place, noting in particular the Manor House, the Half Moon Inn, the shop, the post office and the turn-off to the village school and assembly hall. At that time, the biggest draw for us was the village shop (with living accommodation to the rear of the shop, and above) which was owned and run by the resident – Mrs Harrison, an elderly grey haired lady of character and very small stature, whom we promptly christened ‘FANNY HARRISON’, a name which she never lost to the end of her life. It was a dear little shop with an 18th century atmosphere run by a dear old lady, completely over-run with stock of all sorts from tobacco products and sweets, to household domestic necessities of all kinds and shapes. There was scarcely any room for customers, or even Fanny Harrison herself behind the counter, but somehow everybody managed. Mrs Harrison appraised us of the names and reputations of some of the prominent citizens in the village: Captain and Mrs Bailward (squires) living at the Manor House, Mrs Morgan (post mistress) living in the Post Office, Mr & Mrs Scuse (headmaster of the village C of E primary school and his wife) living at the adjacent school house, Rev and Mrs Carter and daughter Jennifer, living at the relatively new modern vicarage on the main A371 road passing the village, as were also the residences of General Beckett and General Erskine, Major Bostock and his wife, living in the white cottage opposite Horsington House, Mrs Foot, a very popular and civic minded lady, living with her husband, several daughters, and son Basil, in a cottage next to the Half Moon Inn. Mrs Foot was to be subsequently employed as the head cook at Horsington House, after the children from Stanley House, Newmarket, took up residence in July 1946 and until the final closure of the home in 1972. Finally, after a quick tour of the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist and then the adjacent Horsington House and its extensive grounds, we motored back to Newmarket. One really humorous aspect of this tour was that we met an elderly pensioner called Jim, who had been hired by Barnardo’s to maintain the extensive kitchen garden and lawns prior to the arrival of the new occupants – he was sixty-five years of age, very likeable, industrious and loyal, who travelled daily from Bayford on an old conventional bicycle without gears, and possessing the absolute minimum of tools – rake, fork, spade, hedge clippers and an ancient knarled walking stick – those were the days!!

**John S. West, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4BS
3rd April, 2019**



John West, 1945



**We would be grateful for the following donations
bottles, sweets plants.**

If you can donate please drop donations into the office at
Horsington Church School, or contact the school on
(01963) 370358 and the school PTFA will arrange collection.

Thank you

Dear Readers.

Greetings from St. John's Parish Church.

The growing season seems to be in full swing. The race has begun to get the right plants in on time, to keep the grass under control, the weeds at bay, and the garden watered. We are purchasing plants and soil and seeds, replacing old garden tools and discovering new ones on the market, promising to make gardening easier. And all this in between the rain and wind. This is a busy season in the garden.

We do it for the rewards. We know that the growing season will slow down and that there will be time to relax in the delightful garden we have cultivated. We look forward to the scents, the colours, the water features, the landscapes. And no matter how hard we have had to work; the reward is always worth it. We even take time to reflect on what we may do different next season, to dream and ponder.

The Bible captures this well: "What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds...I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil".

Taking time to reflect; allowing ourselves to be bored, is an important part of who we are. Despite our awareness of the past and the future, the Bible observes, "yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end". As we take time from our busyness, we find out about the wonderful God behind it all. As we do, we gain a new perspective, a new awareness: "I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by".

Do join us as part of your reflection time – all are welcome.

Yours in Christ,

Revd Kevin

St John the Baptist, Horsington

2nd June	9.15am	Holy Communion
9th June - Pentecost	10.30am	United Service at Henstridge
16th June	9.15am	Holy Communion
23rd June	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
30th June	10.30am	United Service at St Mary's

St Nicholas, Henstridge

2nd June	11.00am	Morning Worship	6.30pm Evensong
9th June - Pentecost	10.30am	United Service	
16th June	11.00am	Holy Communion	6.30pm Evensong
23rd June	11.00am	Holy Communion	
30th June	10.30am	United Service at St Mary's	6.30pm Choral Evensong

St Mary The Virgin, Templecombe

2nd June	11.00am	Morning Praise
9th June - Pentecost	10.30am	United Service at Henstridge
16th June	11.00am	Morning Praise
23rd June	9.30am	Holy Communion
30th June	10.30am	United Service including the Milborne Port benefice

Milborne Port Opera's production of "Anything Goes",

Horsington turned out in force to support its theatrical residents Chris Bailward and Richard Gaunt in Milborne Port Opera's production of Cole Porter's "Anything Goes", set on a transatlantic liner. The show played to packed houses during the week after Easter.

Each MPO show attracts a large and appreciative audience, and this year the show was fully sold out two weeks before the event. So the moral for next year is book early! Make a note in your diary now- the performance dates will be 15-18 April 2020. The show will be decided after this edition of the Villager goes to press.

MPO's choice of "Anything Goes" took them in a new direction. This was a true west end-style musical, with glamour, glitter, feathers, high

(and low) comedy, some great characters and some familiar songs such as "I get a kick out of you", "Let's misbehave", "Take me back to Manhattan" and the title song "Anything Goes". In a bold move, MPO did away with the traditional stage and performed in an arena surrounded on three sides by rows of tiered seats, which meant that no audience member was more than three rows from the front. For the actors and singers, it meant daunting audience contact and scrutiny, and nowhere to hide when on stage.

As soon as the audience arrived, they knew they were on a ship. The captain (Chris Bailward) was on hand with the crew to welcome passengers and try on lifejackets. The upper deck piano bar did a roaring trade in slaking passenger thirst. A soundscape provided dockside ambience and muffled announcements as the sound of a band wafted up from the quayside below. The beautiful hand-crafted curved rail at the end of the arena set the scene on a very classy liner.

Traditional scenery is an impossibility on an arena stage. But MPO's designers and set builders, who in real life are highly competent design and engineering professionals,



A dress rehearsal shot. Chris Bailward as the captain and Richard Gaunt (glasses, right) as Billionaire Elisha J Whitney.

came up with an innocent-looking plinth which transformed into a two-bunk cabin or the ship's brig as required.

The performers were backed by a talented orchestra led by musical director Caroline D'Cruz, who added the necessary upbeat syncopation which had everyone's feet tapping.

The team from MPO thank everyone for coming. See you all next year. And if you fancy acting, singing or working backstage, let them know. Rehearsals start at the end of September. secretary@milborneportopera.co.uk.



“Anything Goes” in full swing

Bobologism No 11

by Bob Jones

In the 17th Century there were endless wars and battles, as throughout history and sadly, in the present day. Soldiers were hired to fight for whichever side paid best, and foremost amongst these mercenaries in the 1630's were men from modern day Croatia. They distinguished themselves from other mercenaries by wearing a bright red neck-scarf; thus they could be easily seen, and could find each other on the battlefield.

The neck-tie thing caught on, especially among the French who liked a bit of style, and they named it after the soldiers from Croatia, and it became the “cravat”, a corruption of the word “Croat”.

Cravate is of course the French for a neck-tie, and the cravat has been a piece of male fashion wear ever since, though it is going through a bit of a lull at the moment.

Another time we'll talk about the Serbo-Croat language.

Incidentally the Italian for a **bow-tie** is “Farfalla” which is also the word for a butterfly. Picturesque isn't it?

Horsington Parish Council

Horsington Parish Council exists to care for local amenities within the parish and to represent our community's interests to South Somerset District Council and beyond. In common with other town and parish councils across the country, councillors are elected on a four-yearly basis if sufficient candidates stand. Horsington Parish Council comprises seven councillors. For the upcoming election in May 2019, only seven candidates are standing and so all will automatically be elected unopposed. Parish councillors are unpaid and work entirely on a voluntary basis.

Each councillor must, by law, register personal interests which may influence their decision making. A register of councillor's interests can be found on the South Somerset District Council website. Additionally, councillors are required to declare any interests related to any agenda item at the start of each meeting; where a conflict of interests could exist, councillors are required to leave the room whilst that agenda item is discussed.

The Parish Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at Horsington Village Hall. An agenda is posted to the noticeboards in Horsington and South Cheriton, and to the Parish Council website, in advance of each meeting. Each meeting commences with a Public Forum – an opportunity for anyone to formally communicate views or raise issues to the council. There is no need to provide advance notice that you are coming however, if you do let the Clerk know, he will normally notify the Chair and/or other councillors to ensure the council is prepared. Please note that, in most circumstances, views or issues raised in the Public Forum will be noted but won't be debated there and then – if there is a need for debate this will be added to a future agenda to advise other parishioners and allow them to register their views.

The Parish Council's work includes looking after our community amenities including the play area, the wildlife pond, the churchyard and cemetery. The Parish Council works hard to ensure that these are safe and well maintained – this involves working with contractors for things like grass cutting and tree surgery, ensuring all the appropriate insurances and permissions are in place, arranging safety inspections and liaising with multiple parties when administering the cemetery. The Parish Council also undertakes a number of other activities including working with other organisations to ensure that footpaths are clear and well maintained, helping ensure that problems with the highways are reported and ensuring that grit bins are topped up for the winter months.

The Parish Council also has a role in the planning process. The council objectively reviews all applications made within the parish and, taking views received from parishioners into account, makes comments to South Somerset District Council. The Parish Council has no decision-making authority and can only make comments based on valid planning considerations – there are a surprising number of aspects which do not form legally admissible considerations! South Somerset District Council may or may not choose to incorporate the Parish Council comments into their planning decision.

The Parish Council is funded largely through the precept – the part of your council tax that comes to the parish. The precept funds the grass cutting & tree surgery, pays the Clerk's wages and covers insurances, memberships, inspections, accountancy etc. as required by law. The Parish Council does not aim to build a surplus and, with the exception of a small fund that is used to clear the silt from the pond on a two to three yearly basis, the precept is generally spent within the financial year. A small amount of funding is also obtained from the sale of cemetery plots – this represents a very small part of the budget. Larger projects, such as the rejuvenation of the wildlife pond or the replacement play equipment, are funded through grants. The Parish Council applies to South Somerset District Council, local business or other community groups for any such grants.

Financial accounts, meeting agendas, meeting minutes and other documents as required by law can be found on our website (kindly provided by the Horsington Village Hall Committee): http://horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk/?page_id=99. This site is linked from the South Somerset District Council website or can also be found by Googling 'Horsington Parish Council'.

The Parish Council is keen to ensure that our community is represented effectively, so if you have views or issues that you feel have been overlooked please let us know or come along to a Public Forum – you'll be very welcome!



Wednesday 5th JUNE @ 9.30am

**Riverside Pub Lunch Cruise
on the Avon**

Telephone Mrs Jackie Pyne for further information on
01963 370713

Wincanton Museum and History Society Talk

Friday 28th at 7.30pm - Wincanton Memorial Hall

Renegade Monk Cheese

Marcus Fergusson

£5 for non-members or £2 for members.

Wincantonmuseum.org.uk



Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington

At 8.30pm on Wednesday 5th June

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

Further details from **Anna** on **01963 370749**

Horsington Church School

Would you like to be a governor of your local Primary School? We have a vacancy on our Governing Board. We are looking for someone with an enthusiasm for the education of children.

We meet on Thursday evenings six times per year.

If you are interested in knowing more please phone 01963 370358



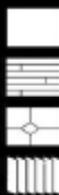
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CONTACT LIST

(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
Governor	Jean Boyd-Lee	371137
PTFA	Abby Spoons abzspoors@gmail.com	
Ladies' Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
	Susan Maltin	371400
MP	David Warburton	020 7219 5225
Parish Council		
Chair	Jackie Pyne	370713
Clerk	David Chapman www.horsingtonpc@gmail.com	370527
St John's Church		
Rector	Rev. Kevin Rogers	363832
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
Football	Keith Norman	370332
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07885 798032
Upholstery	Andrée MacLeod	351918