

# The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

February 2020 Issue No. 89



*A trip down memory lane*

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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to  
***info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk*** by noon on 12th February 2020

*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 - February 2020

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>Mon 3rd</b>	Lunch	<b>Ladies' Lunch Club</b>	Podymore Inn, Podimore
	5.30pm	Pilates	Village Hall
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tue 4th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
<b>Wed 5th</b>	8.30pm	<b>Music Night</b>	Half Moon Inn
<b>Thu 6th</b>	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
	7.30pm	<b>WI</b>	"
<b>Fri 7th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Mon 10th</b>	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tue 11th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
<b>Thu 13th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	"
<b>Fri 14th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Mon 17th</b>	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tue 18th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
<b>Thu 20th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Fri 21st</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Mon 24th</b>	5.30pm	Pilates	"
	6.45pm	Pilates	"
<b>Tue 25th</b>	10.30am	Upholstery	"
<b>Thu 27th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
<b>Fri 28th</b>	10.00am	Art	"
	7.30pm	<b>Wincanton History Society</b>	Wincanton Memorial Hall

### CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE

All those who enjoyed the Candlelit Carol Service in Horsington Church on Christmas Eve may like to know that the collection totalled about £600, which has been shared equally between two Children's Charities.

Many thanks to all. Your singing was a pleasure to hear, too.

**John Cross**

## RETURN TO CUBA

Early last year I was lucky enough to go to Cuba. Jane and I had visited Havana for 48 hours a few years before, when I was working on a cruise-ship, and vowed that we would return one day as it seemed so interesting. Sadly she never lived to go there. From a friend in Wincanton I heard about a travel company that specialised in travellers going on their own, and having looked at their website I went walking with them in Northern Cyprus two years ago, and having “tried them out” decided that Cuba would be my next target. I was not disappointed.



I was quite lucky to get on the tour as they get booked up very early. At the end of January I arrived at Gatwick Airport and met other members of the same group. We flew with Virgin Atlantic- my first flight with them and such a pleasure after all the budget airlines I usually fly with.

We arrived at Havana International Airport after a nine-hour flight, in a comfortable balmy warmth, and were taken by coach to the Hotel Sevilla near the centre of the city and very near the old quarter. It is an old hotel, quite old-fashioned but very welcoming and comfortable, as we found pretty well everywhere in Cuba. Havana is rightly regarded as one of the architectural treasures of the Caribbean, exhibiting a mixture of Colonial, Baroque and Art-Deco styles.

Quick history lesson coming up: Cuba was a Spanish colony until the Spanish-American war in 1898 when the US colonised it. It became a playground for Americans with the Mafia, gun-running, gambling, drugs and prostitution playing a major part. Being so close to the US mainland it was easy to get to, and the corrupt regime of President Batista ran it as an American satellite, with many famous American names visiting there, one of the best-known being Ernest Hemingway who identified with Cuba and made his home there. In 1959 Fidel Castro led a Revolution which ousted the Batista regime (an earlier revolution in the mid-fifties having failed). In exile in Mexico Castro had met a revolutionary-minded Argentinian doctor – Che Guevara. He of course became Castro’s Right Hand Man. Castro and Che Guevara were strongly Marxist, and imposed a Communist regime on the country. The Soviet Union became a strong ally and support, and in 1962 attempted to install missiles on the island, aimed at the USA, which led to the Cuban

Missile Crisis. President Jack Kennedy took a very firm stand, and the Soviet Union backed down and took their missiles home.



Although there is now some private enterprise permitted Cuba remains basically a totalitarian state. The Old Quarter was an easy short walk away from our hotel, with fascinating narrow alleyways that I recalled from our visit seven years earlier. And very nearby is a grand boulevard, the Paseo del Prado, originally laid out in 1772 and re-designed with French



input in the 1920's. Near the end of the Prado is the Capitolio, closely resembling the US Capitol in Washington. We had been told that it is higher and larger than the US version, but I found that hard to believe. Then learned after I came home, that it **is** true!

The Malecon is a spectacular sea-wall/promenade which was built at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and runs along the sea-front for about 5 miles. An understandably popular venue for walking, and for brides going to their wedding in one of the vintage cars. Great place for a photo shoot!

One of the features that everyone knows about Havana is the great number of vintage cars,

most of which date back to the early 1950's, many having over a million miles on the clock. This is not by design. Cuba, and Havana in particular, has been hugely affected by a US embargo since the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, and has suffered insufficient maintenance, and slow deterioration since then. Many of the buildings looked decidedly crumbling and in a terrible state of disrepair. Yet the Cubans are highly resourceful and seem to manage to shore them up as they do their old Chevies, Oldsmobiles, Plymouths etc., there being a total lack of spare-parts. We did hear of Cuban bands going on European tours, and coming back laden with engine parts and as many of the other necessities of life as they could carry.

Talking of Cuban bands, they were everywhere; and of an extremely high standard. They were playing on the streets and in every restaurant, really livening up life, though sometimes one wished for a little quiet. They then tried to sell us a CD of their performance. Money is very short indeed for Cubans, so any money they can make is welcomed –and I felt well-deserved. Classical music too is of the highest standard, as is Ballet. All the Arts are strongly encouraged and supported. All levels of education are free, as is medical care. Cuba provides medical care in many parts of the Third World, and is of a very high standard.

As a result of Cuba's prolonged isolation due to the US embargo hard currency is a valuable commodity. In the hotels the staff knew that, dealing with foreign visitors, they were likely to receive tips in Dollars or Euros. As a result of this such jobs are highly sought after. Any tips were valued highly and appreciated hugely. In our experience all the Cubans we came across were delightful, fun, good-humoured, helpful and appreciative. The only time I came across any sign of "control" was when I wanted to buy a Cuban sim-card for my phone so that I could text my family (Wi-Fi was available but very expensive, and for me, unnecessary). Only one outlet sold sim-cards anywhere near the hotel. A plain-clothes policeman at the door limited the number in the shop to only four, processing was extremely slow, and then a sim-card for two weeks was going to cost me 40 Euros! I didn't bother.

We travelled by bus on a day's visit to the North-west of the island, visiting the main tobacco-growing area, and then flew to a resort, Holguin, on the coast to the south. From there we were taken to several places important in the Cuban anti-Batista revolution, including the Che Guevara Memorial. A huge, dominating structure evocative of what I had seen in the old Soviet Union in the 1960's. Time and distance unfortunately prevented our visiting the historic town of Guantanamo. (A song-writer called Jose Fernandez Diaz visited the town in 1964 and wrote a song about one of the pretty girls there: "Guantanamera..." made famous by a group called the

### Sandpipers in 1966)

In our experience the hotels were always clean and welcoming, and the staff charming. They were perhaps not of the highest standards, but it is a developing country and they were more than adequate. The varied cocktails available were everywhere. We also stayed at the resort of Cienfuegos, and later stopped at the Bay of Pigs, where an attempted invasion by US-backed Cuban exiles was repulsed by Cuban forces in 1961. The water was a gorgeous clear turquoise colour. Poignant to think of the massacre that had occurred there.



Back in Havana we had the chance to go-at a price- to the famed Tropicana Nightclub. The Tropicana has been going since the 1920's and is an iconic "must see" in Havana. It was an extraordinary experience, colourful, energetic, noisy, and vibrant. All the men were given a Cuban cigar on entry (having given up smoking years ago I gave mine to be sold at the Horsington Fete in the summer!) On the tables were unlimited supplies of rum and the Cuban version of Coca Cola. One of my travelling companions has said that I should tell how I "strutted my stuff" at the Tropicana that evening, but modesty forbids it! Rum is of course the main alcoholic drink there and is jokingly known as "Vitamin R" by the Cubans. Perhaps I'd had a drop. I can't remember. It was a good evening.

Overall I left with a kaleidoscope of memories, of the warmth of both the climate and the people; the rare chance to see how a really poor country is managing, thanks to the initiative of its people; and the wonderful music wherever one went.



A limited amount of private enterprise is now permitted; it is seen in there being occasional private restaurants, also taxis, and Bed and Breakfasts. Part of Cuba's charm for me was the simplicity of the place, forced back to basics with little of the encumbrment of the trappings of so-called modernity. Things are slowly changing there, and I think that when (not if) the embargo lessens or gets lifted some of the charm might not survive. (President Obama was making progress on reaching an accord with Cuba before he left office.) So if you ever have a chance to visit Cuba, I would say GO! You won't be disappointed.

*Bob Jones*



## Bobologism No 15

by Bob Jones

A few months ago we talked about the origins of the names of our months. What about the origins of the names of the days of the week?

Most of the names are derived from the Greek or Roman gods, or else the Northern European, (German or Viking), gods. So our weekday names are a bit of a hotch-potch.

**Sunday.** The day of the sun which brings brightness, the brightest thing. Sontag in German.

**Monday.** So if we've had the Sun, why not the moon? "Moon-day". The Latin (from which so much of our language derives) for moon is "luna", and hence the French for Monday *lundi*, (Italian *lunedì*).

**Tuesday.** Tiu was a Viking god of war. Tiu's day. The Roman equivalent was Mars, and hence the French for Tuesday- *mardi*, (Italian *martedì*)

**Wednesday.** (W)Odin was the chief Viking god, so we got Wodin'sday which became Wednesday. The Roman equivalent was Mercury, hence *mercredi* in French, *mercoledì* in Italian.

**Thursday.** Thor was the Viking god of thunder, so Thor'sday. The German for thunder is Donner, and the German for Thursday is Donnerstag. Jove was the Roman equivalent of Thor, so in French it's *jeudi*, (Italian *giovedì*).

**Friday.** So far we have only had male gods giving their names. But FREYA gave us Friday. She was the Norse goddess of love, associated with Sex and fertility. Her Roman version was Venus, and so hence *vendredi* in French, (*venerdì* in Italian).

**Saturday.** Was Saturn's day. He was the Roman god of agriculture, justice and strength.



**VE DAY**  
75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
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*Horsington Village  
Celebrates 75 years of VE Day*



**VE DAY**  
75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
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*Proceeds raised will go towards new swings for Horsington play area*

*(Special thanks to Horsington W.I. for their contribution)*

*If anyone is willing and able to help, please contact John Sansom: [jrsansom@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jrsansom@hotmail.co.uk)*

# On Cutting Grass. An essay by Lorne Greene

*no, not the bloke from Bonanza!*

Here's the scenario. It's Saturday afternoon and you're sitting comfortably in your favourite armchair in front of the fire, glass in hand, watching Six Nations rugby. Owen Farrell is just about to kick another three points for England when the door opens and she-who-must-be-obeyed (SWMBO) announces her presence with "Had you thought about cutting the grass dear, it's getting awfully long?" You answer thus, "Yes I had. I shall attend to it directly".

This is a truthful answer in that a) you had thought about it, and b), in the true sense of the word attend, from the French verb 'attendre', you were waiting for the right moment. You smugly settle back in the chair to watch the rest of the game which England won by the way. However, you are well aware that what you resist persists, and that SWMBO will continue to ask the same question, re-worded each time, until you take some action. So, armed with this self-knowledge, you resolve to do something about it tomorrow. The rest of the story proceeds more or less as follows.

Sunday morning dawns dark, wet and cold. Plucking up inner courage, go down to shed and turn on light. Immediately go back to house to find light bulb as replacement for one just blown. Success. Look for mower. Find under cobwebs and old paint tins destined for tip. Attempt clean mower. Look in petrol tank. Empty. Look for petrol can. Find, shake and curse – also empty. Spy container of 2-stroke mix. Mower is 4-stroke. What the heck, it's mostly petrol. Put in tank and prime motor. Pull starter cord. Pull again. Third time lucky. Motor starts amid clouds of blue smoke and dead spiders. Congratulate self on superior technical know-how. Motor stops. Neighbours, if listening, learn new word.

Pull starter cord again. Nothing. Pull again and watch aghast as frayed end of cord disappears down Briggs & Stratton rabbit hole. Neighbours, if still listening, consult medical dictionary. Realisation of expensive trouble dawns. However, on positive note, unable cut grass today. Small relief. Put mower in back of car anticipating visit to local garden machinery centre (LGMC) in morning.

Next day arrive at LGMC and trundle old but trusty mower past shiny, new Chinese machines costing best part of pre-owned Tesla. Approach Service counter where spotty-faced youth (SFY) wearing skinny jacket, drainpipe trousers and pointy shoes say, "Hiya. How can I assist you?" Explain problem. SFY looks at mower disdainfully as if he'd just trodden in you know what. "Couldn't we do with a service as well, Sir"? Well, we probably could, so ask, "How much?". On hearing answer refrain from teaching fellow customers details of intimate anatomical procedure, and kiss goodbye to Super OLED TV that was intended to be Easter present to self.

Next obvious question to SFY "How long?", " 'Bout three weeks, we're very busy." Good grief! Three weeks. Be able hide baby giraffe in garden in that time. Ah well. Reluctantly leave mower and go home. Explain situation to SWMBO who comes up with helpful comment such as "See. I told you so. You should have taken it in weeks ago." Aaaaargh! Still, on second positive note, can now watch rest of Six Nations in peace. Maybe.

Got a scythe, anyone?

*P.S. Since the above was written LGMC has ceased trading. Brilliant! Best find another GMC (you work it out) before your garden becomes a safari park! Good luck with that.*

# Charlton Horethorne and District Gardening Club

Winter is here and working in the garden has become less enticing. But if the shortest day is here, can renewing your Garden Club membership be far behind? Annual membership runs from 01 January to 31 December and for 2020 we are keeping the membership fee at £7.00. Benefits include regular talks in the Village Hall, garden visits and, this year, an invitation to our Garden Party. Because the club is a member of Castle Garden's Gold Club, we also benefit from various discounts. Vouchers for 25% off almost everything in Castle Gardens during January and February have arrived, together with order forms for discounted composts, mulches and fertilizers available in January. Forms and vouchers are available from Jane Watkins on renewal of your membership. Jane will have emailed existing members in December. If you are interested in becoming a new member, or don't have access to email, please contact her on 01963 220058.

If this was not enough to look forward to, we also have the AGM and Dinner on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a ticketed event to which everyone is welcome: members, friends and partners of members, anyone thinking about joining or just people who want to have a fantastic 2 course dinner with a glass of wine for just £7.00! It is held in Charlton Horethorne Village Hall and doors open at 6.30 pm, with a glass of wine on arrival. The formal business of the AGM starts at 7pm and is dealt with fairly rapidly. We will then enjoy a 2-course dinner and after-dinner entertainment. Tickets cost £7.00 and will be available in the Charlton Horethorne Village Shop from mid-January. *Kate Hill, Chair.*

Tel: (01963) 220044 or [mchugh\\_hill@hotmail.com](mailto:mchugh_hill@hotmail.com)





## HORSINGTON CHURCH

*From the Rector*

### Happy New Year!

Thankfully, God is always the God of new beginnings.

Whenever we mess up and come to God with it all, seeking his forgiveness and peace, he forgives us completely and sets us free from the guilt, healing the pain, and holding us close until our tears subside.

God's mercies are new every morning. Each day is a new beginning, filled with opportunities and possibilities, of walking alongside God, hearing his still small voice, knowing his strength and companionship, and being confident of his loving approval.

And God is the God of small steps. He loves to see us give it a go, to take just that one small step in response to his prompting. Whether we succeed or fail, he is close at hand to reach out and steady us. And his face, with that approving smile and those loving eyes that see right through us, remind us that today, we walked those steps with God.

May this year be a year in which we all grow in our walk with the Lord, through the mistakes, listening to his voice, and knowing his love for us, just because we are his precious children. And may this wonderful knowledge spur us on to share our walk with God with those around us.

*With much love in Christ,  
Kevin and Lorna*

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

2nd February	<b>Candlemas</b>	9.15am	Holy Communion
9th February	<b>3 before Lent (Proper 1)</b>	11.00am	Morning Prayer
16th February	<b>2 before Lent</b>	9.15am	Holy Communion
23rd February	<b>Next before Lent</b>	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

#### **St Nicholas, Henstridge**

3rd February	<b>Candlemas</b>	11.00am	Morning Worship
9th February	<b>3 before Lent (Proper 1)</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion
16th February	<b>2 before Lent</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion
23rd February	<b>Next before Lent</b>	11.00am	Holy Communion

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

3rd February	<b>Candlemas</b>	11.00am	Morning Praise
9th February	<b>3 before Lent (Proper 1)</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion
16th February	<b>2 before Lent</b>	11.00am	Morning Praise
23rd February	<b>Next before Lent</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion
26th February	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	7.30am	Holy Communion



## Half Moon Inn Music Night, Horsington

**At 8.30pm on Wednesday 5th February**

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

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

## Moviola - Milborne Port (Village Hall)

**Date: Friday 21st February 2020**

**Film: Downton Abbey**

*(cert PG) (2hrs 3 minutes)*

**Staring: Michelle Dockery,  
Maggie Smith and  
Hugh Bonneville**



The beloved Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important moment of their lives. A royal visit from the king and queen of England soon unleashes scandal, romance and intrigue.

*Milborne Port Parish Council has again financially supported the Village Hall for the 2019-2020 Moviola season. This has meant we are still able to offer tickets at our 2014 launch price*

**Tickets: £5.00 in advance - £5.50 at door**

Advance tickets are exclusively available from  
Wayne Pullen, Butcher of Milborne Port from 1st November 2019.

Doors open at 7.00pm, with the show starting at 7.30pm, at the  
Village Hall (located in Springfield Road, Milborne Port, DT9 5RE).

## REMINDER

Parishioners can find Parish Council documents and other pieces of useful information (e.g. bulletins from Somerset Waste Partnership) online: [http://horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk/?page\\_id=99](http://horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk/?page_id=99)



Thursday February 6th at 7.30pm

**A talk by Blandford Fashion Museum**

Telephone Mrs Jackie Pyne for further information on  
**01963 370713**

**Wincanton Museum and History Society Talk**

Friday 28th February at 7.30pm  
Wincanton Memorial Hall

**The life of a garden arborist at Stourhead  
By Emily Utgren**

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

**Route 60+**

Somerset County Council Road Safety team run a presentation for older drivers. It is called Route 60+.

The course is aimed at helping to keep older drivers driving more safely for longer. The Safety Team is very aware that when a person who lives in a remote area has to stop driving it presents a difficult lifestyle change. In a talk they cover strategies to help continue driving and offer (for a fee) a driving assessment with a driving instructor.

The course is delivered free of charge to the community. Everyone who attends will get a copy of the highway code and other literature to assist them.

The course lasts for two hours and the Road Safety team try to bring along police and fire services for home safety advice, health professionals and other agencies who can offer advice as we get older.

Alternatively a talk that is part of the course lasts for one hour.

We are trying ascertain whether there is any interest in either the course or the talk. The course would be held in the Village Hall and the talk under the auspices of the WI (all genders welcome) at one of their monthly meetings.

Please contact Jackie Pyne (01963 370713) or John Macdonald (01963 370444) if you are interested in the talk or the course.



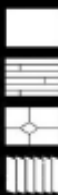
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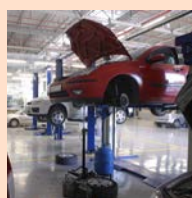
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## CONTACT LIST

(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
<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	07785 373388
	PTFA	Abby Spoors
	<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
	Clerk	David Chapman
		<a href="http://www.horsingtonpc@gmail.com">www.horsingtonpc@gmail.com</a>
<b>St John's Church</b>		
	Rector	Rev. Kevin Rogers
	Wardens	Anne Jones &
		Stephen Miles
	Sunday School	Deirdre Loftus
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
	Bookings	Emilie Gordon
Art	Gill Elston &	370236
	Alison Clements	370866
Football	Keith Norman	370332
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07885 798032
Upholstery	Andrée MacLeod	351918