

# The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

September 2020 Issue No.95



*Watercolour of Poppies by Clare Lindsay*

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Please send all articles for possible inclusion in the next issue to  
***info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk*** by noon on 11th September 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 - September 2020

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Thu 3rd	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 4th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Sat 5th		<b>Horsington Open 2020</b>	Henstridge Golf Club
Mon 7th	Lunch	<b>Ladies' Lunch Club</b>	Stag's Head, Yarlington
Thu 10th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 11th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Thu 17th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 18th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Thu 24th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 25th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall

**Pilates** will resume on the first Monday after Horsington School restarts.

### 2020 Horsington Open blasts off on September 5th

**This annual fun golf tournament in aid of local charities will be played at Henstridge Golf Club. Last year they raised over £950 for St Margaret's Hospice and Wincanton Live at Home. Can they do better this year?**

The 9-hole competition is open to all comers. Ladies and non-handicappers are welcome. Entry is £20 per player, including green fees. Individuals and teams of up to 4 can enter. The prize (as befits an "Open") is a silver claret jug, plus many other prizes generously donated by local businesses.

The field normally includes some really good golfers, some desperately bad golfers, many ladies and several beginners. The result is normally a cliff-hanger, and it's always fun.

This year we will be running two divisions – One for those with low handicaps (24 and below) and the other for high handicaps (25 and above), which will make the distribution of prizes fairer. The easiest way to enter is to book on line via Facebook or the Horsington Blog (Google it). Pay on the day. Or you can get more information from Henstridge Golf Club. **ALL WELCOME!**

The competition is organised by David and Tricia Blake and Richard and Libby Gaunt

*This year's poster is a fine piece of artwork by Henstridge GC member Ian Osman. See page 11*

Further information: Richard Gaunt - 01963 371572 - 077 1169 1928

### The Children's Society

This year the box collection has raised £460.20, which is a great achievement. Very many thanks to all the box holders who helped us to reach this excellent result. *Sallie Vallins*

**Anne Jones** would like to thank the farmers and all the villagers for their patience when she was out in her carriage or riding. She has now retired from both and is so grateful for everyone's kindness.

*Many thanks to the Thursday Art Group for the cover and page 9 pictures*

# Best British Cheese Award for Renegade Monk

Our local cheese producers, Marcus Fergusson and Penny Nagle, celebrated another accolade for their cheese in July, when Feltham's Farm first won Best Artisan Soft Cheese and then scooped the top award as Best British Cheese at the Inaugural Virtual Cheese Awards.

The award was launched this year by Sarah de Wit and Nigel Pooley as a response to the cancellation of annual cheese awards during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the aim of continuing to celebrate the best cheeses and to introduce new and interesting cheeses to consumers. From an initial entry of 300 cheeses, a final 30 were chosen in seven categories with judging online in front of a live audience of over 3,000 people.

Co-founder Sarah De Wit commented Renegade Monk is a very worthy winner and a fantastic example of a small artisanal cheesemaker that is reinventing what a British cheese should be. We really are leading the world with our exceptional cheesemakers.'

Marcus Fergusson said of the win, 'We are still completely over the moon. Winning this award is huge for a tiny artisan producer like us. We sold our first cheese in March 2017 and last year sold just 6,000 cheeses. We are profoundly grateful for the exposure that the Virtual Cheese Awards has brought us and many other artisan cheese producers – we all need all the help we can get right now and we hope that the awards will encourage the public to keep buying artisan cheese from small outlets and not return to the supermarket habits of old!'

*Sally Packer*



# Could Horsington become home to a national horticultural treasure?

If you've ever watched Gardeners' World, listened to Gardeners' Question time, visited an RHS garden or read a garden related magazine, you are likely to have heard about or seen one of the National Plant Collections®. You may not, however, have heard of Plant Heritage, the national charity with responsibility for approving these collections.

For those who were hoping to read of rumours that Alan Titchmarsh was planning to move to the village, I have to say that the treasures referred to in the title are the National Plant Collections for which Alan is a champion as President of Plant Heritage.

We are all aware of the increasing pressures on wild habitats and subsequent loss of plant species caused by climate change and the impact of new pests and diseases. For cultivated plants, you can add the loss of gardens, a diminishing nursery trade and a lack of knowledge about propagation in the general population which results in plants being treated as disposable items to be replaced each year with the latest fashions. All these factors conspire to reduce the diversity of our garden flora.

Britain is a nation of gardeners; our long history of collecting, breeding and growing plants has given us one of the most diverse garden floras in the world. Over generations this has involved a massive investment of human effort and inventiveness that will be wasted if the plants cease to be grown.

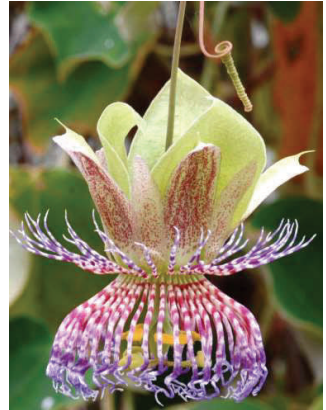
In October 1978, the RHS convened a conference bringing together representatives from Botanic Gardens, horticultural colleges, nurseries and private gardens and estates. They decided to create a national body, which was initially called the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG). In 1980, the first National Plant Collections were created and by 1990 the number had risen to 500, encompassing National Trust properties, council parks, Botanic Gardens, nurseries, arboreta and private gardens. In 2009, the NCCPG was renamed Plant Heritage, in a bid to improve public perception and reflect better the wide range of work being done to conserve the diversity of the nation's plants.

National Plant Collections (NPCs) are living reference libraries where all the plants in a genus or group can be seen together, compared and researched. The plants collected



*Hampton Court*

from around the world by plant hunters or bred by the head gardeners on country estates are as much a part of our history as our stately homes and art. Plants grown in NPCs hold important, genetically diverse material which could become a vital resource for plant breeding, combating diseases, adapting to climate change and containing chemicals for new medicines. These plants also carry the historic cultural legacy of plant collectors and breeders who built such a rich horticultural landscape. Having these plants as part of a registered conservation scheme ensures that they will be a resource for generations to come.



*Passiflora maliformis*

National Plant Collections are expected to provide a 'gold standard' for identification, care and knowledge of their respective plant group. They are also required to be available for the public to see, either by appointment, on special open days or as part of a garden open to the public. When funding for botanic gardens and parks is under threat, the need to support and conserve these collections becomes more urgent. A collection holder can become an authority on a plant group, able to provide advice, conduct research and be a resource for others.

There are three classifications of collection:

- **Historic collections** -conserving plants united by a common association, for example the Iris (Sir Cedric Morris introductions) or the collection of Queen Mary II's Exoticks at Hampton Court Palace
- **Horticultural collections** - containing plants of aesthetic or functional value. These can include collections such as the Betula cultivars or the Camellia (autumn & winter flowering)
- **Reference collections**- providing a comprehensive representation of all the plants in a particular group, a resource for both research and horticulture.

Most recently introduced are **dispersed collections**, held jointly by several Collection Holders in different locations. For example, Judy Barker's Hardy Chrysanthemum collection is spread over 3 sites and collection holders; Bristol Zoo's dispersed collection of Calendula allows over 40 different community groups to care for different plants in the collection, including schools and care homes. Dispersed collections are also ideal for members of plant societies, who may be keen to join forces to conserve a specific group of plants, as is being undertaken by the Suffolk Group of Plant Heritage with an historic collection of Narcissus. Members are each growing a few cultivars bred by the noted breeder the Reverend George Engleheart, to keep his legacy and plants alive.

Dispersed collections offer a way to safeguard large genera by spreading the collection around multiple sites. They offer increased insurance against pests, diseases or weather, by distance or local environment. They also make plant conservation more accessible and allow assessment of how plants grow in different soils and environments.



There are currently 20 NPC in Somerset (see [plantheritage.org.uk](http://plantheritage.org.uk) for details), and gardeners in Horsington and South Cheriton could take on the challenge of developing their own or becoming involved in setting up a dispersed collection. For those that want an easier start to collecting, there is also the option of becoming a Plant Guardian.



*Iris Langport Cherub*

Anyone who has a place to grow a plant, indoors or outdoors, in a garden, greenhouse, allotment or on a windowsill, can be actively involved in the conservation of cultivated plants as a Plant Guardian. This means you can take part in active conservation without needing to hold a National Collection. If a plant has limited or no commercial availability, it relies on being grown by someone for its survival. It is important to have these rare plants registered at a known location, as this way we can ensure that none slip through the gaps and are lost to horticulture. For conservation purposes, we also encourage rare plants to be duplicated at a few known locations as an insurance against loss. That is why we have a record of plants in guardianship and why we encourage our Plant Guardians to propagate more of their plants and share them.

Plant Heritage also manages a UK wide Threatened Plants Programme for cultivated plants. Though it is common now for gardens and organisations to have their own databases, there is no central point of information for all cultivars in the UK. As such, it can be difficult for collection holders to make decisions as to whether plants are of conservation interest and to have an idea of what should be grown and prioritised. With this aim in mind, Plant Heritage began the Threatened Plants Programme, which aims to identify, find, assess and conserve cultivars which have become rare in Britain and Ireland and are worthy of conservation.

Inspired by the International Union for Conservation of Nature assessment framework for conservation of wild species, it is an objective system that uses the same categories of threat, but using criteria more appropriate to cultivated plants. For cultivars introduced prior to 2005, if they are no longer listed in the RHS Plant Finder, or not consistently listed by at least one nursery per year over the past five years, they will appear as threatened in cultivation.



*Chelsea Flower Show stand*

Plant Heritage has recently expanded its website at [www.plantheritage.org.uk](http://www.plantheritage.org.uk) where those wanting to know more will find much to interest them. As the current chair of the charity I would love to hear from any budding enthusiasts!

*Cecilia Bufton*

# HORSINGTON CHURCH

## From the Rector

We needed to close St. John's Church building to do our part in helping curb the transmission of Covid-19.

But that never meant that the Church was closed! For the Church comprises those who have chosen Jesus to be their Lord and Master, affirming this through our baptisms.

So, although we mourn the loss of meeting as the gathered community of Christians in a beautiful and sacred building, we rejoice in being the Church in many other ways.



And this is how it ought to be. We were never meant to be building centric or building reliant as it was before Jesus came to show us the way to the Father. And so, we continued to foster our relationship with Jesus and with one another in different ways. We phoned and emailed. We met on social media platforms. We wrote letters and cards. We became more mindful of Jesus in our everyday lives.

The impact of Covid19 has changed us. We have our past with the wonderful stories and memories associated with meeting as the gathered community. And now, as we tentatively begin to meet as the gathered community again, it will be quite different. Our present reality requires new ways of doing and being church still. Our future reality will also be vastly different as it unfolds. And in all this, we rejoice in all that God has in store for us.

Church meetings continue every Sunday at 10am and every evening (except Sundays) at 7pm on Zoom, with Bible studies in between. We are also meeting again as the gathered church on alternate Sundays at 5pm. But do keep an eye on the website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10897/> to ensure you have the latest update on when our meetings are, how to get involved, and when the church may be open.

Kind regards,  
Rev Kevin Rogers  
Tel: 01963 3638332

## LETTER FROM HORSINGTON CHURCH SCHOOL'S GOVERNORS

A new academic year is about to start at Horsington Church School, an even more exceptional one than usual with the “new normal” regulations. For some children, it will be more than 5 months since they last entered the school premises. For others, it will be a totally new experience as the Reception class is about to welcome 16 new pupils. For all, it will be a moment filled with excitement, insecurities and expectations. Luckily, the school can count on its incredibly dedicated team of educators who can't wait to see all the children back in the classroom and are as ready as they can be to make it happen. As Mrs Alexander said, in reality the school has never closed but has kept looking after the children in a different way. The last months have been heavily filled with paperwork and more paperwork as the school is accountable to the Department of Education, the Local Authority and the Bath and West Academy Trust. Many new protocols have been put in place, from the way children enter the premises, to the use of space and equipment in the classroom and outdoor, the interaction between people, the adjustment of the curriculum, the code of conduct, not forgetting the intense and constant cleaning process to name just a few.

For us governors, it has been the first crisis we have been exposed to, and one that is still ongoing with no proper answer to solve it. We have now learnt to live with it and try to deal with it in the most efficient way. We are extremely lucky to work with Mrs Alexander who has regularly updated us with the latest guidance and schools' developments and who can be totally trustworthy in always trying her best to provide the best outcome possible for the children and the staff. Like most people, it has been hard at first for us to comprehend what was happening and to react accordingly, but after a few weeks, when it was obvious that the situation wasn't going to be solved any time soon, we have decided to resume meetings virtually and re-establish regular contacts. We truly have to thank our clerk, Rosanne, who has always managed to keep on top of everything and even trained most of us in using video calls. With the relaxing of the rules on group meetings, we are hoping to start meeting face-to-face again in the autumn as the school's hall will allow us enough social distancing. Being a small team of governors is now seen as an advantage as we can easily communicate between us and each member is committed to play their part. We expect more responsibilities to come as the situation is bound to change any time, guidance and regulations are constantly being rewritten and children's needs are still to be identified. Fortunately, the partial return to school for pupils in June and July has shown really good signs that most children if not all not only haven't suffered from the lockdown but have actually gained in independence, curiosity, new skills and a growing desire to attend school and be with their peers. Let's not forget to mention the positive!

We are, like the children and the school's staff, both excited and apprehensive for the new academic year to start. As the school is about to welcome new pupils, we are also about to welcome a new governor in our team whom we can't wait to meet and hope to introduce to the community very soon. We still have some vacancies to fill and we are eager to add new skills and new contributions to our group so please do contact us if you consider becoming a governor or simply would like to meet one of us.

*Jeanne and Connie Co-chairs of governors*



## Bobologism 20

It has often felt strange that in some languages “B” and “V” seem almost interchangeable. One sees this particularly in Spanish, where, for example the city of Valencia is pronounced “Balenthia”. (Just to confuse the situation further “c” is often sibilant after e or i, as if one has a lisp) This b pronounced as v occurs at the beginning of a phrase, or after m or n. Muddling isn’t it?

I recall hearing the wife of the Spanish tenor Placido Domingo saying once on television “I have known him since he was a bery small voy”. And a nice young Spanish girl who used to come and stay with us here was forever talking about her mother’s “billage” where she had been brought up. Oh well, they all speak much better English than I speak Spanish.

But it goes further. The Russian letter B is pronounced as a V. So Vladivostok is written Bladibostok. (I don’t know how to write the Cyrillic alphabet on my computer) The Russian name Paul is Pavle, but in Spanish it is Pablo (as in Picasso). If you pronounce a B very softly it is almost a V.

And talking of Vladivostok, the common Russian name Vlad means “master”. Mir means World, so Vladimir means “master of the world”. An appropriate name for President Putin perhaps. Vostok means the East, so Vladivostok means the master of the east. When Vladivostok was first established it was the furthest eastern outpost of the old Russian Empire, and as such was regarded as the Master of the East.

A lot of the Russian alphabet was derived from the Greek, and I understand that quite a lot of the language developed from that route too.

*Bob Jones*



*Watercolour by Jane Smith*



*Pen and wash by Gill Elston*

## Parish Council Update

As for most organisations the Coronavirus pandemic has necessitated a temporary change in the way that the Parish Council operates. The primary reason for the change in our case is that councils have a duty to allow the public to observe meetings without placing a restriction on the number that may attend - clearly this requirement is not compatible with social distancing guidelines. In April, the Government passed legislation which recognised that, due to the above, local councils would be unable to safely work normally and permitted them to adapt either by cancelling meetings, adjusting their frequency or moving to a virtual way of working. Virtual meetings present their own challenges, particularly in rural areas such as ours where connections can be slow and unstable, as the loss of connection of a councillor or member of the public can invalidate the entire meeting.

Like all Parish Councils we take advice from NALC (The National Association of Local Councils), plus from our own county association. Following guidance and discussions it was agreed that due to the difficulty in holding both physical and virtual meetings, that these would be suspended as permitted by the April legislation. As at the time of writing, the law and guidance remains unchanged, although we are hopeful that we will be able to return to normality soon. The last few months have been unsurprisingly quiet, but councillors have dealt with any urgent matters such as reviewing planning matters and authorising payments virtually within the guidance provided by the associations.

The Parish Council is grateful to our parishioners for their understanding through this period of uncertainty and to our contractors that have kept our public spaces looking tidy throughout. We look forward to returning to our normal way of working and monthly meetings as soon as the guidance permits.

*Mark Tucker*

## Village Hall

The Village Hall has reopened. As of the second week of August the Hall has been accepting bookings.

In the present climate, there are numerous limitations. There will be a maximum of thirty persons allowed for any function. Covid restrictions will apply and hirers will be expected to follow the Government guidelines to mitigate the spread of the virus.



For further information please contact the Bookings Secretary, Emilie Gordon or the Committee Chair, John Macdonald.

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*Ian Osman 2020*

POSTER BY IAN OSMAN



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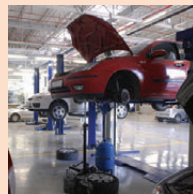
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## CONTACT LIST

(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	Connie Hurt	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	370713
Clerk	David Chapman	370527
	<a href="http://www.horsingtonnpc@gmail.com">www.horsingtonnpc@gmail.com</a>	
<b>St John's Church</b>		
Rector	Rev. Kevin Rogers	363832
Wardens	Anne Jones &	370626
	Stephen Miles	370823
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
Football	Keith Norman	370332
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07885 798032
Upholstery	Andrée MacLeod	351918