

The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

October 2020 Issue No.96



Blackberries by Angela Burton

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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 - October 2020

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Thu 1st	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 2nd	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Mon 5th	Lunch	Ladies' Lunch Club	The Orchard, Galhampton
		Pilates	Village Hall
		Pilates	Village Hall
Thu 8th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Fri 9th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Mon 12th		Pilates	Village Hall
		Pilates	Village Hall
Thu 15th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 16th	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Mon 19th		Pilates	Village Hall
		Pilates	Village Hall
Thu 22nd	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
Fri 23rd	10.00am	Art	Village Hall
SCHOOL HALF TERM			

Parish Council

The Parish Council looks forward to welcoming recently co-opted Council member, Adrian Pratt, to his first meeting on Thursday 8th October.

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. 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.



S.V. PASSAT

The last commercial sailing ship to round Cape Horn My father's story

My father, Oliver Moore, joined the Royal Navy at the age of 13 when he went to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth in 1930. Having spent much of his naval career in China before and after the war, with a slightly more exciting period during the war on the Russian convoys, in 1948 he requested a year's



leave of absence. This was so that he could join the crew of S.V. Passat, which was the very last commercial sailing ship to sail from Australia to England. During the voyage he kept a diary which he later incorporated into his 9 volumes of typed memoirs.

Passat was a large ship, a steel four masted barque, being 115 metres in length and 54 metres or 178 feet from waterline to masthead, of 3,000 deadweight tons and powered only by sail. There were 34 sails with an area of 4,600 square metres; each one made of very heavy canvas. She could travel at 18 knots when under full sail. Launched in 1911, from 1932 she had been part of the Gustaf Erikson line of Finland and it was under the Finnish flag that she sailed for her last commercial voyage

My father joined the ship on 6th March 1948 in Port Victoria, Australia where work included loading the cargo of 58,000 bags of wheat and a sampling of life under sail for people like my father who were experienced sailors on warships, but new to sailing ships of this size. "...we had to go aloft and furl the foresail again. This was all hard work and I found my tallness (he was 6'2") very awkward on the footropes when I was near the stirrups. I was hanging on with one hand and trying to haul up the sail with the other". "Both hands on the sail" was shouted up to him. At 178 feet above the water you were not expected to hang on to anything!

In addition to the cargo, they had to carry their food and water for 6 months, together with pigs and chickens. Preparing the ship for the voyage was a lengthy process and they didn't sail until 17th May.

The diary includes many descriptions of life on board: "water is rationed now to one third of a bucket per person per day for all purposes". "Tom is very amusing when he cleans the pigs out, he lets them out, and then a sort of bull fight



takes place to get them back in again, with pigs racing all over the deck." The diary also noted the distance travelled each day, with about 180 miles not being uncommon when the wind was right.

Work on lowering or furling the sails took place day and night, as they were adapted for the strength of the wind, and it usually meant working on the yards right at the top of the masts, some 178 feet up, often in a storm: "there was a certain amount of panic, and in the dark and the pelting rain, the atmosphere was blue with shouting and cursing; the wind picked up in gusts; the sky black and lowering; and the moon scudding behind the racing, ragged clouds... we could only gather up the heavy sail and hang it in gasket; it was too heavy to roll up on the yard".

With the ship moving at speed, water frequently came in and over the decks "Tom and I were trying to remove the plug to drain our lobby, and were caught by a big wave and washed right across the ship into the scuppers, where we nearly drowned for a few seconds" and "it is dry under my bunk for the first time in a fortnight, as the ship is listed to starboard".

It could be tough work physically: "wheel kicking like hell. I had pins and needles in my foot from standing hard on the brake throughout my trick in the last dog watch. We are now under storm canvas: fore lower topsail, main topsails, mizzen lower topsail and the outer jib.

The wheel, which is a double one 5 ft in diameter, has a footbrake for the helmsman to hold it when it kicks badly”.

By the time they got near Cape Horn at the beginning of July the weather was not good: “We are having real Horn weather now, continuous hail and sleet squalls, heavy breaking seas and pretty heavy water on deck, especially the after deck.... a very big sea came over the midships navigation house, wheel and all, it put both compass lights out.... up aloft it was freezing and my fingers lost consciousness and hurt like hell when they thawed out”. When they were about parallel with the Horn, with snow on the yards, he notes that he had so many clothes on that he found it exhausting climbing up the rigging. The weather remained ferocious and they had two at the wheel, with a heavy following sea breaking over the foredeck quite often.

My father was a keen naturalist and noted and photographed the seabirds particularly the albatrosses, one of which landed on board. As they crossed the equator “porpoises played around the bows, escorting us across the Line from dawn till dusk. The 2nd Mate gave Jack (the cook) a terrific dressing down for trying to spear them with the trident. It is traditionally, in a sailing ship, terribly unlucky to harm a porpoise”.

There was excitement when they caught a blue pointer shark with a piece of salt bacon and hoisted it in, whereupon it was shot between the eyes at point blank range... the tail was cut off with an axe and thrown overboard, despite protests that it should be nailed to the jib-boom in accordance with the best traditions.

Life at sea meant all sorts of squabbles amongst the crew, but “the first indication that the world was inhabited since we left Port Vic over three months ago...” was towards the end of August when they saw an aircraft.

On 6th October 1948 they arrived back in England: “at 0700 we were called on deck, soon to see the ship entering the Falmouth Roads... we furled all the sails with a will, giving them a good harbour stow”. This was after 144 days at sea.

Susan Maltin

Charlotte au chocolat

A popular and easy to make French dessert, which would impress your guests and be appreciated by adults and children alike! It is quick to prepare but requires some time to set in the fridge.

Ingredients:

Sponge biscuits (about 40-50 of them, depending of the size of your dish)
 200g of dark cooking chocolate (the stronger the better)
 6 eggs
 Some liquid (coffee, fruit juice, liquor...)

First, prepare the chocolate mousse:

Melt the chocolate. Break the eggs, separating the yolks from the white, and beat the egg whites until firm. Mix first the yolks into the melted chocolate (if still hot, wait for it to cool down a bit), then fold the whites in very carefully.

Next, line your dish with the biscuits. You need a round dish with a flat bottom, preferably with tall sides, like a souffle dish. Quickly dip the biscuits, one at the time, in the liquid of your choice, depending on the flavour you want to add to the dessert (anything you think would suit dark chocolate!). Lay the biscuits, first on the bottom, placing the biscuits next to each other, then all around the side of the dish (you may have to cut the top of the biscuits if they don't fit perfectly). Pour half of the chocolate mousse on the biscuits, then place a layer of dipped biscuits, cover with the rest of the chocolate mousse, and finish with a layer of biscuits. Ideally, your dish would be full. Cover with a plate and place in the fridge for at least 4 hours, preferably overnight.

Before serving, turn the dish upside down on a serving plate. If the charlotte doesn't fall out of the dish, run a knife along the edge or place the bottom of the dish above steam water. It should then come out nicely.

Be creative, and add all sorts of small ingredients into your chocolate mousse: orange zests, pieces of pears in syrup, raspberries, some strong coffee... Do the same with your biscuits, to match or contrast with the flavour of your mousse: any fruit juice, cordial, flavoured liquor... Bon appétit!

Jeanne



HORSINGTON CHURCH

From the Rector

Twenty-five centuries ago, Daniel was deported to a foreign land that did not know the God of our Bible. But Daniel knew God to be sovereign and so carried his faith into this foreign land that called for the sole worship of its dictatorship. Honouring God in this context required great courage and confidence in his God.



God gave Daniel much favour with the rulers of his day, so much so that he was entrusted with key responsibilities and positions of authority that made his native contemporaries quite jealous. So jealous were they, that they tricked the king into decreeing that anyone found not worshipping him be thrown into a fiery furnace!

So great was Daniel's love for God that he refused to worship any other god, including the king, resulting in him incurring the wrath and sentence of the king, much to the delight of his jealous native contemporaries. And so, Daniel and two of his friends landed up in this fiery furnace for obeying God, and not the king.

But, instead of these three men being burned, a fourth person, an angel sent by God, is seen with Daniel and his two friends, walking around in this furnace! The king, bewildered and frightened, had them pulled out only to discover that not even a hair on them was singed, neither did their clothes smell of smoke. Daniel's confidence in his sovereign God paid off, as did his obedience to him.

The king realised that Daniel's God, our God, is truly sovereign, and worthy of all honour and worship.

And so, when our culture invites us to value other things or people, worthy though they may be, more than God how will we respond? I hope our response is like that of Daniel.

To grow in your understanding of Daniel's God, join us on Sundays at 10am (via Zoom) or at 5pm in one of our church buildings. We also meet every evening and for weekly bible studies via Zoom. For more detailed and up to date information in this regard, please visit our website at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10897/service-and-events/events-regular/>

Kind regards,

Rev Kevin

Horsington Open -The Claret Jug returns to Horsington!

The 2020 Horsington Open was played out on a beautiful day, Saturday 5th September. This friendly charity golf competition, now in its 8th year, attracted a record crowd at Henstridge Golf course, despite the restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus situation.

68 players took part, with each socially-distanced four-ball group starting off simultaneously at different points on the course.. There were two starts, one at 9am and a second one at 11am.

For the uninitiated, each competitor has a handicap, based on their past scores. This “levels the playing field” and gives every player an equal chance, regardless (almost) of ability.

The victory went to newcomer Scott Houghton from Templecombe, a member of the Horsington Hackers Team, who carried off the coveted Claret Jug, which will now return to Horsington for display in the Half Moon. Scott scored 26 points. He has only been playing golf for a year or so.

Runner up was Andrew Gordon from Sherborne, with a score of 25 points. The result was unbelievably close, with only 7 points separating the first 20 players, reflecting the ultra-competitive nature of this competition.

The team prize was won by the Horsington Hackers, three points in front of The Shankers, a Sherborne Golf Club team.

Henstridge Golf Club had a record number of teams entered, but somehow failed to make it to the top, despite their winning form in previous competitions. Horsington’s players turned out in force. Peter Gripper and George Wagland (The Half Mooners) won two of the nearest the pin competitions. Chris Bailwards’s Home Farm Harriers battled it out with Andre Blond and the Foxcombe Flyers. In a thrilling race for the bottom of the chart, Anthony Yateman fought off a spirited challenge from Richard Gaunt to secure last place with just 4 points.

The main point of the day was to raise money for local charities. Entry fees and a raffle with magnificent prizes raised over £1,200 for St Margaret’s Hospice and the Somerset Air Ambulance. Thanks to Jerry’s Electrical, Vale Motors and Totally Floored for some great prizes.

Richard Gaunt



TENNIS ALL YEAR ROUND



Whether you are a beginner, a rusty former player or a keen match player, all are welcome at Wincanton Tennis Club. Summer may be nearly over but that doesn't stop us getting outside to enjoy a game of tennis. The club is based at Wincanton Sports Ground, Moor Lane where we play all year round on four all-weather courts with floodlights available for the dark winter evenings.

Scheduled events were disrupted by Covid this year but following LTA guidelines we still managed to enjoy a pared down version of the club tournament played over a few weeks with the finals on Sunday 13th September.



A number of teams from the club play in the Yeovil summer and winter leagues so there is plenty of opportunity for those who are keen to compete. On the coaching side we have big changes afoot. Our coach Dan Cahill is moving on to pastures new so from half term the coaching programme will be run by Craig Stock of LTC Tennis who manages a team of coaches at various clubs. We are waiting to hear who he has found to run the day to day coaching at Wincanton so look on the website for the latest information. He promises a full and varied programme to include coaching for children and adults.

The Ladies battle it out on court watched by socially distant spectators on Club Finals day.



Men's Singles Champion Russell Field with runner-up Andy Newman umpired by club chairman Lee Tibbatts

Becoming a member of WTC could not be easier. You can either complete the form on our website or come along to a club session on a Monday or Wednesday evening between 6.30 and 8.30pm and talk to the committee member on duty who will be pleased to give you all the information you need. Remember to bring your tennis racket, so you can have a game. For more information about the club and a membership form please check our website: www.wincantontennisclub.co.uk.

The WTC Committee



Art Work

By

Paul Griffin





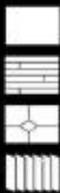
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Citizens Advice Bureau, Wincanton		0344 88 9623
CAT Bus Ring and Ride Service		33864
Doctors' Surgeries	Milborne Port (inc Templecombe)	250334
	Wincanton Health Centre	435700
French/Italian Conversation	Jeanne Mortarotti	202265
Horsington Church School	Head/Secretary	370358
Governor	Connie Hurt	07785 373388
PTFA	Abby Spoons	
	abzspoors@gmail.com	
Ladies' Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
	Susan Maltin	371400
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Wardens	Anne Jones &	370626
	Stephen Miles	370823
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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	
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