

CONTACT LIST

(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

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Bellringing	Anna Piechna	370749
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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
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French/Italian Conversation	Jeanne Mortarotti	202265
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	PTFA	Abby Spors
		abzspors@gmail.com
Ladies' Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
	Susan Maltin	371400
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	Chair	Jackie Pyne
	Clerk	David Chapman
		www.horsingtonpc@gmail.com
St John's Church		
	Rector	Rev. Kevin Rogers
	Wardens	Anne Jones &
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	Sunday School	Deirdre Loftus
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	South Somerset District Council	01935 462462
	U3A	Jean Lindley
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	Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)	602500
	Wincanton Town Council	31693
	W.I.	Jackie Pyne
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Football	Keith Norman	370332
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The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

February 2021 Issue No.99



The Christmas Light Trail at Stourhead

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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.

Keep it clean

With the Covid problem a lot of people all over the country are out walking more than was previously the case, to the benefit of our health and wellbeing.

As I walk around our attractive villages I'm often struck by the amount of litter scattered on the verges. Why on earth do folk do this when it would be so easy to take their litter home and not despoil our area? As well as prevailing upon those we see littering the place to be a little more public-spirited I think we could all help a bit if when we go for a walk we took a plastic (or other material!) bag to pick up some of the rubbish. If we all did this when out walking we could soon tidy the place up.

Whilst writing about one of the favoured walks around here, huge thanks are due to Daniel Bao-Smith of Swiss Cottage for tidying up all of Meads Lane below the bollards. Until Daniel got to work it was a muddy single-track path; now it's a pleasure to walk down. Also thanks to Lester Bennett for keeping the upper part of Meads Lane clean and tidy. As the lane is a bit off the larger road it gets ignored by the Somerset Highways.

We are so fortunate living where we do. Let us keep it looking as good as we can.



Rubbish on A357, the main road through the village.

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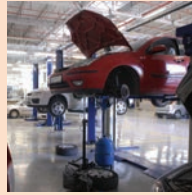
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The Christmas Light Trail at Stourhead

This Christmas was the second year in which the National Trust has transformed the gardens at Stourhead into a winter wonderland of lights. Once again, the path led over the road bridge, through the kitchen gardens, along the magnificent avenue up to the house and round the stableyard, before crossing behind the house and descending the woodland paths to the final iconic view of the lake.

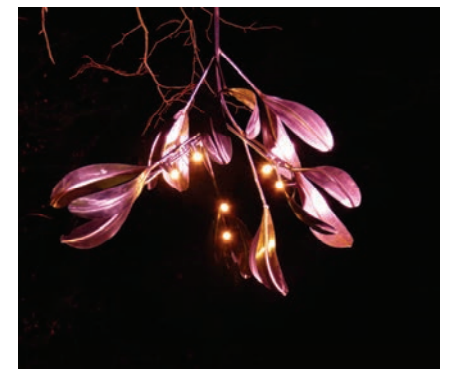
Along the way there were a myriad of clever installations: a series of the constellations, a pair of Christmas trees inventively put together from a pyramid of small sledges, a flight of origami-style cranes, a tree full of dangling moving icicles... The Twelve Days of Christmas were portrayed in lively wicker figures and numbers, there was an archway of tiny floral lights: at every turn of the path something new awaited you.

The 'showstoppers' were the meadow of giant crocuses across the houselawns, smoothly changing colours, and the water lily blossoms reflected in the lake at the bridge. The various temples played their part, from the temple of Flora garlanded in frosted blossoms to the Pantheon and Temple of Apollo in the far distance, illuminated in subtly changing waves of colour and picked out by laser beams.

We felt that this year the space of the garden and its statuesque trees had been used to better effect to maintain a sense of the glories of the original design. Some scenes were set up at a distance from the path, and trees further off were picked out in ghostly colours.

The event was carefully and smoothly organised with plenty of stalls along the way selling hot drinks, waffles and so on to counteract the cold and damp of the evening air even before the end of the trail in the brightly lit courtyard of the Spread Eagle.

Sally Packer



Horsington in the Newspapers – suicide and crime

Drunk on the railway

On 22nd September 1860 “James Godfrey a labourer of Horsington Somerset was summoned for lying down drunk on the Yeovil South Western Railway to the danger of his own life. Mr Bent of the South Western Company was in attendance. James Perrett of Buckhorn Weston deposed to finding the man on the line, but refused to state at what date, or the time, saying he did not know, and when questioned by Mr Graves as to whether it was within six weeks, he said he really did not know. Mr Bent said defendant and Perrett had been together all the morning. The former was fined 40s and 13s costs. Paid”.

Small ads

11 March 1898

General servant wanted. £14 - £16 to trustworthy experienced person. Mrs Bewsey, Horsington Somerset.

10th March 1911

“Labourer wanted with wife and son. Good milkers. A.C. Eastment, Horsington Somerset”.

22nd September 1939

“Wanted: Man used to horses and milking. Good cottage and wages. Vincent, Goulds Farm, Horsington, Somerset” .

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
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Sulky boy, 11, driven to suicide

As you might expect Horsington does not appear to have been a hotbed of crime or violence. However on 19th February 1831 it was reported that "An inquest was held by Mr Ashford on Friday at Horsington Somerset on the body of Edward Myall aged 11 years. The deceased, who was the son of a shoemaker, had been employed in cleaning out the workshop, and after that he was throwing stones or potatoes at a pan that was near the house; a neighbour complained of his having broken this pan which belonged to her, and the deceased's father took a strap and struck him twice moderately. The boy immediately went into the garden, and hung himself to an apple tree with a small piece of cord, which he generally carried in his pocket for the purpose of tying up wood, and although he was discovered and cut down in less than ten minutes from the time he went into the garden, the vital spark had fled. The deceased had never shown the least aberration of mind on any occasion, but was of a sulky disposition. The jury, who were highly respectable, returned a verdict of suicide.

Assault and Theft

"In 1821 Elias Chippett alias Sansom, was arrested for assaulting William Willis of Horsington Somerset and stealing from his person, a purse containing a half crown and several shillings and sixpence".

Research by: Susan Maltin

Bootmakers is never short of new ideas

Over the last year (yes, we're very close to a full year of Covid crisis), one place hasn't stopped amazing me by the way they managed to confront the crisis and re-invent themselves to adjust to ever-changing regulations and restrictions: Bootmakers, in Wincanton.

During the first lockdown, they first kept themselves and our children busy by sending free arts and crafts activity kits to whoever would request one. Then they decided to turn their wood-fire pizza making, which was at first only meant to be eaten on site in their small back café or while busy making some crafts, into a takeaway business, consequently changing their opening hours from daytime to evening time. During the second lockdown, they offered a pizza making kit containing a craft activity – the idea being to recycle the pizza box into an artwork. Over December, they jumped on the opportunity to open again to customers by offering Christmas crafts activities to any ages, moving their closing time to 9pm so adults could meet in a safe environment and enjoy Christmas preparations while many other places were closed and Christmas events were very limited. Now into the third



lockdown, Bootmakers is bringing further new ideas, as they are limited again to their pizza take away business, by adding nachos complete with salsas and vegetables available for take away on Thursdays. They cater for gluten-free and vegetarians /vegans as well. Unfortunately, they won't deliver at home, but it is very easy to order through a quick phone call or text and to pick up the order through their shop's sash window on Market Square in Wincanton, with parking facilities in the streets around.

While the new McDonald's is about to open any time soon and

dramatically changed for Zacchaeus. He publicly announced that he would give away 50% of his entire wealth. Not only this, but Zacchaeus went even further offering to pay back four times as much as all monies scrupulously gained to everyone! Could this be the same man who only hours before was only interested in feathering his own nest without a care for how he cheated others out of their hard earned money?

That dinner with this stranger was nothing short of a game changer for Zacchaeus and for the entire community of earners who were required to pay tax. Before the dinner, the behaviours were deceit, lies, greed, pride, loneliness, and fear. After dinner, the behaviours changed to openness, remorse, generosity, care, joy. And all because of one dinner with this stranger. So, who was this stranger?

At another dinner party, this stranger had a woman, whom he had rescued from the most awful of circumstances, lavish a gift on him to the value of about £25,000. In response to this, he is on record of saying about this woman's actions, "Her many flaws have been forgiven - as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." It seems to me that Zacchaeus had a similar transformation.

In lockdown, and at other times when our buttons are pushed, what behaviours surface? Sometimes, what we observe about our behaviours can be quite shocking as we discover the veneer of a good and reasonable person is only hiding the angry, self-righteous, fed-up, feelings that fuel unkind and unhelpful behaviours, that put others at risk and make life harder for our healthcare professionals.



Could it be that we need to have dinner with this stranger too? But be warned, he will invite himself into your home. He did this to me and many others that I know. And what a game changer it has been for us all. Oh, I nearly forgot. His name is Jesus.

Regarding church services, we are on Zoom every Sunday at 10am, and every evening (except Sunday) at 5.30pm. And when we can do so safely, we will meet in the church building on Sundays at 8.30am. Until then, the church building needs to remain closed. For more details, phone me on 01963 363832.



And if you would like to receive our weekly news do let me know.

Kind regards,
Rev Kevin Rogers

HORSINGTON CHURCH

From the Rector



*You can check with my office;
it's work from home
NOT work at home!*

Coping with yet another lockdown is challenging to say the least. It evokes all sorts of emotions within us that are probably as varied as we are diverse. And these emotions find expression in our language and behaviours.

I know of a man in the middle east who is my case example of what I mean. His name was Zacchaeus. He had his own business, but with a lucrative contract with the local authority. This contract enabled him to skim off huge profits undetected. Unsurprisingly, the members of the local council abhorred him and his unscrupulous business dealings. Nobody felt they could trust him, for he swindled all who did business with him. And his business was the middleman, collecting taxes on behalf of the corrupt government.

Nevertheless, he had an extremely comfortable lifestyle as a result. Unfortunately, as his wealth grew, so did his isolation as he was shunned for his ways. Needless to say, this probably led him to become proud, bombastic, insolent, and just not a nice person to be around. For all his lifestyle perks, this loneliness weighed heavy upon him.

Then he heard reports of a stranger in the local district who seemed to be in every conversation he overheard. Some spoke highly of this man, whilst others decried him, and some just did not know what to think about him. This stranger was certainly making his presence felt in his behaviours, actions, and public speeches. Zacchaeus was intrigued to say the least, but simply did not have the contacts or networks to find out exactly who this person was.

Until he got an unexpected invitation by this very same popular, charismatic, and influential stranger. But the invitation to dinner came with a bit of a twist. This stranger actually invited himself to Zacchaeus' home! And this invitation was made in public! Zacchaeus was delighted – an important guest that infuriated the locals. Why spend time, any time, with this worthless, crooked, scoundrel that most despised?

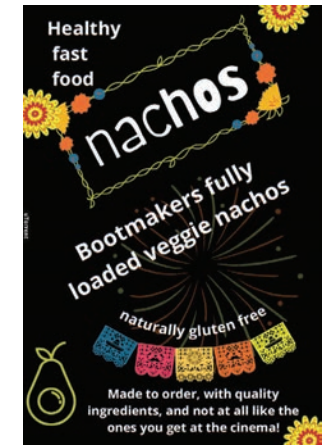


No-one who was present at this table ever did reveal the content of the conversations that probably meandered on well into the night. But the next day, something had

will surely attract many take away customers, remember to support your local independent retailers and promote local fresh food!

Bootmakers: Market Square, Wincanton. 07757490896.
Collection 6-9pm.

Prices go from £7.50 to £9 for a regular size pizza, and £11 to £13 for a large size one, depending on the toppings requested. There is a regular menu, but also weekly specials announced on their Facebook page (with more creative combinations, like the meatballs and mozzarella pizza, or the brie and caramelised red onions one), or simply choose the toppings of your choice and make your own pizza.



Moments of Light

The BBC radio 4 morning programme “Today” has recently introduced among their reports on political debates, international issues and of course the Covid 19 crisis, a few minutes dedicated to more up-lifting news named “moments of light”, where people talk about things that help get them through the pandemic or have helped them get through rough times in the past. It started with artists and writers, like food critic and journalist Nigel Slater describing his joy in eating crumpets. Then listeners were requested to record their own moment of light or things that brought comfort to them. Josephine talked about playing Chopin Opus 67 No 1 on the piano, John described his weekly “scramble” game – or scrabble on zoom- with his friend and his wife, June mentioned counting her blessings with a gin and tonic in hand while watching the flame of a candle.

Among the morning news, mainly dreadful but essential to keep up to date with rapid changes, I have come to look for these few minutes of intimate tales from people's lives, when all of sudden I am reminded that life can also be lived from time to time in its simple form, its small moments of simple happiness that make up our days. I have got to think about what can make me happy, what it is that I have come to cherish. If I were to describe one, I think it would be taking the time to sit down for a board game with the whole family: I have never been a keen player and I can confess that games are generally more a bore than a pleasure to me. But as a way to keep our children entertained away from screens, we are now regularly sitting all together at weekends around a board game, and those special moments I have started to enjoy and collect as fond memories of special family times. My son received a new board game from his aunt at Christmas, and it was such an excitement to discover a new game that we kept it for our New Year's Eve “party” as a special treat and played until midnight struck!

So, if asked to write about it, what do you think would be your moment of light? And if you can't think of one, how do you think you could create one that would comfort you during this bleak time? We'd love to hear from our readers and share our little moments of happiness to inspire others, so please do send us a few lines at info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk.

Jeanne Mortarotti

Italian vegan stew with chickpeas and cavolo nero

With so much talk about Veganuary, most of us are becoming accustomed to vegan recipes and are discovering a new range of ingredients, both healthy and tasty. Chickpeas are definitely now part of our regular diet, easily replacing meat in stews and burgers. Cavolo nero has long been a favourite in our family and is now regularly supplied in supermarkets. If you can't find it, kale, spinach or green cabbage could work well in this recipe too. This is a cheap and easy recipe that contains all the vitamins and proteins you need on a cold winter day!



- 3 tbsp of olive oil
- 1 onion finely chopped
- 1 tsp of dried chili flakes (if not, any chili could do, or even cayenne pepper)
- 3 garlic cloves crushed
- 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary leaves finely chopped (other herbs could work too)
- 800g of chickpeas (2 tins)
- 400g of tomatoes (1 tin)
- 500ml of vegetable stock
- 150g of cavolo nero, stalks removed and roughly chopped

Put the oil in a large pan, and cook the onion, the chili, the garlic and the rosemary gently for about 10min, until the onions are soft and translucent. Add the tomatoes and stock to the pan and simmer for about 10min. Add the cavolo nero and the chickpeas, and simmer for 20 min or so. Adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper if needed.

Serve in bowls with a drizzle of olive oil. For a non-vegan version, you can also sprinkle some parmesan cheese on top (we have tried it with ricotta cheese on top and it was delicious!).

Jeanne Mortarotti

Bobologism 23

I have never really understood what “carats” meant when talking about gold, maybe because it’s a bit out of my experience. But when we were in Sicily 15 months ago – in those blessed days before Covid ruled out much travel – we were shown a Carob tree, which grows commonly all over the Mediterranean and Middle East. It produces a fruit in pods, a bit like large bean pods, pictured below, and the fruit is used for animal feed, or in leaner times, for human consumption. Occasionally used as a chocolate substitute it is sold in health food shops as Carob chips or Carob treats.

But back to gold. Apparently the weight of a Carob bean is virtually always the same, so much so that the Romans used it as a measure of weight. The pure gold coin known as a *Solidus* weighed 24 carob seeds; and hence the purest gold was labelled as 24 carats, a single carat weighing 0.2 grams or 200 milligrams. 12 carat gold means that the article is just 50% gold, 50% baser metal.

Bob Jones

