

The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

May 2021 Issue No.102



Monarch's Way in Horsington on the VE Day Bank Holiday in May 2020.

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info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk by noon on 12th May 2021

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 - May 2021

Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue
Mon 17th		VILLAGE HALL OPENS	
Tues 18th	6.30pm	Yoga	Village Hall
Thu 20th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 21st	10.00am	Art	"
Tues 24th	6.30pm	Yoga	"
Thu 26th	10.00am	Art	"
Fri 27th	10.00am	Art	"



Advertising Space Available

The Villager committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all our advertisers, past and present, for their generous support of our local magazine. Without this support the Villager could not function.

As you may be aware, owing to the current pandemic, Thales have been unable to print the magazine, and so we have had to find , and pay for, commercial printing which has come at some expense. As our only source of revenue comes from our advertisers, and the occasional donation which is most welcome, we are very keen to keep our existing group of businesses as well as encouraging newcomers. With that end in mind, we currently have space available for anyone wishing to advertise on a regular basis. For details please call me on 370049.

Chris McCairns

New Yoga classes coming to St Margaret's Hall, Horsington, on Tuesday evenings, from 18th May 2021, from 6.30pm*

After almost a lifetime of practising yoga, I started my teacher training in 2017 with the British Wheel of Yoga (BWY) starting with a 60 hour Foundation course. By July 2021 I will have completed my 300 hour Teaching Certificate and intend to carry my studies on to the 500 hour Diploma. Though I have been fully insured to teach from last autumn, Covid has made this rather difficult! I have been doing some teaching online, which has been great while we've been in lockdown, but nothing as good as teaching in real life. I'm really pleased to say that from 18th

May I will be able to bring yoga classes to St Margaret's Hall on Tuesday evenings.*

Everyone, especially beginners, is welcome. I'm a firm believer that yoga is for everyone, no matter your age or ability. You don't have to be a young supple gymnast. Yoga is so good at keeping the body in balance, easing back pain and keeping you healthy. As far as I am concerned, if you have a body, you have a yoga body!

Each class will be around an hour and a quarter. Please bring a mat, a bottle of water and a blanket. One off lesson £9.00, a block of 6 lessons - £48.00. Because of Covid restrictions you need to book a place in advance.

If you'd like to know more about the classes or have a chat, please do get in touch.

*lessons will be held in a Covid safe environment and subject to the requirements set down by the Government and Sport England.

Emma Riley

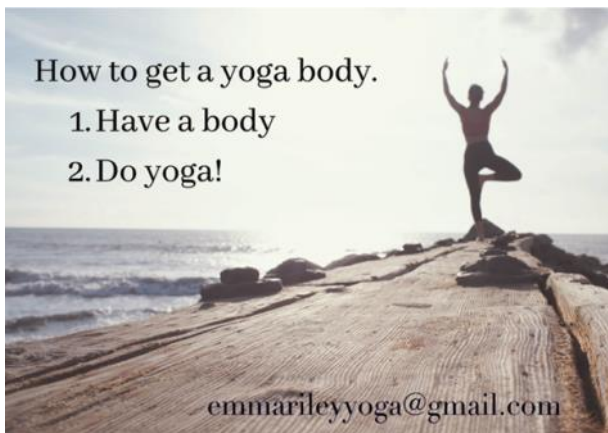
emmariley yoga@gmail.com

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Facebook: Emma Riley Yoga

Instagram: @emma_riley_yoga

Website coming soon...



Memories of Schooldays

Following on from my previous interview with Amber Wright, I decided to have a chat with Toby (Tobias) Jones about his own experiences in Horsington. He now lives in Parma, in Italy, but spent his entire childhood living in Horsington- from his birth in 1972 to leaving home in 1991. Toby always has a way of telling stories both vividly and concisely, so I figured he would make for a very interesting article...

The childhood which Toby describes sounds much like the ideal rural childhood which we read about or see in films: playing by the pond, riding bikes everywhere, going around the village alone without a care in the world, wading across fields to meet friends in neighbouring villages (namely Andrew Wigley in Cabbage Lane and Mark Beresford in South Cheriton!). At the time, there was a village shop opposite the Half-Moon, with “every possible kind of sweet”. There were also the village fetes, and garden parties at the manor house; or watching badgers at dusk, or lying on his stomach at the edge of a field shooting rabbits... All in all, a perfect depiction of the typical life of a country child- or at least that’s the impression I get, speaking as an urban baby!

Of course, he also had his good dose of mischief. He recalls: “One day my brothers and I let off a mini-hot-air-balloon (powered by cotton wool soaked in meths) and it went into the field of some very important horses owned by Mr Worsley (Mr Wurzel as we called him) and the horses went nuts and damaged the fences and themselves and we got very, very shouted at!”

He also remembers his father- Bob Jones- taking him to a house that had no electricity- probably in the late 1970s. “He thought I should see it because it was very rare even then. It was very dark and quiet.”

A communal spirit thrived- he says, “It felt like we knew everyone in the village”. On visiting the Anglican church, they would pay a visit to “Mrs D” in the Toll House, who in turn would repay with five pounds on birthdays and Christmas. The village was full of families with young children and so they were constantly hopping from one house to the next.

Naturally, Toby attended Horsington Primary from about 1977 to 1983 (all the way through school). The headmaster at the time was Mr Hunt, followed by Mr Sweetlove. The school consisted of two big classes only: Infants and Juniors. Mrs Nichols taught the younger ones and was thought to be “very, very strict”.

There was a swimming pool, too, on the left after the main gate. “I vividly remember it steaming when we were all there in the rain.” In 1979 there was the General Election; everyone formed into two gangs- Labour and Conservative. They pretended to fight each other even though they clearly had no idea what the politics meant. There were also games of football and “rugby” in the big field (Toby actually mentions wanting to play rugby for Wales as a boy), as well as cycling along the lanes. Friends: for Toby, this was the best part of it all. However there was some conflict, occasionally. He remembers a girl being dragged around the playground by the hood of her coat, and a boy getting a bit rough with him. He says, “It wasn't the protective environment it hopefully is today.”

His idyllic days at Horsington over, Toby went on to Hazelgrove and then to Sherborne School. He “loved the first and, on the whole, hated the second”. He remembers “the great sadness at leaving that village life behind to be holed up in dormitories.” I guess that’s on growing up as a free country child.

His advice to current Horsington pupils? To be very kind to people, always. To listen more than you speak. To learn as many languages as you can. Also, to find a passion or vocation, and really stick to whatever you’re passionate about. He clearly took this into his own life- as a child, he was “always reading and writing”, and is now a writer, journalist and teacher. Although he is now living in a big city abroad, Toby remarks, “village life has stayed with me and made me feel, always, like a rural boy.” His final words of wisdom reflect this: “travel widely but be proud of your roots”.

Honestly, I owe a big thank you to Toby for helping me with this article- most of the work was done by him in providing such detailed and heart-warming anecdotes on his life in Horsington; writing it felt much like writing my own chapter of “Boy” by Roald Dahl or another such book!

If you would like to share your own memories of Horsington, do please contact me! serena.mortarotti@gmail.com.

Serena Mortarotti

Horsington in the Newspapers – farm sales

A large number of announcements of farm sales are to be found in the local papers. These give us a wonderful insight into life as it must have been for so many inhabitants of Horsington and South Cheriton. Cows, hay, horses, and farm implements were forever changing hands at auction, not forgetting the hogsheads of cider – a hogshead being 63 gallons. Lunch was often provided at these sales, and the quality of the stock being sold is emphasised, such as the “choice Hereford bull”. Most of the cattle were Herefords or Devons, with the occasional mention of shorthorns. Some sales were regular annual events, such as those at Dark Harbour Farm, others followed a death or the farmer giving up.

Susan Maltin

12th March 1859

“Annual sale at Dark Harbour Farm in the parish of Horsington Somerset

Mr R. Godwin has been favoured with instructions to sell by auction on the premises on Monday 14th March 1859 the following live and dead farming stock, the property of Mr Meshach Hanham: comprising 50 choice Southdown couples, 23 choice heifers rising 3 years old with their first part, part of them with calves, the others near calving, 2 superior fat heifers, 1 nag mare rising 5 years old, 15 hands high, quiet to ride or drive, 2 two year old colts, 20 hogsheads of very prime cider, dairy utensils and a few lots of useful household furniture Refreshments will be provided at one, sale to commence at two o'clock precisely.

The auctioneer strongly recommends the above stock, etc to his friends as being well bred, and principally of the Devon and Hereford breeds.”

6th Feb 1858

Notice of sale, Frith Farm, Horsington

“Important and unreserved sale of 57 head of horn stock, 20 fat sheep, 6 horses, implements, dairy utensils, hay, feed, cider casks etc.

Mr Walter Godwin is instructed to sell by auction on the premises on Thursday February 25th 1858 the above stock etc the property of Messrs Mead, declining business comprising: 19 choice young dairy cows, some with calves, the others well seasoned; 10 superior in-calf heifers, rising 3 years old, with their first calf; 7 ditto rising 2 years old; 8 yearling heifers, 3 superior well-bred Devon barren heifers, rising 2 years old; 4 very choice fat heifers, 4 fresh barren ditto; 1 superior Devon bull rising 2 years old, 1 yearly ditto of the Hereford breed; 20 fat wether sheep; 3 very powerful young cart mares, warranted sound, staunch, and good workers, with their harness; 1 promising grey gelding riding 5 years old, about 15 ½ hands high, broken to saddle and harness, with fine action; 1 cob pony about 14 hands high (5 years old) quiet to ride and drive, with harness and phaeton; 1 superior gelding pony, rising 3 years old, and 2 bridles and saddles.

Implements: 1 6-in wagon, 1 narrow wheel ditto with double and single shafts, nearly new, 3 broad-wheel puts with iron arms in good condition, 3 ploughs and whippings, 1 pair of drags, ditto iron harrows, nearly new, large size iron roller, grindstone and stand, beams, scales and weights, prongs, rakes, sundry farming tools, winnowing machine, barn sieves, ladders and hay knives, and a quantity of new and old hurdles with stakes.

Dairy utensils consist of tin cheese tub and stand, nearly new, iron cheese press (by Maggs) 4 milk leads and stands, butter barrel and stocks, quantity of cheese vats and followers of various sizes, butter trendles, 4 milk pails, milk and cream pans, butter scales and weights, 2 iron pig troughs, hog tubs etc

Also about 10 hogsheads of superior cider and various empty casks, 50 tons of well-made meadow hay, with the feed of the farm (in lots) to the 25th March next, a quantity of fagots and firewood, old reed and sundry other articles.”

Horsington Church School's Board of Governors have happily welcomed two new members over the last months:

Mrs Jillian Evans, previously Head of English in a local school, and still actively involved in educational associations.

Reverend Kevin Rogers, our local vicar, already a famous figure in school.

Their contribution has already been noticeable, despite the covid restrictions limiting our activities, and we feel very lucky to have them on board.

The Board of Governors still have two vacancies to fill, and we would love to hear from you and have an informal conversation if you are interested in the role. Please contact us through the school office.

Jeanne Mortarotti and Connie Hurt
Co-chairs of governors

PHOTOGRAPHS BY EMMA RILEY



HORSINGTON CHURCH

From the Rector

My name is Thomas. Jesus first captured my attention when he spoke about truth. I have always been one for truth. I like to debate and throw ideas around, but it is always with the intention of discovering the truth. I want evidence, empirical and verifiable evidence. Not to make me arrogant, but to give me that anchor. Hearsay and fables don't do much for me. They are like red herrings; like rabbit warrens that don't really lead anywhere.

It had been a really tough few weeks for me. Jesus was saying things that seemed to contradict his claim to be the Messiah. He spoke about his death and the need to be buried and then rise again after three days. It seemed nonsensical and was quite baffling. But then, the events of that week unfolded very fast indeed. Before I knew it, I had deserted Jesus. The religious rulers and Roman authorities had smelt blood and they would be after me as soon as they had killed Jesus. I was not hanging around.

I kept with the others, mainly for safety's sake, but also to ensure that I didn't miss out on any new developments. There was talk amongst the women that Jesus had risen from the dead, but how could this be true? Perhaps an illusion, wishful thinking, the trauma of the past week. Who knows? And then when this rumour became even more widespread, and the others in the group started to report that they too had seen Jesus in person, in the flesh, that was beyond belief. Quite ridiculous really.

I wanted these reports to be true but knew that it was impossible for anyone to rise from the dead. Although, I must admit that seeing Jesus raise that widow's son from death, and his friend Lazarus, kept messing with my head. I had witnessed these events so knew them to be true. But Jesus, being raised? I would need to see him personally, in the flesh.

And then Jesus did it again. Annoyingly, as he often did, he proved me wrong. The doors were locked for goodness sake. How did he get in with the bolt still locked? But it was him. I saw him, the nail marks, the pierced side, the damaged brow, and those eyes. It was Jesus. All he had claimed to be, was true.

Were there times when I doubted the truth of his message and life? Of course. But what kept me going during those times of doubt, was my desire for truth. And it was present in abundance as over 500 of us saw him at different times in various places, in the flesh, teaching, sharing meals, encouraging us, over that 40-day period before he left us so that we could receive his Holy Spirit. Now the localised presence of God would be omnipresent to every believer, and truth seeker. And that phrase said by a father has stayed with me – "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

With resurrection joy,

Rev Kevin (01963 363832)

Services at St. John's this month:

Sundays 10am: Join via Zoom using ID 195 548 436 and Password 740915

Every evening at 6.30pm: Join via Zoom using ID 442 929 840 and Password 007292

Wednesdays at 2.30pm: Join via Zoom using ID 442 929 840 and Password 007292

Saturdays at 10am: Join via Zoom using ID 869 2053 3261 and Password 982055

Sunday 18th April at 11.15am: St. John's Church building

Sunday 25th April at 11.15am: St Nicholas Church Building

Sunday 2nd May at 11.15am: St Mary's Church Building

A sense of humour has been essential during lockdown. Who has not chortled at a funny What's App or belly laughed through the repeat of a favourite comedy series? This could have been one written by Brad Ashton our next Blackmore Vale u3a speaker. He says: "The best thing about my profession was not having to be a performer, watching a good comedian get a laugh, sitting back and thinking, 'I wrote that'."

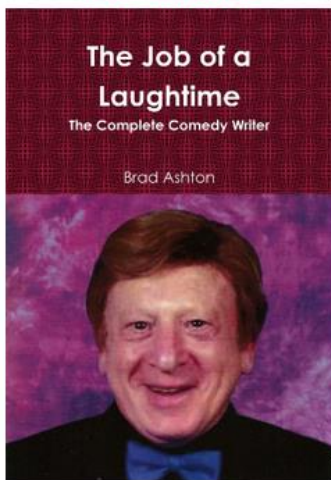
To hear Brad's backstage stories, the Zoom talk is on **Tuesday 4th May at 3pm**. For how to link into this or if you would like to share your newly acquired lockdown skills with u3a groups please **contact Susan Kidd** skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com.

u3a learn, laugh, live **Blackmore Vale**

Tuesday 4th May

ZOOM opens 2.45pm

Speaker 3.00pm



For more information about Blackmore Vale u3a
Email skiddsbvu3a@gmail.com or visit our website
www.u3a.org.uk

The White Horse, Your Village Pub

Emergence from lockdown 3 – We are open, outside only, until 17th May. It is best to book a table especially if the weather is inclement: at least you know you can be under the courtyard canopy.

We hope to resume the quiz on Sunday 9th May. Check the website nearer the time. Our Summer menu is in operation, which along with Sunday Lunch we will continue to offer as takeaway too. Menu details will be put on our website.
www.moaningtoad.co.uk

We hope, by the time you are reading this the roadmap is still on track so we can welcome you for a pint, glass of wine, freshly ground coffee or a bite to eat. We look forward to seeing you,
Andy and Justine

telephone – 01963 370394 | email – thewhitehorsesc@gmail.com |
www.moaningtoad.co.uk

Bobologism 25

Spring's here! Always a cause for celebration as buds burst and plants push up anew through the soil.

But it isn't just plants of course who emerge from the winter torpor; we humans too seem to be filled with burgeoning joy and renewed energy (I wish....) The Latin for spring is *Vernum*, from which we get the word "vernal" –as in vernal equinox.

Back in March saw the World Book Day, and the history of books is intertwined with trees, far beyond the production of paper. The original word in Old English for book was *boc*, meaning beech, as it was on the bark of that tree, or on the beechwood itself, that runes (an early form of Viking writing) were cast and inscriptions engraved. *Folio*, which today usually means a book of very large size, means a *leaf*. And "volume" takes its name from *volumen*, a roll referring to the roll of papyrus wrapped around a spindle.

The word "alphabet" comes from the first two letters of the Greek Alphabet, Alpha and Beta.

The first albums were less to do with music and everything to do with reading. In ancient Rome *albus*, meaning White or blank, was used for a tablet on which notices might be displayed. Think Albino, and Britain was once called Albion, due to the white cliffs of Dover.

Bob Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Including *Births* Deaths* Birthdays* Weddings* Anniversaries* Congratulations*
If you have any announcements, articles for sale or to give away,
babysitting services etc. you would like included please contact

info@horsingtonmagazine.co.uk



WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



We welcome **Ian and Ro Frid** who have moved to Hayes Corner. After working in the USA for 20+ years they have retired here and are rapidly identifying with the village.



Also we welcome to the village **Mike and Wendy Craddock** who recently moved to Sandpit Cottage in Meads Lane from Longburton. Wendy is a retired lecturer and Mike is MD of a small consultancy company.



And a warm welcome to **James and Zoe Gray-West and baby Jude (and Labrador Ted!)**. They have moved to Honeysuckle Cottage at the lower end of South Cheriton.



Wishing you all every happiness in your new home.



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CAT Bus Ring and Ride Service		33864
Doctors' Surgeries	Milborne Port (inc Templecombe)	250334
	Wincanton Health Centre	435700
French/Italian Conversation	Jeanne Mortarotti	202265
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Governor	Connie Hurt	07785 373388
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	abzspoors@gmail.com	
Ladies' Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
	Susan Maltin	371400
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Clerk	David Chapman	370527
	www.horsingtonpc@gmail.com	
St John's Church		
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Wardens	Anne Jones &	370626
	Stephen Miles	370823
Scouts	Geoff Crabb	370623
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South Somerset District Council		01935 462462
U3A	Susan Kidd	362107
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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Bookings	Emilie Gordon	371396
Art	Gill Elston &	370236
	Alison Clements	370866
Football	Keith Norman	370332
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07885 798032