

CONTACT LIST

(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

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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
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		abzspoors@gmail.com
Ladies' Lunch Group	Rosemarie Wigley	371478
	Susan Maltin	371400
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	Clerk	David Chapman
		www.horsingtonnpc@gmail.com
St John's Church		
	Rector	Rev. Kevin Rogers
	Wardens	Anne Jones &
		Stephen Miles
		Geoff Crabb
Scouts		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
	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

The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

April 2021 Issue No. 101



The Balsam Centre in Wincanton, see page 2

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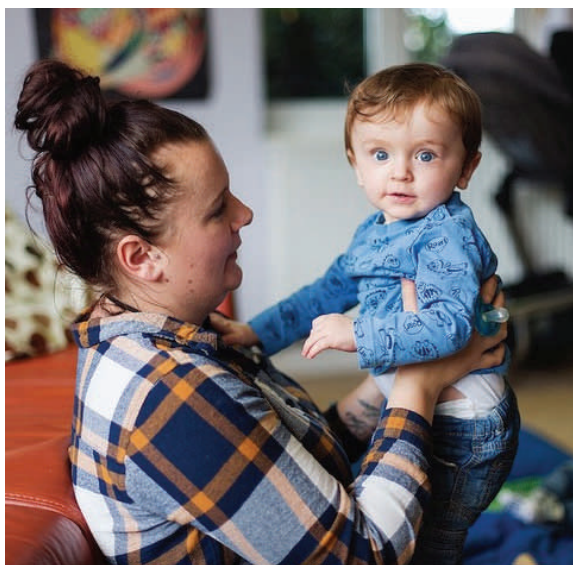
To view past and present copies of the Villager go to the Wincanton Window website
www.wincantonwindow.co.uk and click on the 'Villages' link.

The Balsam Centre in Wincanton

For those of us lucky enough to live in South Somerset, the lovely countryside around us has made life bearable in these uncertain times. We can, without needing to use a car, walk for miles along quiet lanes or along one of the many bridleways and footpaths in the area. Walking is excellent medicine for all manner of ills, and - whether in exotic lands or in our own local surroundings - is vital to our mental as well as our physical health.



The Balsam Centre in Wincanton, our local mental health charity, (see the website www.balsamcentre.org.uk) has always concentrated on looking after the mental as well as physical health of those in its catchment area. In the last twelve months the mental health of the entire nation has taken a severe beating, and the Balsam Centre has noticed a huge increase in the demand for its services. We have taken on extra staff to help with the increased need and we are fortunate to have been given grants to assist in this, both from the government and from other donations.



The activities at the Centre include various short-term and long-term projects as well as regular activities, such as

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walking groups, art and craft classes, lunches in the café, games clubs and other activities. Many of these have been suspended, of course, during the pandemic, though the vital mental health counselling has continued via telephone and online methods.

However, there is always a need for core funding, to cover the salaries of permanent staff who work “in the background” of the Centre: the management, administration, finance, reception, and cleaning and caretaking. Also essential are the utilities: electricity, water, IT facilities and maintenance of the building. Core funding can be difficult to access, as many funders are reluctant to contribute to this area. Normally we would get a lot of this from room hire and small donations users, but not at present because of restrictions, and cleaning costs have doubled during the pandemic.

Besides the permanent staff that run the Centre and the many part-time staff working directly with clients there is an army of volunteers (well over 100 at the last count). Because the Balsam Centre is a charity, funds are always needed. The Centre is lucky in that we have quite a number of Patrons and Friends who give regular sums of money to help finance all the different projects it runs. The amounts given can be anything from a monthly £2 to a three-year commitment to thousands of pounds. It all helps!

To find out more have a look at the website, or for an informal telephone chat, do call me on 01963 370909. *Sarah White*



Unexpected Mail at the Toll House

I bought the Toll House from the estate of Kath Durant 30 years ago; Kath was one of four Hilliar sisters born in South Cheriton. Two of the sisters moved away but spent some holiday time in Cheriton and the memory of those times seems to have lasted.

A little while ago the Toll House received a Christmas card from a lady called Jenny Agelink who turned out to be a niece of Kath Durant living in Swanage. Recently the Toll House had a letter along with a bundle of old photographs and cuttings about the Toll House, this time from a lady called Rosemary Ward who lives near Oxford and is another niece of Kath Durant. I asked Rosemary if she remembered what the original colour of the tariff board was – her response follows.

The memories of Rosemary Ward:-

I had noticed the board is sometimes white with black writing and sometimes black with white writing. In the meantime here is what I remember about your house and the Hilliards. I have a family tree of the Hilliards going back to 1562. The spelling varies: Hellyer, Hellier, Hillier, Hilliar. All lived in the Horsington area until recently.

William James and Ada Winifred Hilliar had four daughters: Marjorie (1908), Kathleen (1910), Sylvia Joan (1914), and Thirza (1918). Sylvia Joan was my mother. She moved away from the village to Bristol where she met and married my father. Thirza, Jenny Agelink's mother also moved away and married. Kath remained and ran the local Post Office/shop. This was in the first house on the left going down into the village from the main road (picture appended). As a child I remember weighing out loose biscuits, tapioca and sweets etc. Ribbons and tape were measured with the small plastic head of Lloyd George. How? if you pulled his beard a tape measure appeared! Customers used to bring in bottles for vinegar and cans for paraffin and as I got older I was permitted to go outside and do refills. After Kath married, Marg ran another shop from the Rosery (which she had inherited from her mother Ada). This is at the bottom of the village on the right opposite the farmhouse, the brook and the smithy cottages and was built by William Hilliar for his family.



The original village Post Office/shop

Harold Durant lived in the Old Toll House in the first part of the century but then married, sold and moved away. He was a captain in the merchant navy. Later, as a widower he came back and bought the Old Toll House again. At this point the board was missing and he tracked it down to a pub in Birmingham where it had a dart board mounted on it.

Harold married Kath in 1951 and they lived in the Old Toll House. Harold died in 1967 and Kath died in 1991.

Richard Joyce

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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

ART CLUB

Here is something to put in your empty diaries and cheer you up! We've been told we can start again on Thursday, 20 May. The hall is reopening at the beginning of that week.

The same rules will apply as before please. This means cleaning hands, wearing masks, having individual tables, socially distancing, bringing your own newspaper for the tables, and any refreshment you want.

It's been a long and dreary winter and I hope you've survived it well, but now there is a real light at the end of the tunnel. It will be lovely to see you all.
Gill



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FLAT GREEN BOWLS

The game of flat green bowls is played on a green, which at Castle Cary Bowls Club is 40m x 40m and is cut diagonally, three times a week to a height of approximately 4mm.

The green is divided into rinks, each measuring 5.5m wide, on which is played a game. The team players involved may play singles, pairs, triples or fours and may be playing an individual match or possibly part of a match involving several rinks.

The bowls, also known as 'woods', come in different weights, size and bias, and the number of bowls, up to a maximum of four used in a game depends on the rules of that particular game.

The object of the game is to deliver your bowl as close to the 'jack' as possible with your opponent attempting the same. When all of the bowls from each player have been delivered, then the match continues in the opposite direction, until the agreed number of ends has been played.

The outcome of the game is decided when all woods have been played for the required number of ends and the player/team with most nearest the jack declared the winner.

Castle Cary Bowls Club is a relatively young club, having been formed in 1984, with the first bowls being played in 1987.

Over the years several of our members have managed to reach the National Finals and we have also achieved relative success in leagues, the last being in 2019 when we won the Wessex Mixed Friendly League.

Hopefully, this year's season will start in mid-April (subject to Coronavirus conditions) and run through until September as per normal.

We cater for all ages and levels, and play in ladies, gents and mixed leagues, internal competitions, as well as entering county and national competitions.

The Club itself has a qualified coach and welcomes new members with tuition given and necessary kit being loaned.

Should you be interested in trying the game of bowls, may I suggest you visit our website, www.castlecarybowlsclub@moonfruit.com or talk to me at Ananda Kuti, South Cheriton, tel no. 01963 370511

Steve Anderson



Memories of Schooldays

I joined Horsington School in Year 2 after moving from London. Initially the transition was a bit odd - I went from the sound of cars and aeroplanes to the mooing of cows, and could never have imagined having a whole field as a playground. But soon I couldn't imagine going to school anywhere else - I mean, how many people have a dog in their class, a guinea pig down the hall, a cat in the playground and sheep over the fence?! I truly do treasure my memories of Horsington and love nostalgically looking back at them with friends and family... Which is why I decided to start interviewing others on their own experiences at Horsington. I figured that there's been no better time for looking back on past experiences, and I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way. I hope you enjoy reading people's memories of Horsington Primary as much as I enjoyed hearing them!

For the first interview, I spoke to Amber Wright. She joined Horsington School in Reception, 2007, and left in Year 6. Her very first memories of primary school consist of her favourite activity at the time: arts and crafts. She remembers making little clay men to attach to parachutes and dropping them off a high point to watch them fall, as well as making marbled ink artwork. In fact, most of her memories from Horsington relate to some form of art or design, be it the planning and making of Victorian toys, the construction of a Viking ship in the school field, the pop-up books created in year four or making sandwich boxes and sandwiches to eat on a picnic. Sports with Mr Rumbelow was also a highlight for Amber, with rounders club on a Monday- which was always "very competitive"- and Athletics on Tuesdays with games such as "kick the can" and "wave the hanky".

Amber is now at The Gryphon, studying English Literature, Drama and Film Studies for her A-Levels this year. She has just applied to York University to take theatre writing, directing and performance. She says, "Horsington definitely set me up for acting with 'Minibeast Madness', 'Kids in Space' and 'Ocean Commotion', which were the best shows I've ever done! We would spend weeks preparing the songs, practising lines and finding costumes until the big week of rehearsals in the village hall before the final show. Everyone dressed up and sang - even the teachers." She reflects on how these school shows she did in primary school and "singing group" definitely sparked her love for performing.

For anyone currently at Horsington School, Amber advises, "Horsington is so fun! I always look back on primary school really nostalgic about it. Just make the most of it!" She adds, "Horsington covers everything you could want. You just do it all, and you love doing what you're doing. I actually do think that at Horsington you believe there's nothing you can't do."

In fact, Amber still sees most of her classmates. In her words: "They're my lifelong friends - we're definitely a solid group. We meet up all the time. I think Horsington is good for that."

I really enjoyed interviewing Amber. It brought back many memories which I had forgotten and made me appreciate the years I spent at Horsington even more thoroughly! If you would like to share your own memories of Horsington, do please contact me! serena.mortarotti@gmail.com

Serena Mortarotti

fish? But we didn't have the energy or the confidence to resist, and so we half heartedly did as he suggested, only to find to our utter amazement that we were not even able to pull the net in because there were so many fish!

John shouted, "It is the Lord!" When Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So, Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of us dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because we knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to us and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to us after he was raised from the dead.

That breakfast barbeque cemented it for us. We just could not go back to the familiar, to fishing. We had changed. We had been changed. We began to realise that following Jesus would never be the establishment of a routine, or the creation of the familiar. We realised that following Jesus would always involve a whirlwind of emotion, of highs and lows, periods of clarity and periods of confusion, times of faith and times of doubt. And just like Jesus found his stability in the time spent alone with his Father each morning, so we can only know stability as we too spend time with his Father and ours, in this exciting journey of walking with the long-awaited Messiah.

This Easter, may you hear the Father calling you to follow Jesus in the power of his Holy Spirit. And as you respond, be prepared to be surprised by God in the way he leads you, provides for you, and grows you.

Easter Services:

Good Friday 2nd April at 11.15am at St. John's Church (Covid restrictions still in place).

Easter Sunday 4th April at 10.00am via Zoom (ID 195 548 436, Password 740915).

Benefice Services:

Every Sunday at 10am via Zoom (ID 195 548 436, Password 740915)

Sunday 4th at 11.15am at St. Nicholas, Henstridge

Sunday 11th at 11.15am at St. Mary's Church, Templecombe

Sunday 18th at 11.15am at St. John's Church, Horsington

Sunday 25th at 11.15am at St. Nicholas Church, Henstridge

Yours in Christ,
Rev Kevin (01963 363 832)

HORSINGTON CHURCH

From the Rector

The last three years had been a whirlwind of emotion, of highs and lows, periods of clarity and periods of confusion, times of faith and times of doubt. We thought we knew that our long-awaited Messiah had at last arrived. Until those awful events – the bogus trial based on trumped up charges, the brutal crucifixion, and then the incredible resurrection. It was just too much to process. We needed some normality. We needed some time and space to ponder, to consider. And so, when Peter suggested that we go back fishing, this hit that sweet spot. We knew how to fish. This was what we had been born into, and schooled in. This is what we had left to follow Jesus. And it seemed right to go right back to what we knew.



That night was good, but long. It was good simply to be together, to do the familiar. But something was just not right. We expected to work hard, throwing nets, hauling them in, emptying them and throwing them out again. It was meant to be the space we needed to find normality and peace. It was meant to be fulfilling. Instead, a deep sense of restlessness emerged beneath the superficiality of the night's work. Not one fish. Not one catch. Despite rowing here and there. We knew how to fish. We knew where to fish. We knew when to fish. We had always caught – sometimes a good catch, other times not, but we always caught something. But not this night. Exhaustion set in. We were demoralised and empty. We had hit rock bottom. We didn't feel able to follow our Messiah, and we didn't feel able to catch fish. We were nowhere. Who were we? What had become of us? We felt so de-skilled.



Then, just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but we did not recognise him in the light. Besides, we did not expect him to hang out here anyway. He called out to us, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' Who in the world would call us 'children'? And how did he seem to know that we had caught nothing?

But then he said something that really

riled us. 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you find some fish'. Who did this upstart think he was, telling experienced fishermen how, when, and where to

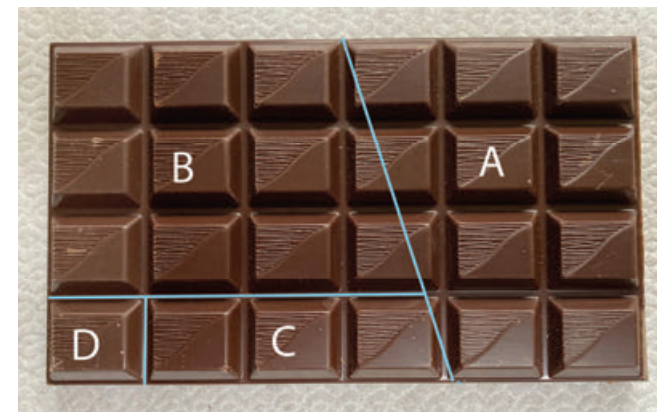
CHEATING WITH CHOCOLATE

First obtain a bar of chocolate with 24 pieces (6 x 4). Then heat a largish knife and cut the chocolate along the blue lines so that you end up with 4 sections, A, B, C and D.

Remove parts C and D, then slide B down the diagonal until it forms the baseline

with A. Finally replace C at the top of the bar above B.

What have you now got but a 6 x 4 bar of chocolate PLUS an extra bit D which you can now eat as it is no longer required. Unless, of course, you wish to reassemble the bar back to its original state. - *Try it – it works*



Wincanton Library

Wincanton Library is open again, but for limited services. There is no browsing inside the Library, but you can complete a form online and the Library's staff will be pleased to pick a selection of books for you to collect. Look on your browser for "Somerset's Library Choice Service" to find the form.

You can also request specific items on the website

www.librarieswest.org.uk, to be collected later at the Library.

The opening hours are (at the time of publication):

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9.30-1pm,
Saturday: 9.30-12 noon.**

You can also find all the information you need and updates about the Library's activities on Facebook "Wincanton Library".



A Fable (- for victims)

'He said on the air waves I'm scrawny and dirty,
My feathers are ragged, my tail a disgrace,
I'll be always alone, no mate will come near me,
I'm ugly and boring, just a waste of my space!'

'But that really won't do, you poor little Finch!
He's cruel and vicious, tells terrible lies.
We'll round up the jackdaws, you'll get your revenge,
They'll rip out his feathers and peck at his eyes.'

That was Wagtail, consoling, but the Daw overheard.
'So they will, will they, you pert little squirt!
I'll get you both first, you dumb, strutting bird.'
And feathers flew fast and coloured the dirt.

A Pigeon alighted and looked at the scene.
'What's happened here? There's blood on the ground.
Is there a sickness? Has the Sparrow-hawk been?'
'Just sickness,' her mate said, 'on the air waves it's found.'

The shivering Finch crept out of the mess.
'He said I was ugly, the 'daws fought for me.'
'What an unhappy bird that sad Jackdaw is!'
The Pigeon responded, reprovingly.

'When your feathers have grown you must find him and say
Bad words cannot hurt you: you forgive him in fact.
Then where is his fun and who wins the day?
All will be peaceful, all feathers intact.'

Toni Salmonson

St John the Baptist Church, Horsington Church Finances and Giving

The spread of the Covid 19 virus has severely limited the holding of services in our church building for almost a year now and also prevented weddings and fundraising events. We have learnt how to be the church in new ways using zoom as a media for holding services. However, the consequence has been a significant shortfall in funds to support the church. Many are unaware that there is no central funding from the Church of England, our churches rely entirely on support from the local communities. In the villages of Horsington and South Cheriton we are fortunate to have a core of regular givers, but the current situation prompts us to look wider within the community. Possibly there are many who do not attend St John's regularly, or even at all, but who nevertheless value the Church highly, for life events like weddings, baptisms, funerals or simply as a hard to define comfort and shining light of our village community.

We know that God's desire is that we always take our giving seriously in order to resource the Church in our generation and for future generations. The last twelve months have been very hard on many people and families. But if you are amongst the fortunate who have not been impacted, and you feel able and motivated to support St Johns, your donations will be sincerely appreciated. Our shortfall has averaged £300 - £400 per month so we have set a target of £5,000 and it would be fantastic if we could achieve this.

Donations can be made as single payments, or limited period monthly standing orders, direct to the Church's bank as below. Or, as the church is paired with 'Easyfundraising', you can visit the website 'A Church Near You' and enter your post code to find St John's Horsington where you will find a link on the page 'Give Now'. There are two options:

1) Make a donation or 2) Online shopping via Easyfundraising which prompts your retailer of choice to donate to your Parish Church.

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Unless you wish to make an anonymous donation, please reference your bank transfers with your surname and, if a taxpayer, please contact our treasurer Tony Parsons for a Gift Aid Declaration. This enables us to claim a valuable tax refund on your donation worth an additional 25%.

We are blessed with an energetic rector, Kevin Rogers, who spends much of his time offering pastoral and supportive care to many in the village as well as working closely with our village school. It is in our hands to ensure the Church's future. We do hope you can support us. With our thanks and best wishes.

On behalf of the St John's Parochial Church Council.

Tony Parsons – Treasurer (01963 370998)

Anne Jones – Church Warden.

Steve Miles – Church Warden.

