

The Horsington & South Cheriton Villager

March 2021 Issue No. 100



The Villager celebrates its 10th year

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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.

A CELEBRATION OF THE VILLAGER 100th Issue

Did you know...

A Horsington resident has made not one but two violin bows for Yehudi Menuhin?

A foal born in Horsington was sired by Frankel?

Horsington House was a Barnardo's home, before it became a hotel, before it was converted into apartments...

One of our neighbours cycled from Sicily back home to Horsington?

That *The Villager* is regularly forwarded to a family in New Zealand?



In 2011 Bob and Jane Jones were keen to start a free magazine for the benefit of the Horsington and South Cheriton community.

With characteristic drive and enthusiasm the tireless couple did the groundwork, exploring other village publications and receiving help in particular from Bill Closs, who ran the Charlton Horethorne magazine, and Eric Dummett, chair of the Stourton Caudler. Bob also approached David Calvert at Thales, who agreed to print whatever they came up with free of charge.

Bob, Jane and friends then gathered about 30 people from the two villages to brainstorm. It was agreed that the publication would be independent, inclusive and comprehensive, that it would belong to everyone, and not represent any particular group or church.

The intention was to provide a wide range of information about local activities, and to include as many articles of interest by as many different authors as possible, young and old. It would also accept announcements of births, deaths and marriages, and advertise services or items for sale. 10

items for sale. Ten issues a year, with double summer (July/August) and Christmas (December/January) editions would be delivered to all residents by a band of volunteers.

But what would it be called?

The Village Pump?

The Village Stream?

The Pond?

Village Matters?

The Cherry Horse/ Horse Cherry?

SCHNAPPS (South Cheriton and Horsington News and Publicity Sheet)?

On the basis that it would be useful to include the full name of both villages in the title to enable easy access if a website were ever launched, *The Horsington and South Cheriton Villager* was agreed upon. *The Villager* for short.

I was invited to help. 'In at the deep end' is the phrase that springs to mind! What I hadn't realised was that in the run up to the first printing Bob and Jane would be an ocean away, working their magic onboard ship (an article in the making there, Bob?!). Les Graney, our wise and measured chairman, suggested I didn't press 'send' on my frank email outlining how much of a scramble it was going to be to hit our first deadline...

Jacky Maclean, then living in Swiss Cottage, Horsington, agreed to step in as editor, and so issue 1 went to print on time in April 2011.

Shortly afterwards, Mary Lynn Walker became editor/compiler until she and Richard moved away and present compilers Deborah Pitchforth and Trent Nicholson took charge.

The Primary School, Church, Village Hall Committee and Parish Council have been wonderfully supportive and produce regular reports and articles.

In addition to the diary and announcements of local activities there have been pieces on cricket, the Cherries football club, The Horsington Open golf tournament, exercise and dance classes, upholstery, bell ringing, music and art, to name but a few.

We have enjoyed recipes by Brenda Graney and Jeanne Mortarotti. Local historians such as Susan Maltin and Les Graney have shared their detailed and fascinating knowledge.

Colin Howell has allowed us to print some of Sue's beautiful poems, other local poets such as Valerie Pratt and Paddy Hughes have had work included and Gill Elston has provided thought provoking quizzes. We have had jokes and cartoons and now Bob's regular 'Bobologisms' keep us entertained, informed and amused.



Whether it be acupuncture, bee keeping or bow making, 'Somerset as she is spoke', vintage cars or sea cadets (by Harry Hawkins when he was just 13), carriage driving, horse riding, prize

winning cheese making and pottery, or award winning opera productions - contributions by local residents continue to provide us with an astonishingly rich variety of insights and enthusiasms.

Charitable activities, both local and international, have also been celebrated. Paddy Hughes raised over £90,000 for the Alfie Jack Morland Fund, and fundraising cycle rides, ascents of



Kilimanjaro, a visit by our scouts to the Australian Jamboree are just some of the myriad initiatives we have been privileged to share. Zimbabwe and Malawi are only two of the countries in which village residents have founded or are helping fund lifesaving and life enhancing projects.

The paintings and photographs that have featured on the cover and inside the magazine display our wealth of homegrown artistic talent. And our two

resident crossword experts could definitely give the Daily Telegraph cryptic compilers a run for their money.

In the past ten years the layout of the magazine has remained largely the same although we have said goodbye to regular columns such as *Bird Watch*, *Farm Watch*, and *Garden Watch* by Keith Davies, Emma Carnell and Mardi Bennett respectively, and *Country Diary*, written originally for the *Guardian* by John Vallins. After changes at Thales during the first lockdown, *The Villager* is currently financing its own printing and is now printed by Wincanton Print Company. The quality of the paper and reproduction of photos is better than ever.

In the past, very different, year of lockdowns there has been so much valuable information published about local grocery deliveries, restaurants and pubs offering take-out meals and contact numbers for villagers happy to help out by doing shopping etc for those shielding or unable to get out. This is exactly the spirit of neighbourliness that all those involved with setting up and running *The Villager* wish to foster.

The Villager enables residents of Horsington and South Cheriton to keep abreast of events and initiatives across the two villages and I am sure I'm not alone in wanting to thank the committee and all the volunteers for their hard work and to say how much we enjoy *The Villager* popping through the letter box each month.

If you feel inspired to write an article for *The Villager* please contact any member of the committee who would be delighted to receive your thoughts, recipes, knitting patterns, anecdotes, photos...

Should you wish to catch up on any of the articles I've mentioned, back issues of *The Villager* are available on the 'Wincanton Window' website. Click on 'Villages' on the right hand side of the home page.

Here's to the next ten years!

Mindy Lucas

Horsington School News

It really has been a funny old term. First, we were open as normal and then we weren't! We are still well and truly open. Currently we have about 40 pupils in school.

As usual, the school and wider community have risen to the challenge of lockdown. The parents are working hard to support online learning; the staff are working hard to plan and support online learning and the community have supported the school through some extremely generous acts. A massive 'thank you' to everyone.



The Reverend Kevin is still playing his part within the school. Our younger children, Water Class, are visiting the Church every week for an activity session. They are extremely enthusiastic about this and are also becoming very knowledgeable about the flora and fauna they pass on the way to the church.

All the classes are enjoying walking around the local footpaths. It seems the muddier the better! Apparently, there are many puddles around above welly level!

Earth Class went for a hike laden with packed backpacks as research for a Design and Technology Project. (I was secretly disappointed it didn't rain on them so we could find out how waterproof their packs were!). The children learning at home were asked to do the same as part of their home learning. We are trying very hard to keep the remote learning experiences the same as in school and the older children meet regularly via Teams to share work and ideas.

As a school, we have blessed our rural location many times over the last year. It is so good for the well-being of all to have such easy access to the countryside.

Hopefully, next time I write, I will be able to report service as usual- well, as usual but still with extra cleaning.

I hope you are all managing to stay safe.

Mary Alexander

An Update about Full Fibre from Wessex Internet

We've all been using the internet so much more since Lockdown started last March for so many things, whether it's keeping in touch with family and friends, working from home, internet shopping, home schooling or for entertainment. Unfortunately, living in such a beautiful rural area as we do, the broadband infrastructure here isn't great. The good news is that Wessex Internet have been approved to use the Rural Gigabit Funding Programme by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), to supply many areas in south Somerset. Register your interest and see if you are eligible.

Claiming your free voucher has never been easier, Residential Premises are eligible to claim £1,500 inc VAT and Business can claim £3500 + VAT. For more information about the scheme please visit - <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk>

To register your interest with Wessex Internet visit <https://www.wessexinternet.com/iwantfullfibre/> or call them 0333 240 7997.

Wessex Internet is a friendly locally based company with a proven record of delivering connectivity in rural areas that big telecoms companies have dismissed as uncommercial. Because they're local they understand the needs of rural communities.

Wessex Internet plan to build North and South Cheriton Full Fibre network sometime this summer, subject to sign-up. **Sign up before 30th March** to be able to claim your voucher and for a government funded installation. The scheme as we know it is closing at the end of March, so claim a voucher before then to secure your funding before it ends. We do not, at present know what funding is due to take its place, so encourage you to claim your voucher as soon as possible.

Horsington haven't yet got enough sign ups at this moment in time but if you sign up to register interest before the end of March, then Wessex will carry this forward when the new Government scheme is likely to be announced in April 2021.

Installations for North and South Cheriton are likely to start in the Autumn. Subject to all going to plan of course!

Packages start at £35 p/m but go to the Wessex Website to see which packages are best for you.

Upgrading your internet to Fibre will both future proof your home and boost the value of your house. Government research shows how a better, more reliable Broadband connection increases house values. You can read more about this here -<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/broadband-speed-boost-sees-home-values-jump-by-3500>

If you have any questions, just get in touch with the Team at Wessex, they are happy to help.

Register interest with this link: <https://www.wessexinternet.com/iwantfullfibre/>
- or call: 0333 240 7997

Wessex are looking for a volunteer to help them in Horsington. If you think this could be you then please get in touch with Minna Henderson, minna.henderson@wessexinternet.com

HORSINGTON CHURCH

From the Rector

Some of us love being out in front, in the limelight. Others of us prefer the shadows, the 'behind the scenes' sort of people. For those of us in this latter group, we sometimes need encouragement and I dare say, a bit of a shove, to get us closer to the action. Sometimes it is others who give us the courage to do this by affirming us. They seem to see something in us that we don't see, or at least not always with the same enthusiasm. A man who lived many centuries ago by the name of Gideon, who lived between 1191 and 1151 BC, was just such a man who needed a shove.



Gideon and his fellow countrymen were living in a fertile land that the marauding Midianites regularly raided. All the hard work of ploughing, sowing, and reaping was plundered by the powerful and ruthless Midianites. Gideon was so desperate to avoid famine for him and his family, that he resorted to hiding in his hollowed-out winepress with the recently gleaned harvest to thresh it out here, out of sight of the Midianites.

Gideon and his fellow countrymen eked out a miserable and fearful existence. Gideon was the 'least' in his family, being of small stature and limited education. He could never be a warrior, let alone a leader, and especially not against the power and might of the greedy Midianites. At least, this is the way Gideon saw himself. That is, until he heard the one true God speak to him in the most unnerving manner that would have scared even you and me. God saw in Gideon something that Gideon just could not see himself. Or perhaps Gideon just did not want to acknowledge this side of himself.

Gideon panicked and responded predictably. He denied this view of himself as a leader who could rally his countrymen in response to the Midianite raids to protect themselves from famine. But God would not let up. He believed in Gideon. God wanted Gideon to experience the thrill of working alongside, this one true God of all. God wanted Gideon to experience the exhilaration of walking in all that God had created Gideon to be.

But Gideon was not easily persuaded. Years of being told that he was the least, the youngest, the smallest, the insignificant would require more than a word from almighty God. Gideon needed more. So, he asked for evidence that God was who said he was; that God would indeed partner with him in this endeavour. And the two proofs that Gideon requested were around what was familiar to him, namely a sheep fleece and the morning dew. And as Gideon requested, the first morning the fleece was drenched with dew whilst the surrounding ground was bone dry. And the next day, as requested, the fleece was bone dry and the surrounding ground saturated.

As if this was not enough, Gideon asked this awesome God to reassure him again. In fact, Gideon seemed to be constantly doing this. But God did not seem to mind and obliged. Although not in the way that would have inspired much confidence! Gideon mustered an army of 32,300 men. Victory would be certain. The odds were in Gideon's favour. Until God asked Gideon to send home 22,000 who were afraid. And as if this were not enough of a shock, God asked Gideon to send another 10,000 home, leaving a meagre 300 fighting men to take on the ferocious Midianites. All because God wanted to show Gideon that God was the major player; that Gideon was to trust God for strategy and victory. And it was. Gideon saw the Midianite army routed because he followed God's leading, God's strategy, God's timing, in God's way.

Now, each time I find myself faced with a task or situation I feel ill prepared for, I turn to this same God in the same way Gideon did. I take time to consider his attributes and promises. I pray for a strategy, and patience, for faith and courage. Then, together with God, I move. Do I get it right every time? Hardly. But is this method worth it? You bet! What a thrill to move with God, in God's way, with God's timing, and realise the result was all because he took the lead. Am I a great leader? Not really. Am I great follower of God? Oh yes!



Following God like this, in the uncertainty of the impact of the Pandemic, our church will probably be very different in the future. Some of the influencing factors on this may include:

- learning to live in uncertain times – encouraging trust in God and growing understanding of the God of the bible
- balancing our own inadequacies and fears with the future realities left by the pandemic
- learning to live with the reducing significance of the church building, and equipping ourselves to have a daily faith (as opposed to weekly or monthly or Sunday) where faith is lived out more in everyday life
- taking more responsibility for our own growth as Christians and learning to worship in different ways
- recognising the concept of church as guest, where the church is not always trying to lead the way, but by being salt and light in the community and joining where God and others are already at work
- sustaining a mixed mode in the future of online and in church worship

Gideon saw much change in his generation, but with one constant. The God of all knows the future and invites us to partner with Him in all He has for us in this future, however it may change.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Kevin



In March 2019, Yeovil Hospital Charity launched an appeal to raise the funds needed to build a £2 million dedicated Breast Cancer Unit right here in Yeovil. We have secured over £1,636,719 so far. However building work will only start when we have enough money.

During this current time, like many charities, our fundraising events have had to be postponed or cancelled, making fundraising quite challenging. With that in mind, to help the appeal raise the much needed funds, we are asking people if they might like to look in their jewellery boxes for any unwanted jewellery, broken pieces of jewellery and watches, which they may like to donate.

If you would like to support the appeal through donating any unwanted or broken jewellery, please contact Maggie Hague, Breast Cancer Appeal Volunteer, on 01963 250108.

If you'd like to find out more about the appeal, please go to www.yeovilhospital.co.uk/yeovil-hospital-charity or call Sarah Cherry, Community and Events Fundraiser, on 01935 383020.

Bobologism 24

Near the beginning of each month one of our compilers for the Villager, Deborah or Trent, will email me and tactfully ask if I have a Bobologism for the next month. (Crumbs, again, *already?*) by about the 12th of this month please.

So I get thinking and reading and think about the coming Deadline. The author Douglas Adams famously mused "I love Deadlines, I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by". But the term Deadline in fact emerged in the American Civil War, when it denoted a boundary around a military prison. If any inmate stepped beyond it they were liable to be shot.

In printing, the word Deadline was also used in a completely different context to denote a guideline marked on a press that prevented type slipping outside it and off the page.

Talking of American words, I have always rather poo-pooed American spelling. It seems that (as so often) I am quite wrong in this. The spelling of *humor, color, rumor, favorite*; I spell them with a "u" after the "o". *Program?* We spell it *programme* in this country. There are hundreds of them. In my ignorance I have been in the habit of just thinking it was because the Americans don't know how to spell properly. But it seems that their spelling was a deliberate policy to assert their independence from the old English ways, a sort of linguistic patriotism to rival anything emanating from British shores.

So that's me put in my place.

Bob Jones

Moments of Light

What a good idea, Jeanne! (See last month's *Villager*) I have lots of moments even though, or perhaps especially as, I live alone now! I eat my lunch looking out at my bird-feeders. The woodpeckers, usually on the peanuts, have discovered the pleasure of sunflower hearts, probably to the chagrin of the blue tits, coal tits and great tits. One of the latter is a real bully among the smaller birds so perhaps it's fair. The fiercest of the bossy-boots is the pied wagtail who sends everybody packing except the blackbird. Nobody messes with the pigeons either. They're such peaceable birds. And bigger, of course. Two robins feed together on their own so I hope they're a pair; when a third lands, he's chased away. Sadly I haven't seen more than three long-tailed tits together and now no goldfinches. Both used to flock. I have one pair of chaffinches, one of house sparrows and two, I think, of wrens which are heard more often than seen. No thrushes any more. It's still a lovely range of colourful little chaps but their fast diminishing number gives me many dark moments. I don't think it's all due to the sparrow-hawk; anyway, he has to live too.

Wonderful Zoom gives me very many Moments of Light. With BridgeBase Online on the screen and audio on zoom, I spend many happy hours with similarly obsessed friends. We have lessons too and I also "go" to St Ives School of Painting for excellent talks and practical sessions. Their fees are low, the artist-teachers and admin. people are really sympathetic and the technical side is highly efficient - all to the occasional background of waves breaking on the Porthmeor beach, seen from the studio window. Zoom takes me to meetings with friends of course and to Mass (I'm a Roman Catholic) anywhere in the world. The church in our villages has prayer groups, I know, and my community also meets to pray for people suffering from Covid or its effects and for the people striving to help in so many ways, worldwide. Coming together with like-minded people on that deeper level brings real moments of light.

Humour helps a lot too. I was asking a friend, a mother, whether she was enjoying home-schooling. Yes, mostly she was, she said, until someone asked, 'Mum, what's for lunch?'

Toni Salmonson.



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We are continuing to have regular talks on Zoom. Our next will be Tuesday 2nd March .

‘The Century of Deception; Birth of the Hoax in the Eighteenth Century’ by Ian Keable.

This entertaining talk demonstrates how the English in this period were especially gullible and the hoaxes are memorable for their imaginative nature and the motives of the tricksters.

These talks are open to everyone so if you are not a member please contact Susan Kidd on 01963 362107.



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CONTACT LIST

(all phone numbers start 01963 unless otherwise stated)

NAME	CONTACT	TEL NO
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Buses (local)		0871 2002233
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
MP	David Warburton	020 7219 5225
Parish Council		
Chair	Jackie Pyne	370713
Clerk	David Chapman www.horsingtonpc@gmail.com	370527
St John's Church		
Rector	Rev. Kevin Rogers	363832
Wardens	Anne Jones & Stephen Miles	370626 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
Village Hall	www.horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk	
Chair	John Macdonald	370444
Bookings	Emilie Gordon	371396
Art	Gill Elston & Alison Clements	370236 370866
Football	Keith Norman	370332
Pilates	Carol Pirie	07885 798032
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