

# The Gossip

HORNTON

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MAY IT CONTINUE ....

SPRING 2001

After what has seemed an endless winter, and with only six weeks to pass before the year's longest day, we were blessed with a glorious weekend in which to celebrate May Day.

There was a moment when I wondered if the cherries would bloom in time. They've always capped our festivities with showers of pink confetti. With the sun, a drying but cold wind, which helped to dry the earth and regenerate the Green (so badly treated over the wet winter months), Philip and Rosemary had mown, edged and clipped the main section almost to perfection, as had the neighbouring householders. The village really did look marvellous. Spring flowers still abounded, daffodils normally gone by Easter, mixed with tulip, saxifrage and aubrietia. Millers Lane especially has been spectacular this year. As always, by 10 o'clock the village "Team" were delivering tables, and straw bales for the bowling, setting up the Barbeque and erecting our splendid new Maypole. Cakes and all things needed for a good tea arrive at the School. (Laura Pike made her very first cake, a wonderful mix of date, apple and walnut). Isabelle and Julie pass by with bowers of flowers to decorate the May Queen's carriage, which has also been given a coat of primrose yellow paint. The Penny Arcade arrives as does Frank with willing helpers to offload an enormous mix of shrubs and plants.

Due to the "foot and mouth" epidemic we badly missed seeing Daisy with her cob and decorated cart on the Green. The White Elephant was unpacked, this year a greater selection of decorative items than ever (thank God no rusty bikes or radiators!). Anne Joyner reminded us of the books and tapes, so our table looked an attractive mix of china, glass and brass. Jonathan Short provided a magnificent canopy for both "Elephant" and the visiting wood turner and lace maker. It's good to know that in future we can set up a stall come rain or shine. Jane and Laura did a splendid job of unpacking and were soon besieged by early arrivals. We seem to be on the "boot sellers" list - they know a bargain and will spend their money, which is why we have to allow pre-opening sales. In fact by 2 o'clock it looked as though the whole world had descended upon us and everybody doing good business. What a buzz...! When the May Queen passed by all I could see was the top of her floral arch and David Miles tricorne hat. At another point a rumour had it that queues were so long at the Pub, Terry was running out of beer!! Maypole and Morris dancing draws the crowd to the Holloway Green so giving the School end a pause, and time for a cuppa' tea and cakes. Then by 4.30 the crowds thin and a quiet descends, so another Show over. As quickly as it started so the tables are stripped down and folded, cars and trucks are loaded and suddenly The Green is empty. Did such an event happen?? You're darned right it did - just look at the resulting figures. A triumph and a credit to all of you who gave the time to set it all up, help at the stalls and clear the aftermath. Well Done! For the past week prior to this happy event we've all been made aware of the awful virus that is "foot and mouth" and our sympathies have been extended to all our local farming families, the fear that must underlie, the



## LET'S GIVE IT ONE MORE TRY!

We all know we live in one of the most beautiful villages in Oxfordshire, and soon we will have the chance to prove it is also one of the best cared for. After a few years absence, Hornton is once again being entered for

## 'THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE' COMPETITION.

It will not be easy but if everyone makes sure the area around the front of their house is the best it can be, you never know, we may stand a chance. So, let's give it one more try, and remember - 'there is only one Hornton'!

*Bill Jeffs, Parish Councillor*

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