

# The Gossip



HORNTON

Issue Number 51

## Winter Warblers

AUTUMN 2003

The recent strange weather bodes badly for the birds this winter. The ground is too hard for the usual early winter feast of worms and snails, and the lack of rain has made the berries and fruits unusually dry and withered. An alternative is to feed protein rich live food throughout this winter as well as all the usual wild bird food. This should be offered in deep dished feeders with drainage holes well above ground level and out of the reach of cats. The hawks and jays have moved into the village recently, so feeders should be placed within easy reach of cover rather than out in the open.

Monitoring by the British Trust for Ornithology in the UK shows that between 1972 and 1996 tree sparrows declined by 87%, house sparrows by 64% and song thrushes by 50%. Thrushes in particular are carnivorous and would benefit from live food feeding. A company called The Green Gardener will supply mealworms both live and, for the squeamish, quick-dried, by post to your door for a reasonable cost. You can find out cost and details or order on-line at [www.greengardener.co.uk](http://www.greengardener.co.uk) or through Anne Joyner 670337.

Birdbrain.

Spotted on Tresco, Isles of Scilly on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2003. Was it a lesser spotted Ousling bird? No - a migrating Pip and Alan Brooks - on holiday - totally by chance, at the same time as Steve and Julia Whitby! There's Only One Hornton - is there Only One Tresco?!

## \*CHURCH BAZAAR\*

Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>

7pm

In the Parish Church

Crafts \* Gifts \* Competitions

Produce \* Tombola \* Grand Raffle

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in this paper, the Editorial team cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any errors that might occur. The opinions published in this paper are not necessarily those of the team.

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

IN THE  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
6 PM.

Christmas Raffle\*

\*Stalls\*Games\*Festive Fayre\*



XX

Coming to the Methodist Church

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Bluesy Susie

Music from the 1920's to present day covering classics from periods of jazz, blues, folk, rock 'n roll, salsa and pop. Performed by jazz duo Susie and Craig using vocals and guitar.

Some tickets still available - contact Julie Stanley 670507

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December - 7 pm

Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company

Nutcracker and the Mouse King

The Nutcracker is a fantastic fairytale beginning on Christmas Eve in the happy Stahlbaum household. The arrival of Godpapa Drosselmeier with his weird and wonderful presents starts a night that Marie will never forget. Dreams and nightmares take her on a magical quest like no other as she conquers the evil mouse king, falls in love with her nutcracker prince and is carried off to the kingdom of sweets. You know the ballet now experience a unique theatrical adaptation that combines flights of fantasy with insights into human nature.

(Only a few tickets left - contact Julie Stanley 670507)

## Soup Saturday

8<sup>th</sup> November 12 - 2pm  
at the Pavilion, Hornton



Come and join us for a chat and a bowl of soup with some warm crusty bread, followed by tea/coffee and a cake

Tickets are £3. all proceeds to Peachtree Pre-school  
Tickets available from Carolyn Barker 678443, Kate Fletcher 670508 and Peachtree Pre-School

## CHURCH SERVICES

### Parish Church

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – 8.30 a.m Holy Eucharist  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – 11 a.m (United Service) Holy Eucharist  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – 10.30 a.m Matins  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – 11 a.m Holy Eucharist  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – 11 a.m Holy Eucharist  
There may be notices for details.

### Methodist Church

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – 11 a.m (United Service) Holy Communion  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – no service  
(United Service at Parish Church)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – 11 a.m  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – 11 a.m  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – 11 a.m

## VILLAGE SERVICES

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 10.55 am Remembrance Service- Parish Church  
Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 11 am Methodist Church  
Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 6 pm Christingle Parish Church  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm Carol Service  
Methodist Church

## Oxfordshire Historic Churches Ride & Stride



On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 6 walkers and 4 cyclists took up the challenge and walked or rode around the surrounding villages visiting the churches. Weather wise it was an ideal day and they had a very enjoyable time visiting 10 churches although they did confess to being saddle sore and foot weary by the end of the day.

Sponsorship money raised came to over £300 of which half will go to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and half to Hornton Church and Chapel.

Special thanks to those who welcomed the Ride and Striders visiting Hornton's Churches.

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**Since the last edition of 'The Gossip' we are sad to report that five of our villagers have died.**

**Ivy Groom**, probably our oldest resident, passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2003 at the age of 94 at Lincoln House. She was born in Hornton and began her childhood in Bell Street and at an early age moved to Bankside to live with her Granny. She never moved again until recently when due to ill health, moved to Lincoln House where she received constant care.

She attended the newly built Hornton School after it had been

burnt down in 1911. After leaving school she went into service and eventually became cook at Hornton Hall until her retirement at the age of 72. She lived through two World Wars and experienced the hardships these brought.

During her lifetime, mains water and mains sewers were brought to Hornton, electricity, and all the gadgets such as radio and television, washing machines and all the labour saving appliances we take for granted today. Motorcars and buses replaced horse and cart. What exciting times! She recalled all of this on the village film 'There's Only one Hornton'.

She lived at Bankside with her husband Arthur until his death, and together they brought up their four children. She was an excellent gardener and a member of the 3H's Gardening Club.

*Eileen and family thank everyone who sent messages of sympathy.*

**Pat Horsley** passed away suddenly on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2003 at the age of 63. He and his family moved to Bell Street 36 years ago but it seemed as though Hornton had always been his home. His only move was to Perkins Close.

He worked for the Waterboard but due to ill health had to retire early. Later he became caretaker of the Pavilion and School, looked after the churchyard and was always ready to help people especially with their gardens.

He had many hobbies including CB radio, fishing and gardening. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him. Our condolences to Joan and Adrian.

**Bill Freeman** passed away at the beginning of October aged 87. He was born in Hornton and lived with his mother until her death and then on his own in the cottage facing the greens. He saw many great changes during his lifetime. He was called up in the Second World War and joined the RAF. He was very proud of his time serving his country and wrote about his experiences in an earlier edition of 'The Gossip'. When he came home to Hornton he decided that this was the place for him and he would not leave again although about 20 years ago Phyllis Miles and Lillian Jeffs were very surprised to bump into Bill by Lake Lucerne Switzerland looking at a Lion Monument.

He had several careers during his lifetime such as working at Hornton quarries as a talented stone mason -several houses in Hornton have nameplates carved by him, taxi driver – he had one of the first cars in Hornton, musician – he played the violin and travelled to other villages with his dance group. He also enjoyed the racecourse and placing a bet.

He was very interested in people, and would sit outside his cottage or on the seat under the lime trees and talk to whoever passed by. He kept a record of everyone who lived in the village. He recalled his life in Hornton in the village film 'There's Only One Hornton'.

**Mike Webber** died tragically a few days before his 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday in October.

Mike loved Hornton and gave so much to the community through his music. The Drama Group and both Churches could always rely on him to arrange the music for whatever event or service. He was such a talented Jazz musician and played his 'vibes' for every occasion.

He loved to share his music by giving music lessons to children and encouraging those that had talent to perform with him.

He also gave his time so generously, helping to look after the small playing field as Treasurer/Secretary and the Parish Church Treasurer. He gave Hornton so much.

Rest in Peace, Mike.

**Betty Fox** died suddenly at the age of 81, on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November after suffering a stroke on holiday at Weston Super Mare.

Betty and Chas moved from the village a couple of years ago to a bungalow in Banbury where they have been very happy.

They lived happily at the Manor with their four children until Chas lost his sight. They then had 'Limetrees Cottage' built in the grounds for their retirement. They spent many happy years there and Chas played the Organ at the Parish Church for over 40 years. Betty was a member of the Women's Working Party and contributed so much to Church life in Hornton. They did everything together and enjoyed many holidays. We send our condolences to Chas, David, Susan, Mike, Stephen and their families.

**Forthcoming Event At Hornton Methodist  
Church with C.D.C. Arts At Large**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2004  
Hilary James & Simon Mayor**

**Hoagy, Hornpipes, Handel & Hoedown. By popular  
demand we are pleased to welcome them back for  
another great evening of entertainment**

**A tribute to Mike from his colleagues of The  
Children's Playing Field Committee.**

We are deeply saddened by Mike's death and this will be just one of many tributes paid to him for all his work both in the village and elsewhere among his many interests and talents.

We have always worked closely with Mike for many years in the running and maintenance of the Playground.

Words can only say so little but our memories will remain with us always. Mike's heart was in all he did and he gave of himself tirelessly in his role as Secretary and Treasurer of the field and also in the manual work involved.

We shall miss him greatly but he will always be in our thoughts, particularly when we are working in the Playing Field.

God bless you, Mike.

*Don, Paul and David*

**THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC**

I first got to know Mike and see him working about 20 odd years ago when the Allsorts made their first pantomime, the first of many happy years of collaboration. I can see him in my mind's eye quite clearly, always in brown, slightly stooped over his vibraphone, his long slender fingers driving the sticks over the keys with perfect precision. Then, at the end of the piece, looking up with a little 'hurrumph' and a small smile of satisfaction – the only tiny piece of pride he ever appeared to indulge in.

He could play anything – from Abba to Gershwin, Beatles to Bach, and that was just in Hornton. His many colleagues and fans will attest to his great talent as a professional jazz musician. His ability was truly amazing and I, well I think we all did, took it completely for granted. Many's the time I quite literally hummed a bit of a tune and within minutes he would play it, complete with key, pitch and arrangement to suit whoever was to sing. If we couldn't find an appropriate song he would return the following week with one he'd written, words and music, and by the time of the show no-one would be able to tell which songs were Golden Oldies and which were Mike Originals.

His patience was astounding. He would repeat, adjust, coach and cajole with gentle good nature until he'd made reasonable singers out of every willing volunteer. He gave of his time and talent with immense generosity of spirit, particularly to the children. I've seen the most boisterous and rumbustious children standing as if

mesmerised, their faces level with the chimes, watching as the sticks flew magically over the notes. And although he guarded his beloved vibraphone fiercely, it was the children he allowed to have 'a little go so long as you're very careful'.

If he spotted talent, or a genuine interest, he made sure that it was fostered and encouraged. He was a wonderful teacher, patient, gentle and always delighted in sharing his love of music. His generosity of spirit was evident in that he always encouraged his protégés to take the limelight. We've all seen him accompanying one of his young pupils, subtly steering their performance along so that they gave of their best, and it was obvious to us all that his slight nod, smile of approval and the gift of his professional respect was worth a bag of gold to these kids. There are many people who will have the ability to make music for the rest of their lives thanks to Mike – what a legacy!

Nothing has happened in Hornton without Mike quietly providing the accompaniment. I never heard him say a bad word about anyone, or make any complaint. He was utterly reliable; never let anyone down, never asked for help or reward. He was a sweet natured, gentle man who didn't appear to be anyone's idea of a local hero, but that's what he was, and he will be very very sadly missed. Thank you for the music, Mike.

*Anne Joyner*

**Seasonal Tips**

It's that time of year for 'putting the garden to bed' for the winter. But spare a thought for wildlife as you tidy as this can be a time of plenty for many birds and animals, with an abundance of seeds, berries and nuts to feed on before winter. You can provide a self-service restaurant for wildlife in the following ways:

- Leave some dry plant debris and hollow stems as hibernation sites for ladybirds, lacewings, hoverflies (all aphid feeders), and other beneficial insects
- Create leaf and log piles to provide shelter and feeding sites
- Leave vegetation standing for as long as possible especially dead seed heads of Teasel, Mullein, Lavenders, Goldenrod, Geraniums, Forget-me-not and Sunflower
- Allow birds the opportunity to clear all the fruit from shrubs and hedges before trimming back
- Grow late flowering plants for nectar such as Ice Plant, Viburnums, English Ivy, Welsh Poppy, Poached egg plant, Tobacco plant and Michaelmas daisy

*Thankyou to the Ladies Working Party for their kind donation towards the running costs of the 'The Gossip'.*

*Next issue of 'The Gossip' first week of February. Articles for inclusion to be given to Julie Stanley or Ann Hemmings by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2004 please.*

**QUIZ NIGHT KICKS OFF  
CHRISTMAS SEASON FOR  
JUMPA**

Quiz Night makes a return before Christmas – the next event in the schedule for the JUMPA fundraising committee.

The testing festive fun takes place at the Dun Cow on Saturday 6 December and gets underway at 7.30 p.m. It's £2 each to enter and there will be prizes for winning teams, as well as a raffle. Ollie Fickling and Steve Woodcock will be setting the questions once again – and they promise to pick topics to appeal to everyone!

Talk to Gwyneth if you'd also like to arrange some bar food for your team on the night. And, if you'd like to take part then you need to organise yourselves into a team of up to four and sign up on the list in the Dun Cow bar as soon as possible. (We can fit in about 12 teams, so don't hang around mustering your side!)

Also on sale now are Hornton Christmas Cards, with all the proceeds going to JUMPA. The advertisement in this issue of *The Gossip* has full details. Do place your order before stocks run out!

The 2004 JUMPA calendar is starting to take shape too: there's a wine tasting evening at the Pavilion in March, a bingo evening at the Church Rooms (date to be confirmed) and an indoor pub games 'pentathlon' at the Pavilion (skittles, table tennis, dominoes, darts etc) some time in January or February. Look out for more details on village noticeboards and on the website nearer the time.

Finally, thanks to all those who helped out with the JUMPA barbecue at the August Bank Holiday outdoor rock concert at the Dun Cow. We raised £418 from the event. Thanks too to the 32 villagers who signed up for the latest Progressive Dinner on 11 October. Once again, a memorable time was had by everyone – with delicious food –

and the total funds raised were more than £450.

**Funds total and grant applications**

Total funds for JUMPA are now nearing £6000. Grant applications are going in to various bodies this month and we hope to be able to report progress in the next *Gossip*.

**JUMPA meetings open to the public**

All JUMPA meetings are open to the public so please feel free to come along if you have any ideas.

The next meeting takes place at the Dun Cow on 8 January at 8.30 pm. The full committee is Bill Jeffs, Anne Joyner, Lynne and Ollie Fickling, Ian Harris, Joy Clegg, Jane Perkin, Mark Wright, John Offord and Chris and Steve Woodcock (chair)

**COMPETITION**

Starting from the bold centre letter move up and down and sideways (not diagonally) to find the path through thirteen children's toys.

E	P	P	U	P	E	V	O	L	G	S
T	L	E	I	D	O	S	C	O	L	E
P	A	O	O	H	A	L	U	P	B	R
E	K	P	E	B	O	X	H	E	M	A
A	N	T	H	R	R	A	C	L	A	D
S	I	K	C	O	P	N	S	E	P	E
H	O	O	A	C	O	I	A	T	L	O
R	E	T	J	K	G	O	R	W	S	T
G	R	S	E	I	T	S	T	A	I	P
O	O	H	G	N	I	C	K	T	E	R
K	A	R	T	S	C	O	O	T	E	R

*Jumpa!*

Looking for some unusual Christmas cards this year?

*Look no further ...*

Once again this year, Hornton has its own set of Christmas cards, sold in aid of JUMPA

The cards are on sale NOW. They have a simple greeting inside: "Happy Christmas".

We've printed limited stocks so, to make sure you get some, place an order now:

Contact Steve or Chris Woodcock (tel 670795)

**Only £4 per 10 cards or 50p each**



**In memory of the Hornton School fire on the early morning of December 5<sup>th</sup> 1911.**

Britannia boasts of noble sons,  
Who face the roar and rattle.  
The lightening from a thousand guns,  
Upon the field of battle.  
We boast about our seamen brave,  
Who breast the stormy ocean.  
Who standing o'er a watery grave,  
Can gaze without emotion.

But hark, a midnight cry we heard,  
Just as the hour is chiming.  
A breath of wind, a spark has stirred,  
And now the flames are climbing.  
"Fire, Fire". Oh God, will no one come.  
How quick the time is speeding.  
To save the school to save the home,  
And bind the heart that's bleeding.

"Boom! Boom!" the church bell tells  
the news,  
And many a wakened mother,  
Calls on her sons, who can't refuse,  
To go and help another.  
Now husbands from their well earned  
rest,  
The greedy flames are beating.  
Old dames of seventy do their best,  
The fiery fiend defeating.

Ah God! It was a fearful sight,  
To see the fierce sparks flying,  
And bearing terror through the night,  
Our heroes nigh defying.  
But bravely did our Hornton men,  
As well as wife and maiden,  
Return again and yet again,  
With buckets water-laden.

They're only simple men of toil,  
And village maids and mothers,  
They all seem rooted to the soil,  
And not diverse from others,  
But while Britannia rearth such,  
Embodiments of valour,  
She'll never feel the foemans touch,  
And harm can ne'er befall her.

Hornton                      Jas. Slimming

**A MESSAGE FROM JIM TANNER, formerly of Pages Lane**

I am grateful to Julie and Ann for allowing me to say a few words in this Newsletter because it gives me an opportunity to say to the people of Hornton that having been born in your lovely village in 1930 and growing up there, attending Hornton school from about 1934 to 1944 when I

left the school at 14, I have never forgotten the village and my memories of my 22 years there (which I left in 1952 to join the RAF), are as vivid now as if it were only yesterday.

How much I enjoyed coming to the school reunion and meeting so many old friends and schoolmates, the evacuee boys, Charlie Evans, Bill Dodkin, and George Osler. He stayed with my Grannie and Granddad in the house that my Auntie Ena lives in now (my best wishes to her). I was stood on The Green in 1940 when their coach arrived. Little did I realise when I left Hornton that I would meet them again in 2003.

My book 'The Village and Beyond' is in the care of the Head teacher Wendy Clifford, and it paints a picture of my school days, the war years and my teenage years with Geoffrey Freeman, Jim England (Bell Street), Douglas Jarvis (Pages Lane) where we lived, Peter Hillman, Nancy Jarvis, Mary Wheeler and many more.

I have written to Bill Freeman since I came to the reunion, and he wrote back to me, but sadly I have learned from Liz Jeffs and Roger Corke that he has passed away.

There is so much I want to say to you all, but mostly enjoy your village. I have the video and will always treasure my memories of Hornton.

After many years in High Wycombe I became the Mayor of High Wycombe (165,000 people in 1989/90) so you could say that Hornton produced a Mayor. During that year I welcomed and shook hands with Princess Diana and raised £37,000 for stroke victims. My dad Harry Tanner died of one in 1979. My mother ended her days in Brackley many years later.

Kind regards and best wishes to you all.

**CONGRATULATIONS to**

Lesley Waller and Phil Waters on the early arrival of James, Alexander brother for Sophie, and grandson for Pauline and Peter Hart;

Also, to Laura and Jonathan Short of West End on the early arrival of their son, Archie; And, to Claire and Graham Bottoms of Perkins Close on the birth of their daughter Bethan, sister for Megan.

**APPLE AND CARROT SOUP**

*Serves 6*

*1 tbs olive oil*

*1 medium red onion, peeled & chopped*

*1 stick celery, trimmed & chopped*

*1lb (450g) carrots, peeled & sliced  
8oz (225g) cooking apples, peeled, cored and chopped*

*1 1/2 pints (1 litre) chicken stock*

*1/2 level teaspoon dried sage*

*1 bay leaf*

*Freshly ground black pepper*

*12 thin slices of red-skinned apple, soaked in lemon juice, to garnish*

Heat the oil in a large saucepan and cook the onion, celery, carrots and apple in it over a moderate heat, uncovered, for about 5 minutes, until the onion begins to soften.

Stir in the stock, sage and bay leaf and season with pepper. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer for about 25 minutes, or until the carrots become tender. Discard the bay leaf.

Pass the soup through a food mill, or let it cool for 5 minutes and then blend it in a food processor for 1 minute. Return the soup to the pan and reheat, stirring continuously. Serve in warmed soup bowls with each serving garnished with 2 apple slices.

**BINGO**

**MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

**EYES DOWN 7.30 P.M**

**IN THE CHURCH ROOM**

**For Methodist Church Funds**

## Start your Christmas shopping in a relaxed and sociable way!

Fiona Donaldson and Ruth Griffiths have organised a Retail Therapy Evening with complimentary wine and nibbles at the Pavilion on Tuesday, 18 November at 8 p.m. to help raise funds for Hornton School.

On sale will be 'Tomolly Toys', quality toys for girls and boys; Phoenix cards, wrapping, ribbons and accessories; Weleda and Aromatherapy skin care; and Merry-go-Round, discounted designer childrens' wear - now available up to age 12.

They have acquired a large and very lovely Forever Friends teddy worth £60 which will feature as a Guess the Name. Other donations for a raffle would be appreciated. If you would like to reserve a place (numbers required for catering) please call Fiona on 670505 or Ruth on 678100.

*Looking forward to seeing you there!*

## What is Oxfordshire Children's Information Service?

This is a local service that provides information for parents and carers about childcare and leisure activities, for children aged 0-16 in Oxfordshire. The service is totally FREE of charge and includes information on all registered childcare such as Childminders, Nurseries, Pre-School Playgroups and Holiday Play Schemes. We also supply

information on Toddler Groups, Family Centres, Special Needs, Youth Groups and Libraries.

- We have a telephone help line open 9-5 Monday to Friday Tel 01993 886933
- Or email us at [enquiries@oxoncis.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@oxoncis.org.uk)
- Information can also be accessed via our website [www.oxoncis.org.uk](http://www.oxoncis.org.uk)

We also have an Outreach Officer who holds drop in sessions around the county at various events and establishments such as fetes or toddler groups. This enables parents to chat informally about their childcare needs and get information directly. If anyone would like to book a drop in session please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Ruth Griffiths of Touchstone, Bell Street, has started selling Phoenix Cards to raise funds both for the school and the Myasthenia Gravis Association. This will be a long term project.

"As some of you may know, I have been challenged by this disease since Tomos was born 5 years ago, and was in hospital for six weeks earlier this year with a bad relapse.

Phoenix Trading is an independent card publishing house with an exclusive range of original greetings cards and related products at sane prices, using talented artists. The company also donate a percentage of their Christmas card proceeds to Cancer Research UK (last year £7000). My stock will be available at several Fayres this autumn - Banbury Town Hall on Saturday 8 November, the School Christmas Fayre on Saturday 29 November, and

Upton House on Saturday 6 December, as well as the Retail Therapy Evening on 18 November. However, if anyone would like to see the catalogue, or if you are ever stuck for a birthday card you know there is someone in the village with a good supply to save the trip into town. Please call me on 678100."

## PAVILION UPDATE

Thank you to all those who supported the Harvest Supper. It was a great evening and over £100 was raised towards the Kitchen Extension Fund.

Our funds are low as obviously we have to maintain the building at the same time as endeavouring to raise funds for improvements. Your help is needed with ideas to fund-raise for our much needed modern kitchen. If you have any ideas, or would like to be involved in supporting this venture, then please contact Steve Woodcock (Secretary) on 670795 or Liz Jeffs, our Booking Clerk, on 670529.

A Beer & Skittle evening is already planned for Friday 9 January at 8 p.m.

Your support would be greatly appreciated.

**CAROL  
SINGING  
TUESDAY 23  
DECEMBER  
AT 6.30 P.M.  
MEET AT THE  
PAVILION**

## A POLITE REMINDER

Please drive carefully through the village, especially in Millers Lane and the corner of Bell Street where visibility may be restricted due to parked vehicles.