

The Gossip

HORNTON

Issue Number 53



SPRING 2004

The Sun Always Shines on Hornton!

The Bank Holiday weekend weather forecast was wet and cold and it started off that way. Monday morning came and the rain came down in torrents. Always optimistic, village helpers loaded tables into cars and placed them on the green ready for the May Day festivities. Towards midday reluctant stallholders made their way to their allotted pitches, muffled in woolly jumpers, umbrellas and wellies. Midday came and suddenly as if to order the sun came out. At 1 pm the crowds began to arrive. By the time the May procession wended its way to the Maypole the skies were blue.

This year the royal procession came on Daisy's cart drawn by her beautiful carthorses. The May Queen (Sophie Keene) and May King (Tom Donaldson) with their Princess attendants, (Sophie Waller and Ellie Paynton) were duly crowned on the flower bedecked throne outside the Manor. The royal party then processed to the Maypole and the dancing began. Our special thanks go to all the children who took part and to the Morris Men for making the day such a great success.

After the dancing the crowds were able to try their luck at the bowling or have a raffle ticket or two. There was plenty to buy from the White Elephant, clothes, Bric a Brac, plant stalls etc. and to see, such as the Owls and vintage cars. Teas were served in Lesley and Dave Kings' garden and the usual barbeque on the bottom green kept everyone fed and watered. A short ride up Bell Street on Daisy's cart to the Sports field linked other activities for people's enjoyment such as Go Karts, a massage tent with a fortune teller, games and more stalls.

The sun shone on throughout the afternoon and everyone had a great time.

Thank you to everyone who took part. May Day has become a Hornton tradition and we hope you enjoyed yourselves and will do it all again next year!!

SOME MAY DAY RESULTS

Pavilion

White Elephant	500.00
Teas	300.00 +
Barbeque	300.00 +
Bowling	82.00
Raffle	100.00
Go Karts	20.00
Plants	20.00
Icecreams	20.00
Massage/Fortuneteller	T.B.A.
Clothes	124.51
Keyrings	40.00
Website Lucky Square	55.00
Classic Cars	T.B.A.
Second-hand toys	115.56
Beat the Goalie	19.00
British Legion	5.00
Daisy's Horses	20.00
Tomolly Toys	5.50
Sweets & slot machines	25.00

Small Playing Field

Raffle	50.00
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School

Tombola etc.	240.00
Fishing Game	40.00

Jumpa

Treasure Hunt	75.00
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Ladies Working Party

Stall	200.00
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Toddlers

White Elephant	46.80
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Methodist Church

Plants	210.00
Arts & Crafts	320.00

*Special 90th Birthday Wishes
To Harold Hart*

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.

CHURCH SERVICES

Parish Church

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

Methodist Church

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

A BIRD BATH FOR HAROLD

On the retirement of Harold Hart from his forty six years as church warden, a village collection was taken in order that a suitable gift might be presented to him to thank him for this dedication and care of the church for all those years. After much thought and consultation it was decided that a Hornton stone bird bath would reflect the village's gratitude. Trevor Dean was commissioned and the bird bath was made. Sadly Harold became ill and was unable to receive his gift in church as planned. The presentation was eventually made by the Reverend Jeff Chard and Mr Eric Turner in his garden. It has been set up near the bird table and he and Elsie can watch the birds from their kitchen window. The other day I went with a friend on the walk which was recently featured in the Hornton news. We got quite lost and unintentionally ended up in Harold's garden where we found him engaged in a spot of gardening. He welcomed us in his usual friendly fashion and I asked if we could see the bird bath. He told me that now he was less busy he had become quite interested in the birds that visit the table and the bath and was taking pleasure in learning to identify the different species. I think this shows that you are never too old to take up a new hobby.

Sally Tweedsmuir

Congratulations to Nigel and Lynne Upton on their recent marriage at St. John the Baptist Church, May 1st 2004.

YOGA IN HORNTON

THURSDAYS

7 PM – 8.30 PM

IN THE CHAPEL

Our current yoga teacher, Sigi Castle will be taking an extended break due to personal reasons, so in order to keep continuity, Ruth Griffiths will be taking over from May 13th, until Sigi returns in September.

If you have not considered a yoga class before, now would be a good time to start as beginners are welcome. Yoga is suitable for all ages and levels of fitness and is totally adaptable to the individual needs. It increases strength, flexibility, vitality and energy while encouraging inner focus and relaxation.

Ruth has practiced Viniyoga for 8 years and has used it at the Hospice of the Valleys in Wales, and will be teaching the children at Hornton School during Oriental week. Any queries please telephone her on 678100.

The classes remain at £4 plus 50p towards Chapel heating.

Churches Together

OPEN AIR SERVICE

SUNDAY JUNE 20TH

ON THE GREEN

2.30 pm

WITH THE

SALVATION ARMY

Churches Together

UNITED SUNDAY SCHOOL

& THURSDAY CLUB

HAS NOW BEGUN

Children from 3 to 11 years are very welcome to come along to the Methodist Church on Sunday mornings from 9.45am – 10.45am and after school on Thursday afternoon until 4.30pm

On yer bike again!

It's back by popular demand – The Annual Hornton Leisure Cycle Ride and Pub Lunch.

It's going to take place on Sunday 20 June. Extensive research revealed that the only other major sporting event taking place on that day was the World Toe Wrestling Championships (and I'm not joking!), so cyclists of all ages and abilities are welcome to meet on the village green at 11.30 a.m.

The emphasis is very much on leisure, with a stop for lunch. We'll go on a circular route to a local pub which serves food, where walkers and drivers can meet up with the cyclists.

In our first bike ride, the year before last, we went to the Stag's Head, Swalcliffe, and that was so successful that we had a bumper turnout last year when we stopped off at the Lampet Arms in Tadmarton.

This year we hope even more people will come. Please give me a ring if you'd like to come along – as a cyclist, walker or driver – so that we can give the pub some idea of numbers. And there'll be further details in the weeks to come so please look at the Hornton website, the notice board and the Hornton column in the Banbury Guardian for further details.

Lynn Corke (01295 670673)

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Caretaker/Cleaner

Hornton School is seeking an enthusiastic Caretaker to carry out the cleaning/caretaking duties at the school. The post is for 12.5 hours per week split into 2.5 hours per day. A job share will be considered. The standard wages range from £6.07 to £6.59 per hour but this may be negotiable with the Governors of the school. Other benefits include 25 annual days leave exclusive of Bank holidays, generous sick pay and pension schemes. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested, please contact the Headteacher as soon as possible on 01295 670335.

CONGRATULATIONS to

Jess Wain who was voted "Sportswoman of the Year" at the recent annual Warriner Sports Dinner Presentations, held at the Whatley Hotel.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

To Eleanor Campbell on winning a Holiday Home in France from the popular channel 5 Holiday Home programme hosted by Carol Smillie in March.

Recipe from Lynn Corke.

Lynn says:-

A rice ice cream appeared in Mrs Marshall's Book of Ices in 1885 and it is still popular in Italy. You can make this with a tin of rice pudding and serve with biscuits or wafers of your choice - Marks & Spencers biscuit curls are very good.

Fruity Rice Ice Cream (serves 8)

2 oz glace cherries, chopped

2 oz candied peel, diced

3 fl oz orange juice

½ pint whipping cream

4 oz caster sugar (or less to taste)

1 tin (450 g) rice pudding

Soak the cherries and peel in the orange juice for a few hours. Stir into the remaining ingredients and chill the mixture. Pour the mixture into a freezer proof bowl or container and freeze until firm (stirring a couple of times to make sure the fruit is mixed in). Move to the fridge about 45 minutes before serving. If you find this too sweet use less sugar next time!

Reminder The Pavilion AGM will be held on Thursday 10 June 2004 at 8.00 p.m.

Please come and give your support- new Committee members always welcome.

JUMPA! - make it a date for 2004

Here's an update on the JUMPA fundraising calendar, as we await the results of three grant applications made to local and national funding bodies. We expect to hear something in April or May on these and this will determine whether we need to start work on preparing the site this year or in 2005.

JUMPA bingo was the first event of this season on Tuesday 6 April, organised by Jane Perkin on behalf of the JUMPA committee, with Don Wain calling in expert fashion. A good turn-out of children and adults netted £70 from bingo book sales and raffle.

The joint Hornton-Horley JUMPA committee met to finalise a series of events through to the end of the year with a few extra ideas also on the schedule but yet to get fixed dates.

As ever, we have tried to create a calendar that will appeal to all ages and provide some good value entertainment, rather than purely asking for sponsorship or donations (although we are very grateful, of course, to those villagers who have continued to make donations in the last few months).

Among other events coming up are:

The 3rd Annual Golden Mile fun run will take place on either Sunday 6 June or Sunday 13 June on its usual route along Quarry Road. £10 sponsorship target/entry for adults. £5 for children and special rates for families. A BBQ at the Dun Cow will take place afterwards.

We're finalising a date for a summer Horley v Hornton Ladies cricket match at which there will also be a BBQ. Details to follow.

There will be another Progressive Dinner on

Saturday, 11 September, open to residents of both villages. Look out for posters and entry forms in July and August.

Back by popular demand, the JUMPA Halloween Fancy Dress Party will be on Saturday, 30 October at the Pavilion, complete with disco and prizes for the best outfits. Start planning your devilish designer gear right now!

Raising funds for both JUMPA and the Pavilion kitchen extension, there will be a Themed Skittles Night at the Pavilion on Saturday 20 November. Teams of up to 6 will need to sign up in advance for tickets and dress in 'team kits' of their choosing - the wackier the better!

Rounding off the year with a theatre outing, Jill Offord is kindly helping out the committee by arranging a JUMPA trip to see Miss Saigon in Oxford on Friday, 10 December. There will be a 54-seater coach and tickets will be £36 including travel - a substantial discount on the usual seat-only price, but we do need to fill the coach to make it viable. More details soon.

Calling all knitters!

Thank you very much for knitting the mittens from the pattern in the last Gossip. To date I have sent off 60 pairs. This is an ongoing project and in the next edition of The Gossip will be a hat pattern so that you can choose to knit either. Both are very acceptable and needed for the street children in the Eastern countries. If you would like them collected, please telephone me on 670541

Isabelle Harris

Thank you to Roger Corke, our Banbury Guardian correspondent, for kindly donating the fees from his columns to village causes and The Gossip.

Received from the village website:

CALLING ALL COLEMANS?

Hello, my name is Neil Lees, my great Grandfather originally came from Hornton and I am trying to trace his history at Hornton and would also like to know if there are any relatives still living in the village.

My Grandfather's name was Ernest Henry Coleman, born approx. 1898, he was an agricultural labourer when living in Hornton. He moved to Nuneaton, Warwickshire where I and my family still live. He married Hilda King and had two daughters, Nancy and Joan (Nancy being my Grandmother, now unfortunately deceased). Nancy married a member of an RAF bomber crew- Charles Lees and they had two children, Roger and Steven, Roger being my father, who in turn married Linda Paget and had two children, myself and my brother Simon. I would dearly like to find any trace of my Grandfather's history and any relatives still in the village or information regarding their possible whereabouts today. My parents visited Hornton but the pages of one parish register that would have corresponded to my Great Grandfather's birth were missing. Any information on the history of the Hornton Colemans would be gratefully received. Thank you for any help offered,

Neil Lees, 37 Radnor Drive, Nuneaton CVB10 7NW. kntm@aci5.freesevoe.co.uk

HORNTON PARISH A.G.M. MONDAY 19TH APRIL 2004.

(Condensed Report)

PRESENT: The Parish Council – David Miles (Chairman), John Offord (Vice Chairman), Eric Turner, Paul Burden, Malcolm Cross, Lynne Fickling, Bill Jeffs, John Peace (Retiring Clerk), Alan Cater (Clerk), Steve Bowden (Oxon C.C. Highways Dept.) and 14 villagers.

JOHN PEACE RETIRES AS PARISH CLERK

David Miles welcomed the meeting. He wished John Peace a happy retirement and thanked him for his loyal service during his time as clerk and for making his job so easy as Chairman.

ALAN CATER FROM PAGES LANE TAKES OVER AS PARISH CLERK

HORNTON HAS BEEN ENTERED FOR THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION AGAIN THIS YEAR. David thanked the village people who mow the greens and keep the village looking so nice and tidy.

PAVILION, JUMPA AND SMALL PLAYING FIELD ARE NOW SUB COMMITTEES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL Their accounts will still be looked after by the sub committees but will be consolidated with the Parish Council accounts for Insurance purposes. The sub-committees all have Parish Council members on them.

WROXTON BROOK ROAD TO BE RESURFACED POSSIBLY IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

Steve Bowden Oxon C.C. reported that the Wroxton Brook road is a priority for this summer. He also agreed to get the triangular green at Millers Lane made smaller for easier access and parking.

SPEEDING THROUGH VILLAGE Several people expressed great concern at speeding through the village both at Millers Lane and Langway. There was also concern at the lack of footpaths from Perkins Close to the top half of Millers Lane and at Langway and it was agreed that action should be taken to slow down traffic. The Parish Council were asked to look into this urgently.

ALLOTMENTS – RENT RISE TO £5 A PLOT. FULL AND HALF PLOTS AVAILABLE Cllr Burden reported that the allotments are well used and thanked Adrian Horsley and Bill Jeffs for mowing the paths.

PAVILION EXTENSION Fundraising continues and work may commence on the much needed kitchen extension in the next twelve months but large amounts of money will be desperately needed to complete the project.

JUMPA HAS OVER £6000 IN BANK and have submitted grant applications to the National Lottery, Cherwell District Council and Sports and the Arts. Fundraising continues. John Peace was thanked for donating his closing salary to JUMPA.

SMALL PLAYING FIELD – VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR COMMITTEE

David Miles has taken over as acting Secretary and Treasurer following the tragic death of Mike Webber. It is understood that some money will be received from the will of Mike Webber and they hope to purchase a piece of equipment, heighten the fence to stop balls going onto the road and to build a suitably inscribed stone into the Playing Field Wall. It was suggested by Harold Hart from the floor that the Playing Field be renamed "The Mike Webber Playing Field" in recognition of all his work there over the years.

Organisations gave their annual reports – School, Neighbourhood Watch, Brownies, Youth Club, Football Club, 3 H's Gardening Club, Allsorts Drama Group, Keep Fit Club, Toddler Group, The Gossip.

****How lucky we are to have so many people willing to give their time to run these clubs etc. for the benefit of our community life.****

CHURCH CLOCK OUT OF ACTION In any Other Business Cllr Turner reported that the Church Clock is not working and he was finding it hard to climb the tower steps to maintain it but would be very happy to show someone else how to look after it.

Since the meeting he has had three volunteers and Malcolm Cross has taken charge of it. The clock is now telling us the time again.*

How lovely to have the church clock back in action! How I have missed its gentle tones reminding me of the time – and that I should probably be doing something else! It is a sound that couldn't come from anywhere but an English country village. To me it is like the heart of Hornton, and it's good to hear it beat again.

V. Britton

**FIONA DONALDSON
REGISTERED
CHILDMINDER**

Based in Hornton, with children at Hornton School and Peachtree Pre-School, I offer a friendly and homely environment to care for babies and pre-school children on a full or part-time basis. I am also registered to offer after school care for children up to the age of 8 years.

For more information please contact me on (01295) 670505

What is Broadband and why does it matter?

Broadband will soon arrive in Hornton, thanks to a change of heart by BT. Previously it insisted that villages like Hornton could only get Broadband if 150 people said they were interested in it. Now almost every community will receive it. But, if you haven't got a computer at home in the village – so what? Why should it matter? There are plenty of reasons.

Broadband give people with computers continuous access to the Internet. Previously, if you had a computer you had to dial a number to get through and it was really slow. It's the difference between direct dialling someone, as we do these days, and having to pick up the phone, wait for the operator and being put through. It's really slow and it's really boring.

More important, it's really inefficient in all sorts of ways. The Government think fast access to the Internet is so important that it has put Broadband into every school, including Hornton School. And in a few years' time all our TV and radio will come via a Broadband link. Gone will be the days when half the village watched TV from Anglia and the other half from Birmingham because the reception in the valley is so bad. Instead, we'll all have good quality TV reception.

Even now, it is important for those running businesses or working

from home, as well as to people who are studying or undertaking research. It will make sending emails quicker and cheaper – you don't need to keep connecting your computer via a telephone line every time you use the Internet.

It will also make it easier to visit the Hornton website at www.Hornton.org.uk where the latest news is available 24 hours a day. With Broadband we'll be able to have lots of photos on the website.

When we look back in a couple of years, Broadband will seem like electricity, TV or radio. We'll just take it for granted and wonder what we did without it. Shutford, Epwell and Shotteswell have already got access, as they voted for it. But Hornton was 10 votes short of the 150 we needed. Now we'll get it too.

Lynn Corke

Nesting Time is here again...

Some tips and reminders to help the Hornton birds get off to a fruitful start this year - the feathered ones that is. Nesting boxes first. These are always a good idea because they make it a little harder for the magpies, cats and squirrels to rob the nests. Ideally, the entrance should be at least the size of a 10p piece (obviously proportionately bigger for woodpeckers, owls etc.) and it should have a hinged lid or back, as they have to be cleaned out each year. The parent birds will not re-use a nest because they will want to keep the young free from parasites for as long as possible and there will be mite eggs etc in an old nest. Although tempting to be able to watch the family the birds will not use a box that is exposed. Try to site the boxes with their entrances facing east and in an overgrown and concealed site with some shrub cover perches nearby so

that the chicks first flights won't end in disaster. After hatching the parents will clear the shells, and as the chicks grow the parents will keep the nest clean and in good repair and keep up a constant supply of food to the point of exhaustion - sound familiar? Sparrows and fit chicks must have live food for the first few days of life. They cannot digest the seeds and nuts that they will eat as adults and must receive grubs and caterpillars for that vital first burst of protein. Bluetits have the ability to delay hatching until the grubs have appeared. *Please* do not use poisonous spray in the garden during these vital few weeks - the birds will keep all pests under complete control, if not this year then next, when their number will have improved significantly. Even worst than sprays are the slug pellets. Cheap and easy to use, they work by paralysing the slug so that it dies of starvation and the makers claim that their product is 'bird friendly' because the slug is supposed to be underground when it becomes paralysed. Birds will eat any poisonous slugs that haven't made it back underground because the slugs are still alive and a bird can't tell that it's paralysed. A Thrush chick on a steady diet of poisonous slugs doesn't stand much chance of singing to greet the morning from your gable end. After a couple of years of organic gardening you will find that the bird population is all the pest control you need. Meanwhile, if slugs and snails are a real problem, then give them a cold cup of coffee - gastropods hate caffeine and will run a mile, at a snail's pace of course. Have a noisy and joyful spring.

BIRDBRAIN

Neighbourhood Watch

We get frequent warnings from the police about sheds being broken into at this time of year as the thieves have a golden opportunity to move on tools etc. at car boot sales. It is essential, therefore, that we do our very best to make sure that they give our belongings a miss. And quite honestly, we complain about the police not chasing up our losses, but whilst they are stretched to breaking point and have only limited resources, they have to prioritise and concentrate on assault on people not things. Irritating in the extreme though this may be!

So it is up to us to help ourselves! Consider the following:

Mark all belongings and put them away in locked sheds.

Look at your shed as if you were a burglar: would it really deter you if you had the will and a crowbar? A small lock is no good, and a really hefty one will probably cost about £20-£40. (Gibb's sell them). Put the hinges on the inside of the door as they can be unscrewed from the outside. Fit movement-sensitive lights - you can get battery-run ones, and an alarm.

Expensive? Yes. But not as expensive as losing your possessions. And once you have had belongings stolen, your insurance excess and premium may well go up.

Think on!

SCHOOL TOTE

Winning numbers:

January 2004	No. 19 Bev Oakley
	No. 82 Paula Miles
February 2004	No. 54 Not sold
	No. 37 Lianne Nyssen
March 2004	No. 32 Miriam Griffiths
	No. 91 Stephen Miles

Many thanks to everyone who supports the tote - money for the year is now due - only £5 per number per year. We currently have 15 unsold numbers, if you would like to purchase one, please call Jane Wain on 670716.

PEACH TREE PRE-SCHOOL

PLACES AVAILABLE

Ofsted reported that Peach Tree Pre-school has "The wow factor".

We have places available in this lovely pre-school from September 04 for children aged 2½ and over.

For more information please call

Fiona Donaldson on 670505

(weekdays only 9.30 - 5.00)

Next issue of 'The Gossip' first week of ~~the~~ Articles for inclusion to be given to Julie Stanley or Ann Hemmings by 31 July 2004 please.

Are you F.A.S.T. Driver?

With summer just around the corner, it makes one appreciate living in Hornton. But why do people want to live in this quiet little North Oxfordshire village?

For some it is the escape from the hustle and bustle of city life; for others, their family has lived here for generations; others have retired here with the promise of rural idyll, and for an increasing number, it is because of our small, successful, supportive school.

It won't have escaped your notice that the village is alive with the sound of children's voices, all enjoying the luxury of growing up in an environment that is the envy of so many, an environment that has the attributes that is sadly lacking in many communities; to be able to explore, play and enjoy life, secure in the knowledge that people care and look out for them. It has always been said by our friends who visit us from Bristol, how lucky we are because of the environment our Tomos is growing up in.

You may also have noticed that the parking at the top end of Bell Street seems to have become rather erratic of late. This is not negligence on the part of the residents, but rather as a deliberate ploy to slow the speeding vehicles that threaten the safety of our children. There are some of us who have become increasingly concerned about the number of vehicles, some belonging to residents, who frequently ignore the speed limit in the village, in both Bell Street and Millers Lane, where children often play. There is an argument that says that they shouldn't be playing there in the first place, but kids are kids, and surely in a caring community such as ours shouldn't we all be looking out for those whose simple aim in life is to have fun? There are also some sections of both these thoroughfares that do not have pavements, which means our youngsters are even more vulnerable.

It has been said that the average child has as much road sense as a cat, and if you know how many of our treasured pets have been found knocked down by careless motorists, you will understand our concern.

We raised these concerns in the recent Parish Council AGM, and were pleased at the positive response we received. This matter is going to be looked into by the County Council, who will look at measures to slow traffic through the village. Some of our suggested temporary solutions were to use old cars to create a chicane to achieve the same effect or to use speed guns to 'name and shame' those offenders.

These are not wholly popular but are preferable to the death of a child. After all we are the only village in this area without some method of traffic calming.

This discussion would never arise if everyone took a little more thought driving through our beautiful village that is the envy of so many.

Next time you are driving home, ask yourself the following:

What speed am I doing?

Do I remember the stopping distance at 30 miles an hour?

Am I aware of the places children may be playing?

Are you a Families Against Speeding Traffic driver?

Help us to remind those who should "Kill their speed, not a child"

Marc Griffiths, Touchstone, Bell Street