

The Gossip



HORNTON

Issue Number 28

1998

WHAT'S GOING ON? VANDALISM OR CONSERVATION?

We thought that the top hedge along the Horley road needed a bit of a trim. So in we went, pulling out the ivy and the brambles - and reducing the width by about twelve feet in doing so. There was a lot of elder which as everyone knows, kills everything around it - even the roots give off toxins which kill other plants apparently - so out it came. That left - nothing, other than a sycamore and a group of spindleberry at one end.

You see, it all depends on your point of view: is the hedge by the road into the village a terrible mess or a wildlife haven? The hedge on the way into the village had completely died out more than twenty years ago, so does the mess/haven on the verge belong to us or the County? A third and rather surprising view was that expressed by the planners at the infamous housing meeting. What did they call it? "An imposing line of trees?"

Anyway, we had asked FWAG, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group for advice on a number of things, including this boundary. In their eyes it is now not so much a hedge, rather a line of trees which provides feeding grounds, song perches, a woodpecker tree (the dead ash on the left) and lots of room for mammals along the base. The numerous small trees on the verge are wyche elm which will die out after about 12 years.

So what is one to do to please everyone? You can't of course. But do whatever you do gently, bit by bit and there will be little interruption to wildlife and a gradual improvement to the village approach - we hope! When I say gradual, I mean over a number of years.

So we've started with the top hedge, the elder is out, but here is trouble with the sycamore stump. We had planned to leave it but had we left it tall it would have been in danger of falling over because of it's being long and thin at the base and therefore topheavy: leave the stump to resprout and it will grow so fast that it will shade out the new little plants around it's base. It is giving me a headache at the moment!

The ground prepared (thanks to all who took time to make remarks, encouraging or sarcastic!) junk removed (including a kettle handle. I was told that there was a Home Guard post in there during the war - makes you think!) Horsemuck worked in. (I spent one day matching load for load with our little mini-tractor a vast John Deer, with enormous trailer moving muck from the dairy. I don't think the driver saw the funny side. perhaps he couldn't see me!) Hedging plants collected and some in. It is known as Saxon Mix - i.e. a bit of everything you fancy as long as it's native species. There's a base of quickthorn, with some blackthorn (for the sloe gin!) and amongst the rest: Guelder Rose, Spindleberry, Wayfaring tree, Common Dogwood, Field Maple, Cherry Plum, hazel and holly. These combined to give a succession of flowers in spring and berries for the birds in autumn. I have left labels on if anyone is interested in sorting out the different species. It will give a 'fairly loose, untidy hedge' not like a quickthorn but should be interesting and good for birds and animals.

Hope you like it!

Virginia Britton

WINTER



BINGO

AT THE CHURCH ROOM

7.30 P.M.

16 MARCH - FOR SMALL PLAYING FIELD FUNDS

30 MARCH - FOR CHAPEL FUNDS

7 APRIL - FOR CHURCH FUNDS

21 APRIL - FOR SCHOOL FUNDS

HOME GUARDS FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE

I was told by a reliable source that the concrete slab mentioned in the above article had a tree stump in it. This was used to rest a large tree trunk, which would have been laid in readiness on the side of the road. The trunk would have had a wheel attached to one end to make it easy to push across the road if the enemy should come along. This was the home guards first line of defence. These barriers were strategically placed by a bend on the approach roads to residential areas all over the country to cause maximum surprise to the invading enemy.

A few weeks ago I saw a most intriguing advert in the window of a music shop. It was brief and entirely to the point:

WANTED
ROCK DRUMMER FOR A BAND
Must be able to count up to 4

No doubt this short notice concealed many frustrated dreams of fame. One can imagine the band ready for stardom, if only a drummer can be found who keeps the same 'time' as the rest of them. It conjures a vision of the band poised in the spotlight, ready to burst into pounding, ear-splitting, foot-stirring sound, as the drummer counts them in "...A-one...A-two...A-three...A...A...A-..what's next?"

Actually, it is a reminder of the importance of the basics. The best drum-kit in the world, the most musically talented colleagues, the finest stage presentation, and all the rest, are to no avail if the drummer simply cannot count the rhythm. This principle applies everywhere, not just to music - the finest brickwork will not stand if the foundations are not sound, paint will soon peel if the woodwork itself is rotten, and so on. In fact, it applies to life itself; the real problem being to decide just what are 'the basics'.

In the hurly-burly of life we find it difficult to take time-out to think about such questions and instead we settle for the old stand-by's of money and possessions. However, none of these really satisfy and whatever we have got there are always a few more things, or a bit more money, needed to make us truly happy and secure. Thinking carefully about life, what really makes it good or bad is the quality of relationships whether you get on well with the people around you, whether you have good and supportive friends and family, and the like.

I suspect that is what Jesus meant when he said that "the kingdom of heaven is between you" - or put another way, living a full and enjoyable life depends on the quality of relationships we enjoy with each other, and ultimately with God himself. That is the value of Sunday when it is used as a 'special day' for God rather than just a continuation of all the other days of the week. It is a reminder that there is more to life than working and the mechanics of living. Instead we need to spend time with each other and also take time to listen to (think about) God - not for God's sake but just to keep our own sense of proportion. Which is the value in going to Church; it is a reminder that there is more to life than just 'things' and it offers time set aside to think about that away from the busyness. Would it help you to keep a sense of proportion?

Rev. Jeff Smith
Methodist Minister

THAT I'VE KNOWN

I'm just an old woman now and nature is cruel,
'tis her jest to make old age look a fool.
Me body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart,
There now is a stone where once was a heart.
But in this old carcass a young girl still dwells
And now and again my battered heart swells.

I remember the joys, I remember the pain
And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years - all too few - gone too fast,
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, friend, open and see
Not just an old woman, look closer and see me!

Trudy Bridger

CHURCH SERVICES

1st Sunday in month

08.30 a.m. Parish Church - Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Methodist Church - Holy Communion

2nd Sunday in month

11.00 a.m. Parish Church - Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Methodist Church

3rd Sunday in month

10.30 a.m. Parish Church - Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Methodist Church

4th Sunday in month

11.00 a.m. Parish Church - Holy Communion
11.00 a.m. Methodist Church

United Sunday School meets at the Sunday School Room, Methodist Church, 11.00 a.m. every Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

I resigned as your Parish Council clerk last year after the Affordable Housing project came to an end. I felt that I could not continue as my ideals were not in tune with the majority of the village. I continued until a replacement could be found. A candidate has now come forward and I will be handing over my duties to him at the end of the financial year (March 31st).

I have enjoyed working for the village and found local politics very interesting. I wish the new clerk every success for the future.

Julie Stanley

THANKS, FRANK, FROM THE PCC OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Having acted as Hon. Treasurer and Covenant Secretary since 1990, Frank Jarrett tendered his resignation from these positions at the AGM of 1997, but offered to continue up to the AGM in 1998. This would give twelve months in which to find a replacement.

Frank has maintained the high standards set by his predecessors and kept the accounts in a healthy position. The PCC is extremely grateful for all the work and time Frank has given.

Michael Webber has agreed to take on this office and we wish him well.



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY, 6 MARCH

2.00 P.M.

IN METHODIST CHURCH

MOTHERING SUNDAY

22 MARCH

11.00 A.M.

IN METHODIST CHURCH

WITH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

ASH WEDNESDAY

8 APRIL

7.00 P.M.

IN METHODIST CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY

10 APRIL

7.00 P.M.

IN METHODIST CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY

12 APRIL

11.00 A.M.

IN PARISH CHURCH

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH

A relatively quiet period, thank goodness.

Apart from quite a number of alarms going off. I know this causes great embarrassment to those people who are away and know that others have been bothered in some way by these false alarms. Don't be! It is a bit of a pain going round to sort things out - but much less than if the house had actually been broken into! How would it be if the owner had to pay a forfeit of - say - a bottle either to the people who go to sort it out or even to the Neighbourhood Watch party? then we'd all benefit and the owner wouldn't feel so guilty!

I have been much impressed by the turnout when these alarms have been set off - by and large there has been a 'scramble' to see what's going on, and a veritable posse has gathered, which is great. And if these people do nothing more than to spot a strange car and take the number you will have worked wonders. It is tedious, I know, but will benefit us all in the long run. I am sure that once the word gets round that Hornton is the sort of village that goes in for alarms then we'll prove less of a target.

One other point, I am a little perturbed by the number of women who have their friends or neighbours keys and 'who bravely go where no man has gone before' to sort out the (potential) foe single handed! I think really that no house should be entered until there are at least two people to go in together. It just might really be a prowler and it's better to be on the safe side!

One other thing: I think it would be a good idea if the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators could have a list of keyholders so that we would know who to contact to get hold of a key.

We hope to have a talk on aspects of security before too long. Watch the notice boards.

Dogberry

SMOKE FREE ZONE

What a glorious day February 14th was: warm, sunny, dry; what a pity it had to be spoilt by certain villagers lighting bonfires! It was the kind of day when we all like to open our windows, hang out our washing and simply breathe in fresh air, but we were unable to because of bonfire smoke polluting the air.

It's the same old problem every year. As soon as we have a lovely day someone has to spoil it by lighting a bonfire. It is so frustrating. I have lost count the number of times that I have had to redo washing and shut the house up because of smoke. We don't all have tumble dryers. Some of us have to rely on the weather to dry our washing. Others simply like to hang their washing out in the fresh air.

There is a refuse tip two miles up the road where we can all take our rubbish without harm or nuisance to others. It is quite easy to bag rubbish up and take it there. I know, I do it! Is it too much to ask others to do the same?

We should all think about the Red Lion fire disaster in 1996. For those who have forgotten, the fire was caused by a bonfire. I am certain none of us would want to see anything like that happen again. So, next time you are thinking of lighting a bonfire, STOP, THINK, have a little thought and consideration for other villagers. Please stop polluting the air and denying us from breathing in clean fresh air!

Linda England



It is with deep regret that we mention the untimely death of Theresa Wright nee Webb on 15th February.

She was born and brought up in Hornton and after University eventually returned to her parents home where she brought up her own family. In recent years she was very much involved with village activities, especially the Allsorts and Young 'Uns drama groups. She will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with John, Emily, William and Theresa's family at this sad time.

APPLE, ORANGE AND PINEAPPLE BAKE

(SERVES 4)

2 oranges
4 baking apples
2 teaspoons brown sugar
4 pineapple rings
50 g (2 oz) Grape Nuts cereal
50 g (2 oz) oat flakes
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground cloves
120 ml (4 fl oz) pineapple juice

Grate the zest from the oranges and break the oranges into segments. Chop the segments.

Peel and core the apples and cut into quarters.

Sprinkle the sugar over the bottom of a baking dish. Arrange the pineapple rings in the dish then arrange the apples on top. Sprinkle the chopped orange segments over the apple and pineapple mixture.

Mix the Grape Nuts, orange zest, oat flakes, cinnamon and cloves in a bowl and spread over the mixture. Drizzle the pineapple juice over the dry mixture.

Bake in a preheated oven at 180°C, 350°F or Gas Mark 4, for 30 minutes. Serve hot.

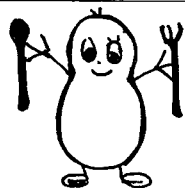
CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time for giving and Hornton was very generous this year.

The Sunday School organised the usual Christingle Service in the Parish Church and was able to send £158.57 to The Children's Society.

The Carol Service in the Methodist Church the following week raised £71.72 for The National Childrens Home.

The Monday before Christmas was very unseasonably wet, but this did not deter the Carol Singers who braved the weather and raised approximately £120.00 for Cancer Research. A special thankyou for the hospitality of the Jeffs, Vodens and Brittons who provided much needed warming refreshment as the Carollers sang their way around the village.



SPUD LUNCH

ON WEDNESDAY

APRIL 15TH

12 NOON - 2 P.M.

AT THE PAVILION

FOR PAVILION FUNDS.



SCHOOL NEWS

The staff and children would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous 1998.

Term has started well. We have welcomed five new children this term, raising our numbers to 67. We have recently had a monitoring visit to check that we are maintaining the standards since the Ofsted inspection two years ago. I am happy to say the report is once again good.

A recent development for the school is the forging of links with a sister school in Sweden. The children have already exchanged Christmas greetings and we hope to be in regular contact with them through the internet - sponsorship for which is being supported by Cherwell District Council.

There will be two staff changes by the end of this term. Mrs. Jennie Hart, who has worked as a part-time helper at the school for just over nine years has taken up a new appointment as a receptionist with FPDSavilles in Banbury. We have greatly valued her work for the school over the years and will be sorry to lose her. However she will remain on the Governing body of the school, so we shall not lose contact altogether. We wish her every success in her new career.

Mrs. Janet Paul will be leaving us at the end of the term to move with her family, to Cumbria, where her husband, the Rev. Roger Paul is to take on a new parish. Although Jan has been at the school for a relatively short time, her work has been inspirational and she will be sorely missed by staff and children alike. Our very best wishes go with her and her family. The governors will be making another appointment to replace her.

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY, 27 MARCH

AT THE PAVILION

7.30 P.M.

TEAMS OF FOUR, £5 PER TEAM

IN AID OF HORNTON
SCHOOL FUNDS

STOP PRESS - FASHION SHOW

On Friday March 20th in the Pavilion - for Peachtree Play-group.

SPORTS PAVILION A.G.M. - Monday April 20th at 7.30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

By Justin Stanley & Mathew Burden

Hornton are playing well this season, with James Fisher scoring 29 goals with only half of the season gone. Hornton's 1st team are currently in a good position in the league and have the chance of going top if they win their games in hand.

Hornton are also repeating last seasons success in the cups by reaching the quarter finals in the Junior Shield. They were the only remaining Banbury and District side still remaining in this competition and were unlucky to lose to Ducklington an Oxford side. They have reached final stages in numerous cups.

The Reserves are playing very well this season and are currently 3rd in division two. They are also in the final stages in a Banbury and District cup after beating Bodicote Reserves who are in a division above, on Saturday 14th February.

WELL DONE and GOOD LUCK to Laura Hemmings who has earned a place in the Great Britain Floor Ball squad which meets Belgium and the Netherlands in Belgium in mid-April.

DAVID MILES

CARPENTER
JOINER AND
BUILDER
☎ 01295 670550



GARDENING TIPS

Daffodils turn their flowers to the sun. Remember to plant them in a position where they will face you too.

Except in a very formal scheme, avoid bedding out plants in rows. They will look more comfortable if intermingled.

Tulips like sun and summer baking. In cold wet regions they are best lifted and stored in the dry before being replanted.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

- to Lorraine England and Rachel Summer on their 18th birthdays
- to Hazel and Harold Burden on their forthcoming Golden Wedding Anniversary



* May ~ Day ~ Celebrations

ON THE GREEN

MONDAY MAY 4TH

MAYPOLE DANCING STALLS

Did you know there are about 40 dogs living in Hornton. That means that one third of the population must be dog lovers.

The fields around Hornton are ideal for exercising our dogs and when the weather is sunny with blue skies or on crisp frosty mornings it's a pleasure to take the dog on a long walk. Dogs need regular exercise and a chance to do their business at least twice a day.

However its a different story when the cold wind takes your breath away and it is pouring with rain. The field walks are not so inviting as you slosh your way through thick slippery mud on a dark morning and evening. But still the dog needs regular exercise and a chance to do his business. It is times such as these when it is very tempting to let the dog walk itself. However intelligent your dog is, it does not know it is not allowed to foul the greens and pavements in the village and it can't read the sign on the childrens playing field or the sports field which asks owners not to let the dog foul these areas.

So dog owners please do not allow your dog to wander about on its own in the village. And if it should foul anywhere in the village, please clean up after it. Poop-a-scoops are available at the Post Office on a Tuesday morning. Please help to keep Hornton a beautiful place to walk around without having to be on the look out for dog mess.