

The Gossip

HORNTON

Issue Number 32



1999

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HORNTON!

Guess how many places called Hornton there are in the world? Five? Ten? 20? I discovered quite by accident. I stumbled across a web site on the Internet which contains every place name in the world, so I typed in *Hornton*. I couldn't believe what I found, so I popped down to the reference library in my office and checked *The Times Gazetteer of the World*, containing 345,000 places. The computer was right.

If you're after an exclusive address, don't live in Oxford. There are 25 in the world – 23 in America alone! Boring old London has 11 other places abroad of the same name to contend with. Closer to home, there are two Wroxtons (the other is in Saskatchewan in Canada), two Horleys (the other is in Surrey) and two Hanwells (the others is in Middlesex).

But in all 345,000 places names throughout the entire planet, we live in the only place called Hornton!

Roger Corke

THE HORNTON MILLENIUM FILM

As all of you must know by now, a Millenium film for Hornton is being made. So far the response has been fantastic. Offers of photographs, home movies and videos, documents and newspaper cuttings have poured in from all over the village, thanks to the sterling efforts of Anne Joyner, who put a notice through every door! But we can always do with more, so please contact any member of the team if you have anything that you think might be useful. We promise to return everything unharmed.

We now have a small core team of four people to do most of the work but we'll require lots of help throughout the year from many others. Some people have already kindly agreed to contribute in some way but, if you haven't, don't be shy! If you have a particular skill please do get in touch with one of us.

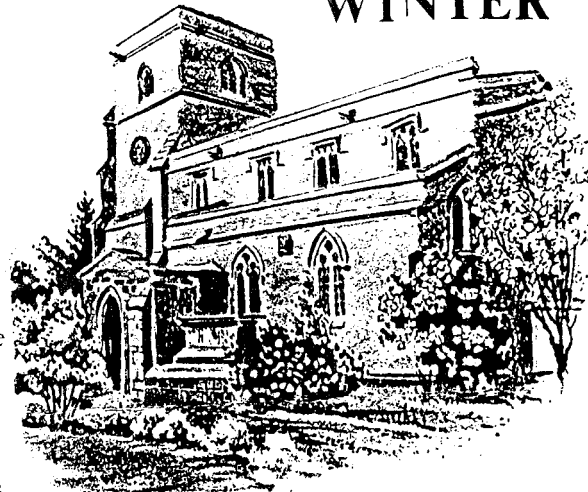
The first thing we had to do was to decide *what* to film. Hornton has existed for almost the whole Millenium, more than 200 people live here and there are literally dozens of clubs, societies, institutions and events. Even if the film was twice as long as than *Gone With The Wind* we couldn't feature everything, so we've decided to sharpen our focus a little right from the start.

We're going to make a film lasting about an hour, by looking at the village through the eyes of 10 people, one born in each decade of the 20th Century. But don't think they are going to be the only ones featured! Through their eyes we'll be able to film many others living in Hornton, observing them at work, at rest and at play. We'll see the way the pub, the church, the chapel and the school contribute to life here and how the many village activities make Hornton such a wonderful place to live. We'll also examine the way Hornton has changed from 1900 to now and we want to look forward to the next century, to examine the hopes and fears that people have for the next 100 years. We'll also examine a number of themes, such as the way so many people in the village are related, the changing patterns of work, the numbers of people coming to live in the village from the outside and so on.

We hope that everyone will buy a copy of the film when it's finished at the end of the year and then, after covering our costs, we might even make a small profit to plough back into Millenium activities. After all, there should be at least one shot in the film which will include *everyone*. More about that soon...

- If you can help in any way, please contact Roger Corke (670673) Jenny Holt (670544) Anne Joyner (670337) or Mike Webber (670552)

WINTER



YEWS FOR THE MILLENNIUM

To celebrate the two thousand years since the birth of Christ, every parish in the land is being given the opportunity to plant a yew (*Taxus baccata*) in their churchyard.

The cuttings will have been taken from trees no less than 2000 years old. The scheme is organised by the Conservation Foundation in conjunction with the Church of England, and is supported by Professor David Bellamy. He writes "many churchyard yews are venerable specimens and research has shown that a number of them predate not only the church but Christianity itself."

Research has also shown that its leaves contain a "greenprint" for Taxol, a drug now helping in the fight against cancer.

Hornton has registered to receive one of these trees. They have been grown in 6" pots and will inevitably be rather small. However we can use our imagination to envisage the splendid specimen our tree will one day become for future generations to enjoy.

Watch this space for details of the planting ceremony planned for the year 2000.

PANCAKE DAY

LUNCH

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16TH

IN THE PAVILION

12 NOON - 2P.M.

CHRISTMAS

Even though half the village went down with sore throats, lost voices, colds and other flu like ailments, we were still able to continue with our usual Christmas traditions. Spectacular Christmas lights illuminated the village throughout the festivities. There seems to get more each year! We will soon be a tourist attraction.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Christmas celebrations. The Christingle service in the Church, organised by the Sunday School raised £132.00 for The Children's Society. The children performed the Christmas Story with a difference called "Journey to Bethlehem" during the service. They were all brilliant.


The carol service was held the next Sunday in the Methodist Church and raised £102.00 for Save the Children Fund. A special choir was formed to sing some of the carols. There were musical items from the Harwoods and Burdens, John Jarvis, and Mike Webber and Chas Fox played the Organ for the singing of the carols. Thank you to them and also the readers who read the nine lessons so well.

Once again the Carol singers braved the weather and raised over £130.00 for Cancer Research at the beginning of Christmas week. Once again Hornton generously supported these fundraising events. Thank you everyone.

DAVID MILES

CARPENTER
JOINER AND
BUILDER

☎ 01295 670550



CHURCH SERVICES

- 1st Sunday in Month**
8.30 Parish Church - Holy Communion
11.00 Methodist Church (United) - Holy Communion
 - 2nd Sunday in Month**
11.00 Parish Church (United) - Holy Communion
 - 3rd Sunday in Month**
10.30 Parish Church - Matins
11.00 Methodist Church
 - 4th Sunday in Month**
11.00 Parish Church - Holy Communion
11.00 Methodist Church
- United Sunday School meets at the Sunday School Room, Methodist Church at 11.00 every Sunday.

**MAY DAY
CELEBRATIONS**

ON THE GREENS

ON MONDAY MAY 3RD

**MAYPOLE DANCING
MORRIS DANCING
STALLS & ATTRACTIONS**



DOCTOR DOLITTLE

A trip to see DR DOLITTLE at the Apollo Theatre, Hammersmith, London, has been organised for

FRIDAY 16 APRIL 1999

The coach will leave Hornton Green at 4.45 p.m. and return at approximately 12 midnight

Cost, including coach, will be about £30

Please contact Jill Offord, Tel 670689, for further details



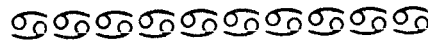
Ash Wednesday

Service

at the Methodist Church

on Wednesday February 17th

Preacher: Rev. Mike Langstaff



**WOMEN'S WORLD
DAY OF PRAYER**

AT THE PARISH CHURCH

FRIDAY MARCH 5TH

2 P.M.

Another poem from the Oxfordshire Young Poets' book - "Spellbound"

SNOWMAN

Snowflakes fall on my head,
My parents are still asleep in bed.

I creep downstairs and out the house,
I've got to keep quiet like a mouse.

I pull my hat over my ears,
I creep across the garden but I make sure no one hears.

I pull the spade out of the shed,
I start to make the snowman's head.


I roll a ball out of the snow,
And then I go to a fresh pile of snow.

I start to make the snowman's body,
Out here it's getting very foggy.

Reaching up I put his head on.
Then his eyes but where has his nose gone?

I creep inside and get a carrot, a scarf and hat,
Oh how about that
I see one of grandpa's pipes.

I put them on my snowman,
And stand back and admire my handiwork,
I'm tired after my hard morning's work.

Jessie Hinton


"TEDDIES" UPDATE

Many thanks to all who kindly knitted teddies from the pattern published in our last "Gossip". We had a wonderful response as well as many requests for further copies of the pattern!

All teddies were beautifully made in bright and cheerful colours and hopefully will become the beloved companions of those children most in need.

If you would like to knit another teddy then please do so. There are lots of needy children awaiting a furry friend.

Furthermore, if anyone would like to help in transporting the teddies, Mrs Joyce Thornton, Volunteer Services Co-ordinator at the Horton Hospital (Tel. (01295) 229135) would like to hear from you. She hopes to organise for a vanload of teddies to be transported when all the "red tape" has been cleared and enough teddies knitted. She would be happy to hear from anyone who could help in this regard, perhaps by providing a van, by driving or giving of their time. Please telephone her if you would like to know more.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

DRAINAGE The existing 18" diameter clay pipes are being replaced by 18" diameter ribbed plastic pipes. A major problem was the ingress of tree roots into manholes and the pipes themselves resulting in a considerable reduction in their capacity. The new pipes will provide 2.25 times the volume of the old clay pipes, and coupled with the absence of tree roots, will provide a very substantial improvement to the drainage.

However, owners of the banks of the stream are responsible for ensuring silt and debris are cleared from those sections of the stream forming the boundaries of their properties. Oxfordshire County Council have kindly offered to assist in undertaking some clearance of the stream during the installation of the new drainage pipes, but on this occasion only.

Mesh grids will be fixed at both ends of the new drainage pipe as a safety precaution. These will be of 3 - 4" mesh.

PATHWAYS Of the variety of slabs offered by Oxfordshire County Council, the item selected by our Parish Council has been rejected by the Conservation Officer of Cherwell District Council. Consequently, an appeal against the Officer's decision is in progress. It is hoped the matter will be resolved quickly enabling the renewal of the pathway from the corner of Church Lane to Thorn Cottage to be undertaken during the later half of March.

SPORTS PAVILION A submission has been made for permission to extend the kitchen and service areas. Also plans are in hand

BEETLE DRIVE

TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY

AT THE PAVILION

7.30 P.M.

FOR MILLENNIUM FUNDS

BINGO

ON MONDAY MARCH 15TH

IN THE CHURCH ROOM

7.30 p.m.

In aid of Small Playing Field Fund

to update the toilet area to newly required standards.

KISSING GATE - TINKER TANK A grant covering the cost of replacement has been agreed by Cherwell District Council. The new gate will be installed by the end of March, 1999.

PERKINS CLOSE The area at the rear of the bungalows has been cleared to a greater extent. Unfortunately, Cherwell District Council have insufficient funds to create any hardstanding.

RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR JOHN WRIGHT With regret, the resignation of Councillor Wright was received on the 25th January. Notices of this have been displayed in the village; giving details of the procedure to be followed regarding the appointment of his successor.

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING This has been set for Monday, 19th April, 1999 at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Room.

Dennis Merritt - Parish Clerk



MIXED BERRY ICECREAM

SERVES 4

PREPARATION TIME: 20 minutes plus 4 hours to freeze

4oz (115g) each fresh raspberries, strawberries & blackberries, hulled
2oz (60g) caster sugar
2 teaspoons lemon juice
8oz (225g) low-fat natural yoghurt
4 raspberries and pansies, violets or other edible flowers for decoration

Blend the raspberries, strawberries and blackberries with the sugar in a food processor for 60 seconds to make a smooth puree. Rub the puree into a bowl through a fine nylon sieve to remove the seeds. Mix in the lemon juice and yoghurt. Pour the fruit mixture into a shallow plastic container, cover and freeze for about 1 hour, or until almost solid.

Blend the mixture in a food processor again for 1-2 minutes, or until smooth. Freeze for 3 hours or until just frozen. Blend the ice cream again in the food processor until smooth and creamy. Spoon into glasses, top with the raspberries and flowers and serve at once.

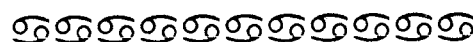
You can use frozen fruits in place or fresh. Thaw them before blending to a puree.

HORNTON SCHOOL NEWS

Term has started well. We have welcomed 4 new children into school this term. Work has started on the new classroom. We are looking forward to completion and appreciate your patience with the problems that building works presents with parking, mud, noise etc.

Thank you to everyone who has taken an interest in our GeoBears. So far they have visited a variety of countries - Belgium, Japan, Czechoslovakia, Yemen, Sahara Desert, U.S.A., Caribbean - to name but a few. Each time they come back with a variety of souvenirs and a valuable diary of information, that the children use to map their travels. If anyone is interested in seeing the displays, do call into school.

We shall be publishing another edition of ChitChat, our school newspaper, later this term. Copies will be available from school if anyone is interested.



Miss Dimelow, our friend and teacher died just before Christmas at the age of 89. She will be missed by all who knew her.

She came to fill the post of infant teacher at Hornton School nearly 50 years ago. She loved Hornton from the moment she came to the village and never thought of leaving, once she had made her home here. She used to say 'thank Heaven', because at the turn of the century the school belonged to the Church of England. The Rev. Heaven presided over the school at that time. One day he very carelessly left washing to dry around the school fire. This caught fire and the school burnt down. When the school was re-built the County Council paid for it and was then under their control. They employed Miss Dimelow as infant teacher. This would not have happened if it had still been owned by the church of England as she was a very devout Catholic.

She taught at Hornton school for 25 years until her retirement. Although she was profoundly deaf she was a wonderful teacher and her pupils have much to thank her for. She was the person who taught them to read and learn their numbers before they graduated to the big class to learn more in-depth education. She also taught the boys woodwork and made bookcases and a Wendy House for her classroom in her spare time. She was always very proud of the achievements of her pupils and delighted her hear of their success.

She will be greatly missed by the village, Churches together movement and the Catholic Church at Wroxton were she regularly worshipped.

Macmillan Cancer Relief Sahara Challenge - 1998



One dull rainy November afternoon, Joe, myself, 50 other participants, one leader from Macmillan and one from the travel company, assembled at Heathrow Airport. A very mixed group from all walks of life ranging in ages from 19 to 72 but all with one goal - to walk!

A very long journey, firstly to Casablanca via Tangiers then to Ourzazate - with an overnight stay, then a 5 hour coach journey via Zagora to the end of the road and the start of ours!

Lunch was provided by our travelling cooks, salad, tinned fish or meat, cheese, bread and fruit, (always plenty to eat and under the circumstances always of a very high standard), then at last the trek began.

At first we walked over flat open plains and then over sand dunes, it was surprising how hard this was digging in with feet to climb up, and sliding down the other side-trying to avoid "sand in boots" syndrome, impossible! The terrain changed into "hammed" this was firm sand covered in rocks, and to avoid turning your ankles you had to watch every step! To see the camp was always the highlight at the end of the day, to spot the camp in this vast open terrain was easy, to judge how far away it was, a different story!, assessing distance was impossible.

Camp consisted of a "social" tent, where we ate our evening meals and drank our "duty-free's", 3 large sleeping tents each able to accommodate 7 - 8 persons, the kitchen tent, and the two toilet tents. The reward for arriving first at camp each evening was to dig the holes in

the sand over which the toilet tents were erected!! There were also smaller 2 berth tents available, which you put up yourselves.

The weather was mainly warm and very sunny during the day and freezing cold at night, the exceptions to this being the wind!

After one very windy night we awoke in our 2 berth tent to find we had been covered by a 3 inch layer of sand it was over, and in everything!! Breakfast was usually between 6.30 and 7.00 a.m. each morning, lunch and then similar during the afternoon. You all walked at your own pace, so we were always a rather straggly bunch, our guides were excellent and our distance was monitored using a GPS system.

The scenery was varied not just sand, we crossed hammada littered with fossilised sea creatures, small clumps of cuphorbia bushes amongst the undulating dunes, acacia trees, a spectacularly flat open flat pan and also through Shegaga, the largest sand dunes in the region. We all climbed the largest La Bidette which was 300m high and afforded breathtaking views. To the south were rolling dunes as far as you could see, and to the north the mountain range of Jebel Bani. At this point we were barely 10km from the Algerian border.

At last on Friday 4th December we completed our 100km trek and crossed the 'finishing line', tired exhilarated at having completed our challenge.

A total amount of £5,627.78 has now been forwarded to Macmillan Cancer Relief which will go to the

"Oxfordshire Nurse Appeal" who are presently raising funds for another Macmillan nurse to be based at the Katherine House Hospice.

Joe and myself would like to thank all those who have generously sponsored us and who have helped in raising this amazing amount! The total amount raised by the whole group has now exceeded £120,000 and we both feel very privileged to have been a part of this challenge and to raise funds for such a worthwhile cause.

EDITOR'S PLEA

"The Gossip" is usually distributed in February, May, August and November. We are always grateful to receive items for inclusion, whether it be village news, information about clubs, fund raising ventures, poems, stories (funny or otherwise), new arrivals, congratulations, special birthday wishes - in fact, anything which may be of interest to our readers. Our editing team is very good but would be enormously relieved to receive articles voluntarily instead of having to employ the twisted arm method!

Don't forget, you can advertise your business for very reasonable terms in "The Gossip".

As always, items for inclusion should be sent to Julie Stanley, Langway, Bell Street, Hornton.



The grass was crisp with frost as I walked with my dog across the fields in the half light of early morning that Tuesday 25th January.

To my left I could hear the noise of ducks swimming around the pond at the bottom of Tews field. I scrunched over the frosty ground. In the distance I could see the newly converted barn at the bottom of Plump Lane. I headed for the clump of trees towards the end of the field. As I approached, I noticed an outline against the bare trees. It looked like a deer. As my eyes focused on the form, I thought I could see three deers. I stopped dead in my tracks hoping they wouldn't notice me. They appeared to be chatting to one another although I could hear no sounds. After about a minute they suddenly looked in my direction. They turned and gracefully ran towards the top hedge. As they flew up the field, their hooves hardly touching the ground, I realised that there were four of them. They sprang over the hedge without changing their stride and disappeared, leaving me wondering if I could have imaged the whole thing.

READING SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

Are you retired? Have you some time to spare?
Are you interested in helping children with their reading?

HORNTON SCHOOL would welcome VOLUNTEER READING HELPERS

Contact the Headteacher on 670335.

(Guidance/help will be given to volunteers)

BINGO

Tuesday 23rd March

In the Church Room

7.30 p.m.

In aid of Methodist Church Funds

BINGO

Tuesday March 30th

in the Church Room

at 7.30 p.m.

In aid of the Womens Working Party