

The Gossip

HORNTON

Issue Number 33



1999

BACK TO GREEN

PASTURES

By Philip Williams

We're back....! living in, so to speak. No furniture yet, but a table to eat off, an oven that cooks and beds to sleep on, so who needs to commute..... We've never really left, but one is not able to savour the village in our normal way when packing off to Banbury at the end of the day. There lie's another tale, for another issue maybe.

How green is our valley. From our windows at Wainsbank we look at the slopes to Holloway. The changing shape of Harry Seigal's trees, and the long view westward to the flowering Gorse. This year the seasonal change has been so rapid, in field and garden. A mild winter, a very dry March and the wettest April pushed nature's growth ahead. Beware the Blackthorn Winter!, and so be it. Five days of hail, snow, heavy rain, climaxed by a "killer" frost, what a terror. On the northern side of the village, Wisteria's and Azalea's were seared to paper - a gardeners horror.

On valley walks, the Crab Apple and Cherry flowered spectacularly to compensate and hail forthcoming May. We've sighted Deer, Muntjak, healthy Foxes and the new young of enormous Rabbits. These have attacked a pair of Buzzards who soar regularly above Holloway. The cuckoo arrived on time, filling the air with his call from the Hall to the Quarry. The Martin's and Swallow's appeared to be late this year. Perhaps the sudden warmth before May Day kept them feeding and swooping over southern meadows after the miracle of their journey from Africa. The Woodpeckers "woodknocking"; hopefully attracting a mate completes the chorus that we are so lucky to have about us.

Hail May Day. Good weather was predicted and we were not disappointed. Ten O'clock and the organising teams were on the green. Tables being dropped off, each venue being allotted to their usual place. Miraculously the street bollards surrounding the ill timed path laying of Millers Lane had "tidied" to one side and the dreaded traffic lights turned their heads from their normal duty. The fairies and spirits of May have played their game! By midday, tea tables were laid, White Elephant, Plants and shrubs, Bar-b-cue, Bowling bales, Millennium Stall, Church ladies and Brownie tables were busily being put together. The May Queen's chair prettily dressed with ribbon, Bluebells awash with falling

blossom petals. the Maypole being deftly dressed with Crown and ribbon. The sound of iron shod shoes announced the arrival of Shire Horses and gaily be-ribboned cart. All set and without any apparent signal, our May Day Celebrations began. The Green seethed with people, more I'm sure, than ever before, experiencing something that's becoming quite unique and something as a village, that we should be proud to retain.

Three people who did thoroughly enjoy themselves, were Betty Lois, Liza and Cristy from Memphis, Tenn., (mother and daughters). They had booked me to drive them on an Antiquing and sightseeing tour. When I announced that I would be unavailable for May Day Monday and explained my involvement in Hornton, they immediately announced their intention to be here! I put them into the Whately Hall, my only choice being a Bank Holiday and it being the only Hotel with vacancies. I was surprised to find their rooms were large and "Chintzy" and the showers had "good pressure"! Did you know there are huge gardens behind the Hotel?? I left my wards and headed home, with the words "we'll cab it over, Philip, so don't worry about us...", ringing in my ears.

This they did and told me with some amusement, a cab had been called, driven my a novice "Iranian"? who didn't know where Hornton was.... So after the girls enquired at reception they directed the driver via Horley etc. and at one point there was some distraction as to his aftershave or body odour until they realised they were in the throes of flowering Rape....!

They arrived at 2 O'clock and left at 4.30 having, as they put it, "sweetened our tooth" at every stall and event. the crowning moment was to follow the "Young 'Uns" and their Midsummer frolic, so inventively done and entertaining. In all, a glorious experience and my ladies knew they would be the envy of Memphis when telling their tale.

So not only are people coming from as far as Leicester and Stoke, we're now International!

For my own part, thankyou to all who donated items so generously to the White Elephant and to all of you who spent the pennies and got us to our grand total. Ronnie and I could not have done it without the help of Roger and Lynn, Jane and Simon, Lynn's refreshments, and endless cups of tea from the School House. Well done everybody.....Its good to be home.

SPRING



Ivy Chammond will be celebrating her 90th birthday at the Dun Cow on Sunday 16th May. everyone who would like to come, will be very welcome.

Do come and join in the celebrations which will began at 1.30 p.m.

No presents please, just your presence.

INVITATION

To all residents of Hornton
at Twelve Noon on Sunday
11th July, 1999.

You are invited to be present on
The Village Green
so that you may be included in

**Hornton Commemorative
Millennium Photograph**

The sole criteria being that at that
moment in time every person or pet
is a Resident of Hornton

CHANCEL WINDOW

The Chancel window at the Parish Church has caused great concern in recent times. The stonework has weathered so badly, that it could collapse at any time.

The Parochial Church Council have received an estimate of £12,000 to repair it and have been raising money over the past year to get the work done as soon as possible. Lady Tweedsmuir as Secretary of the P.C.C. has written many letters to arrange grants and donations from various sources and quite a lot of the money has been raised. Work is expected to start in the very near future.

For many years Hornton people have taken part in the annual sponsored bike ride for the Historic Churches Trust. The Trust has now granted £1,500 for the restoration of the window. British Steel and Peter Bennie Ltd. have also donated money.

VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN

SUNDAY 18 JULY

Proceeds to Church Funds

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS ARTSWEEK EXHIBITION

Horley photographer Tereza Pattison is exhibiting her liquid light photographs of local rural scenes in the 'Perspectives' exhibition at Banesberie Cafe, Butchers Row, Banbury, as part of Oxfordshire's Artsweek Festival which takes place between 15 May and 19 June.

Tereza is currently studying photography at the Oxfordshire School of Art and Design, Banbury, and is a member of the new Higher National

Certificate course in photography which started last September.

Visitors to this FREE exhibition will be able to view the work over a cup of coffee and have the opportunity to purchase work by the HNC photography group, which includes a variety of techniques ranging from the historic methods of the early photographers through to the latest digital imaging technology.

3 H'S GARDENING CLUB
PLANT SALE
15TH MAY - 11 a.m.
AT THE PAVILION

OPEN AIR SERVICE

ON THE GREEN

SUNDAY, 20 JUNE

AT 3.00 P.M.

WITH SALVATION ARMY
BAND

PARISH A.G.M.

The Parish A.G.M. was held on Monday 19th April. Cllr G. Reynolds (County Councillor) and Cllr. D. Turner (District Councillor) both attended. Most of the village clubs and organisations gave reports of their activities and achievements during the past year.

Cllr. E. Turner (Chairman) was able to report that the gate at the top of Tinker Tank had been replaced and Cherwell District Council had given a grant of 40% of the cost. He thanked everyone who mow the greens for their work in the past year. He said that Hornton had been entered for The Best Kept Village competition which will be judged at the beginning of May and the end of May.

The new footpath is expected to take approximately six weeks to complete and will be partly funded by the village.

The various club reports were read to the meeting. Les England was able to report that the Cubs won the Memorial Cup at camp last year.

Malcolm Cross reported that the Football first team are top of Division 1 and should be promoted next year. The 2nd team are middle of Division 2. He also reported on the Allsorts Drama Group and thanked them for giving the village such great entertainment.

Cllr. Reynolds reported that the Government are trying to reduce traffic by promoting public transport. A tax might be introduced for employees parking in their works car parks.

SCHOOL FETE

Saturday July 3rd
2 p.m.

St. John Ambulance Band
Bottle Stall, Cake Stall
Games etc.
County Dancing Display

WELL DONE.....

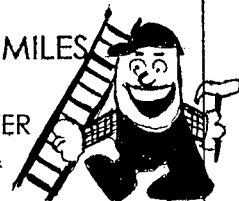
Dancing results from the Julie Bruce Dancing Academy:-

Isabelle Harris - Tap Gold Medal - 85% With Honours
Amy Harris - Modern Grade 4 - 81% Highly Commended
Katie Walther - Modern Grade 4 - 78% Commended
Alice Offord - Primary Ballet 83% Highly Commended. Tap Juvenile - 80% Highly Commended

DAVID MILES

CARPENTER
JOINER &
BUILDER

☎ 01295 670550



BIT OF MIDSUMMER MADNESS

I like to do the odd bit of acting (sometimes extremely odd indeed) and have often hankered after doing some "legitimate" plays (that usually means at least one Shakespeare play). The chance presented itself in the form of a play for May Day on Hornton village green.

Anne Joyner thought it would be a good idea to have an updated version of Midsummer Nights Dream - written in modern English so the children who are performing it would understand it, and to have a shortened version so the audience would not get too bored after a long days activities on the various side shows etc. It must be classed as one of those ideas that "seemed like a good idea at the time".

But despite several false starts and not to mention about a dozen changes of cast, rehearsals are well in hand. By the time you read this we will probably be basking in rave reviews from the entire village and fending off offers from the Royal Shakespeare company to act as stand ins for their own production at Stratford.

The casting is somewhat perverse - none more so than me - an overweight middle aged coach potato in the role of "Puck" the energetic hob goblin. As you will have probably guessed, I play him opposite to the normal portrayal and he is a shabby lethargic slob.

I am also reserve "Bottom" if anything happens to David Miles, thus giving the younger members of the cast the chance to judge which of us has the best "Bottom".

Andrew May has to partner Caroline Pearce - I said the casting was avante garde - and Tanja Miles is temporarily paired off with David a rare treat to behold.

We've had to combat the inclement weather and brace ourselves for the actual day and the possibility of less than sunny conditions but it has been worth it, certainly from my view point.

I always enjoy acting, especially with the youngsters who give such energy and enthusiasm to a rehearsal and there has been the usual amount of funny moments to keep our spirits up when

things are not always going according to script .

The biggest miracle of the entire production will be if I manage to get up to my starting position (one of the trees on the green) or down for that matter, without either breaking my neck or flattening one of the poor unfortunate children who might be underneath as I come down.

It should be worth going along just to see that little bit of drama unfold on its own.

Apart from the outdoor concert that the Allsorts did on V.E. Day, this I believe, will be the first outdoor production seen at Hornton at that is a great tribute to the ideas of Anne Joyner who is always willing to try something new to stretch the potential of the actors and the interest of the audience.

Whether it is a roaring success or a dismal failure, at least we are prepared to give it a go - mad or what?

CHARLIE WARD

Yes it was a great success. As you all know, the sun shone all afternoon on May Day. The play performed in three different places. It was a very difficult play to do in the open air with the noise of the crowds, music from the Morris Dancing and slot machines. However the players performed brilliantly and kept the crowd spellbound as the plot unfolded.

Well done to you all. I hope there will be a repeat performance next year.

BROWNIES

To gain a Brownie badge, the year 6 Brownies, Jess Wright, Bethany Ponsford, Keri Harwood, Becky Miles and Jessica Wain decided to hold a craft sale in aid of B.A.R.K.S (Banbury Animal Rescue and Kindness Service) as they are a local and worthy cause.

We made and sold a lot of beautiful crafts. We also held a raffle. the sale was attended by the Brownies, their families and the villagers, who were kind enough to come and support us. Altogether the sale made a grand total of £62.00. we later received a kind donation to add to it, so that gave us a grander total of £67.00.

On behalf of the Brownies, we would like to thank everyone who came.

Naturally the year 6 Brownies got their GO CHALLENGE badge for their kind efforts.

TAKE ONE, TAKE TWO.....

The Hornton Millennium film is going great guns. We took lots of advance orders on May Day and we must have got up to half the village on film already. We've filmed at the Hornton Allsorts' Theme night, the children's Maypole rehearsal and May Day itself. Other events set to go under the scrutiny of our cameras include Open Gardens, the Harvest Festival and the Christingle Service, along with activities at the School and the Dun Cow. and if anyone is not in the film after all of those, we'll also be at the Hornton Millennium Photograph at midday on July 11, of course.

The film will cost just £10 per copy and, although we need firm orders in advance, you don't have to pay anything until it actually arrives early next year. But we do need to sell as many as we can in order to cover our costs and we must get orders as soon as possible, so please reserve your copies as soon as you can. (An order form is enclosed).

Jenny also has Millennium tea towels and Millennium tee-shirts for sale. And if you want child-sized tee-shirts, she can order those specially. Please give her a ring with the size of your child.

Roger Corke

**GARDEN OPEN AT
BELLVUE
ON**

SUNDAY MAY 30TH

2 P.M. - 6 P.M.

***In aid of National
Garden Scheme
(Macmillan Nurses)***