

The Gossip

HORNTON

Issue Number 36



WINTER 2000

Millennium 2000

Well, it's finally here, after all the planning. The tapestry has been completed and blessed at the Christingle Service on December 12th. I think everyone was very impressed by the way the tapestry squares depicted every aspect of village life.

The New Year's Parties seemed to go very well with nearly all the village gathering at the village Christmas tree to wish in the New Year. The count down and then the ensuing revelry drowned out the chimes of the Church clock. Congratulations to Julian Wright and Sarah Danks who got engaged under the Christmas tree at the stroke of midnight. How romantic!

As for this year, there are still lots of projects to complete. The grant from Cherwell District Council Millennium Time Line to the Future project has come through, so with the support of the Parish Council and the kind donation of the stone by Peter Bennie Ltd, we are ready to give Trevor Dean (a local stonemason) the go-ahead to complete the project of the stone seat.

A time capsule is to be placed in the centre of the seat, to be opened in one hundred year's time. The Millennium committee have some ideas of what to place in the capsule and these are as follows:-

1. First edition in 2000 of The Times newspaper which included an article on Hornton.
2. First edition in 2000 of The Banbury Guardian which included an article on Hornton.
3. First edition in 2000 of The Gossip newspaper.
4. Photographs of every Club and Committee in the village.

We would like suggestions of other items that might be placed in the capsule from you the villagers, so please ring me on 670550 or Elisabeth Jeffs on 670529 with your suggestions. Bill Jeffs will be contacting your club or committee in the near future to make arrangements to take your photographs.

We intend to open the seat at a street party to be held at the end of June where every child in the village will be presented with a Millennium gift and also the village film will be released.

We are intending to hold a village Exhibition in the Methodist Church during the month of August. The displays will be on every aspect of village life throughout the ages, so we would like everyone to browse again through their old photographs, documents and any other items of interest and submit them to either myself or Elisabeth Jeffs for inclusion in the Exhibition.

With all this going on it looks like we are in for an exciting and eventful year!

David Miles - Chairman,
Millennium Committee



MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS - MONDAY 1ST MAY

Any Club, group, organisation or charity in Hornton
who would like to book a stall, please telephone Elisabeth Jeffs on 670529

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Christian Women of
Indonesia invite you to join
them in prayer.

FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2000
2.00 P.M.
AT HORNTON METHODIST
CHURCH

All welcome
(men, women, young people)

CHURCHES TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas was extra special this year as we celebrated Jesus 2000th birthday. Our Christmas services began with the Christingle Service in the Parish Church, organised by the Sunday School. The children reenacted the Christmas Story in mime as Adam Bryant told the story in rhyme. Nathan Harwood, Keri Harwood, Sam Offord, Anna Miles and Mike Webber provided the music along with a specially formed choir. £174.30 was sent to the Church of England Children's Society from the service.

A service of nine readings and carols was held in the Methodist Church. Once again a specially formed choir accompanied by Mike Webber sang Christmas items. Spreading the message of Jesus the light of the world was depicted by the lighting of candles. £115.00 was sent to Save the Children Fund from this service.

During the Christmas period and the New Year the Methodist Church has floodlit the front of the building, another reminder of Jesus, the light of the world.

On New Year's day the bells rang out from 11.45 a.m. at the Parish Church and at 12 noon a special thanksgiving service led by Lindy Bridgeman took place. The Church was full.

DAVID MILES

Carpenter
Joiner and
Builder

☎ 01295 670550



A VIEW OF HORNTON

There's a little piece of heaven
Among the hills and dales,
Where from the busy high road,
You cannot see it dwell.

But God has had it planted there,
a place to me so sweet,
Where spring is always on the way,
and winter in retreat.

It lies within a hole - they say,
But lambs bleat on the hills
Where not a sound is heard at night
Then morning brings its trills.

There's thatching on the roof tops,
A green so fresh and clean,
A Church, a School, a Chapel,
All placed in sweet serene.

The village folk so friendly
All smile as you pass by,
which makes you feel that you
belong,
And lift your head up high.

So now that you and I, my friend,
Lets pray to God that we
May live in peace and happiness
Midst Hornton's pleasant scenes.

Ivy Chaumond

THE CHURCH CLOCK

by Harold Burden

Not many people remember the church clock when it had to be wound manually and as the clock dates from 1720 quite a number of men undertook to do this job and my father was one of them.

It was in 1972 when the clock was electrified and one day a gentleman came to the village to remove the clock face so that it could be taken away for repainting. No scaffold had been erected and he came to see me to borrow a thirty-five rung ladder I was using in the process of re-roofing my home. This he did, only to discover that it was impossible to remove the clock face.

The electrifying of the clock was eventually completed and it was Mike Webber's father who borrowed the same ladder and repainted the clock face.

Congratulations to Michael's father, the clock face still looks in very good condition.

CHURCH SERVICES

First Sunday in Month
8.30 a.m. Parish Church
11.00 a.m. Methodist Church
(United Service)

Second Sunday in Month
11.00 a.m. Parish Church
(United Service)

Third Sunday in Month
10.30 a.m. Parish Church
(Matins)
11.00 a.m. Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday in Month
11.00 a.m. Parish Church
11.00 a.m. Methodist Church

United Sunday School
meet in the Sunday
School Room, Methodist
Church at 11.00 a.m.

BINGO

MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY
7.30 P.M.
IN THE CHURCH ROOM

In aid of the Methodist Church

HORNTON SCHOOL TOTE

August 1999

No. 48 Charlie Saunders

No. 88 Keri Harwood

September 1999

No. 59 Sian Ribbons

No. 95 Jane Heslith

October 1999

No. 10 Annie McKellar

No. 88 Keri Harwood

November 1999

No. 100 Sharon Mahoney

No. 96 Oliver Fickling

December 1999

No. 95 Jane Heslith

No. 65 Wendy Clifford

January 2000

No. 5 Isabelle Harris

No. 82 Paula Miles

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the School Tote. Subscriptions are due in April (£5 per number per year). If anyone who does not already have a number would like one, please contact Jane Wain on 670716.

APRICOT AND ALMOND CAKE

Ingredients (serves 6)

Butter for greasing
3 large eggs
180g brown sugar
180g SR flour
500g fresh apricots, halved & stoned, or 400g tinned apricot halves, drained
50g almond slivers
2 tbsp caster sugar
1 tsp ground cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 180C, Gas 4. Using a little butter, lightly grease a 20cm spring-form cake tin.

In a large mixing bowl, beat together the eggs and brown sugar then stir in the flour until thoroughly incorporated. Spoon the mixture into the prepared cake tin.

Arrange the apricot halves, stoned side down, over the mixture then scatter almond slivers on top. Sprinkle with caster sugar and cinnamon.

Bake in preheated oven for 40-50 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean when inserted in the centre of the cake. If the top is browning too quickly, cover with foil.

Place on a rack to cool slightly then remove sides from tin and serve cake warm with thick cream.

HORNTON SCHOOL NEWS

2000 has started well. We have welcomed five new children and their families to the school, bring our roll to 66.

The Christmas Crackers Silent Auction was very successful, raising about £800. Thank you to everyone who supported the event. Other events to look out for are the Race Night at Hanwell Village Hall on Friday, 24 March, and an Antiques Roadshow at the Pavilion on Friday, 12 May.

This term we have been visited by teachers from schools in Holland and Greece. Together with our sister school in Sweden, we are planning a project of work to widen our knowledge and understanding of each other's lives and customs. We have sent our GeoBears back with the teachers as a preliminary introduction and look forward to their return.

At present the children are involved in a sponsored spell - to raise funds for technology equipment, and Year 5 and 6 children have taken part in the Partnership Indoor Athletics tournament.

Pat Horsley will be retiring from his job as Cleaner-in-charge on 12 March. We appreciate all the work he has done for the school and will mark the occasion with a presentation on Friday 10 March.

We were very pleased with our Ofsted Report, published at the end of last term. Once again we have been praised for our high standards. Our thanks go to everyone who is involved in the life of the school, not least our many voluntary helpers.

POUNDS GAINED?

Hornton Keep-Fit is perhaps the only club in Hornton which, while doing good for its members, has reciprocated with raising funds for local causes both in the village and surrounding areas, monies having been donated to Cancer Relief, Samaritans, Frank Wise School, Horton Hospital and many many more. It's difficult to say how much has been raised but certainly in excess of £1500. All this from a group, initially very small, but the members growing all the time. We may have all expanded a little with the growing years but at least we are exercising and hopefully keeping fit!!!

BINGO

**MONDAY 27 MARCH
7.30 P.M.
IN THE CHURCH ROOM**

In aid of Peach Tree Pre-School

BROWNIE UPDATE: The pack is now 22 strong with a waiting list. Mothers are successfully assisting Brown Owl on a rota system.

VACANCIES

Peach Tree Pre-School have two part-time vacancies for Lunch-time supervisors:

1. Tuesdays & Fridays 11.45 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.
2. Fridays 11.45 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. (this could include Tuesdays if applicant wishes)

Please contact Dionne Leach, Tel 01296 690561

Here is the weather forecast 1950-style, by Fred Jeffs, Bill Cleaver and Harry Hines.

Venue: Dun Cow

Witnessed by Harold Burden

Bill to Fred: "What's the weather gonna be tomorrow, Fred?"

Fred (with right hand under left elbow, lifts his arm and with a circular motion to his shoulder), remarks: "I reckon we be gonna have some rain afore long!"

Then **Bill** (left arm outstretched and with a backward and forward movement), says: "Arr, I reckon we be".

Harry (who had been sitting there listening to these predictions, slowly pushes his right leg forward and retrieving it even more slowly), says: "Arr, I'm damned if we ent".

Tomorrow's weather - rained all day.

EASTER EGG HUNT

**Tuesday 11 April
at Hornton School**

Pre-school children and toddlers start 3.20 p.m. prompt
School children start 3.30 p.m. prompt

£1 per child
ALL WELCOME
Raffle

In aid of Peach Tree Pre-School

HORNTON ALLSORTS DRAMA GROUP was formed in 1981 and is still thriving. The cast may have changed but the gags haven't! We tend to either produce a play or pantomime depending on the cast and stamina available! The popular performance is still the theme night - usually two a year and always a sell-out, the Irish Nite being the last in November 1999. Live music, entertainment and a hearty meal, all for £6 a head. At present "Robinson Crusoe" is under production for early March 2000, and then plans are underway with many suggestions for the theme night in late Spring

DAMIAN'S WORLD CHALLENGE QUIZ

Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to make my Quiz fundraising evening at the Dun Cow in November so successful. A very good night seemed to be had by all and, together with other donations, the total raised towards my Venezuela fund was a staggering £167! Thank you all very much.

Several teams have asked for another Quiz night to be arranged and we are hoping to do this before the Spring.

Damian Hemmings

LAST CHANCE!!

If anyone would like a copy of the Millennium village photograph taken in July then please contact Jenny Holt as soon as possible on 670544. The photographs cost £17.50 each and there will be no more printed after the next batch. If you have already ordered one from Jenny then please contact her regarding its collection. A key to the photograph will be available shortly at a cost of 50 pence.

Don't miss out on an historic never-to-be-repeated opportunity - get in touch with Jenny now!

WILL VILLAGE PUBS SURVIVE TO 2099?

During the last century and in particular the last forty years of it, we have seen vast changes in rural life. Village shops, post offices, schools, churches and pubs have disappeared for ever in their thousands. However, even going through that scenario most villages have been able to keep ONE pub going. But even more pressure is put on them to disappear into oblivion.

During the last six years we have had the National Lottery to contend with. From having a busy Saturday night trade, now very few people come out, having stayed at home to check their numbers. All day opening in many cases has ruined lunch time trade in rural pubs. Sunday shopping made considerable changes to what was a busy and lively Sunday lunchtime session, where village folk came down for a drink before returning home for Sunday lunch. Yet once again the real turning point came with all-day Sunday opening which not only killed off pub trade but has changed people's Sunday way of life. Sky television has done a lot to reduce midweek trade. People stay at home to watch the football, and to put the lid on the can, nearly all our bachelors have found women, God bless 'em!

As an aside, I remember talking to our previous vicar, Rev. Allan Lancashire. He brought up the point that the Church of England spent some £250k on researching why Evensong had almost become non-existent. The answer was the 26 weekly episodes of "The Forsythe Saga" at 7.00 p.m. on Sunday evenings. PEOPLE LOST THE HABIT - ROUTINE - call it what you will. Exactly what is happening to your amenity, your Pub.

To finalise this article, Doreen and I would like to thank the many folk who have supported us over 17 years, and a big thank you to those who helped on New Year's Eve with the decorations, serving behind the bar and then came and cleaned up next day. We enjoyed ourselves and I think most other people did too.

So, folks, the message for the future for this Pub and many more is:- Get back to the routine/habit. If you don't use it you will lose it.

Terry Bell, Landlord, Dun Cow.

18TH CONGRATULATIONS
to Patrick Connor, Damian Hemmings and Gemma Burden

FOOTBALL

by Malcolm Cross

The 1999/2000 season has been quite a successful one for Hornton Football Club.

The first team at present are top of Division One with just a few games to play, so with a little bit of luck they should gain promotion to the Premier League. They are also still in two Cup competitions which are to be played at the end of February and beginning of March.

The second team are not doing quite so well in the League although are still in two Cup competitions. Their best chance is in a semi-final on the last Saturday in February at home against Broughton and North Newington.

(Editor's note - GOOD LUCK LADS!)

BJNGO

MONDAY, 3 APRIL 2000

7.30 P.M. AT THE CHURCH ROOM

FOR THE SMALL PLAYING FIELD

BJNGO

MONDAY, 10 APRIL 2000

7.30 P.M. AT THE CHURCH ROOM

FOR THE LADIES WORKING PARTY

Please note: articles etc. for the next issue of The Gossip by end of April to Editors Julie Stanley & Ann Hemmings