

The Gossip

HORNTON

Issue Number 38

SUMMER 2000



ROYAL DATE FOR HORNTON COUPLE

On Thursday 20th July Lesley and John, from The Barn, in Hornton, travelled to London to meet the Queen. They had been invited to the Queen's Garden Party in recognition of their work for services to education in Warwickshire. The invitation came as a complete surprise since Lesley and John had no prior knowledge at all.

The Story is now taken up by Lesley and John.....

"We set off on the 20th July and drove to London. We had a car park pass that enabled us to park in the Mall - right outside the palace gates. We crossed over the road, after posing for a photograph, and entered through the centre gates. We walked along the red carpet and into the Palace via the main door (frequented by Bill Clinton and others!) what an experience.

As we entered the garden, at the rear of the Palace, we saw the tea set out for guests and the Royal enclosure. We mingled with many people, including David Trimble, as we had tea. The Royal party included the Queen, Prince Philip, Prince Charles, Princess Royal and the Queen Mother. We were in the "line" along which the Queen proceeded. She was smaller than we envisaged but both elegant and charming.

After the Royal tea we spent some time walking around the grounds. We sat in the famous Rose garden, frequented by Diana, Princess of Wales, and saw the tennis courts, recently the scene of a Borg v McEnroe match. It appeared to both of us that we were almost players in an episode of "Brideshead Revisited" - older readers may remember the programme.

We returned to Hornton at 10.30 p.m. after a truly memorable day. The new outfits and especially "the hat" were crumpled but our spirits were high. Our wish would be that other Hornton residents may have the same opportunity."

Some background details about Lesley and John:-

Lesley King is currently a Headteacher in Warwickshire. She had been Head of Aylesford School (students 11 - 18 years old) for the past 12 years - a school now at the peak of its success. Recently she was moved to a school in the far north of Warwickshire (an 86 mile round trip from Hornton but she has no intention of moving from our village) - Nicholas Chamberlaine School in Bedworth - a school that had failed its Ofsted inspection. She has decided to remain as Head and endeavour to move the school forward. The task would daunt many people - but not Lesley.

John Sullivan is Warwickshire's Principal Education Social Worker and spends his time managing a team that supports youngsters who are disadvantaged and experiencing difficulties. He works increasingly to improve the quality of life for such youngsters.

The Royal date for the Hornton couple was fully deserved. It is pleasing to see residents in our village being acknowledged in such a public way.



**HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO
OUR QUEEN MOTHER**



We have our own Queen Mum living in Hornton: one small tortoiseshell female cat called Ophelia was born 1st July 1980 (is this a record?)

Happy Birthday Ma'am!

Virginia Britton



**Grand Exhibition
of Hornton Memorabilia
in the Methodist Church
from Saturday 12 August for
three weekends**



**Village Street Party and
unveiling of the Millennium
Village Seat
Sunday 13 August at 4 p.m.
on the Village Green**

*Bring your own picnic (including
cups, plates, etc)
Tea & squash will be provided*

**Surprise presentation to every
child from Hornton**

BUSKERS

**SCAVENGER
HUNT**

HORNTON SCHOOL NEWS

We end another busy year by saying goodbye to six Year 6 children, all of whom will start at the Warriner School in September. We wish them well. We also give our grateful thanks to Peter Williams and Jennie Hart, both retiring as governors of the school. We appreciate their work over the past years. Liz Jeffs is also finishing as cleaner-in-charge at the end of the summer. We are very grateful to her for all her hard work.

During the term children have visited The Dome, Cogges Farm and Hanwell to carry out a village study. Seventeen children sang with the partnership at The Apollo Theatre as part of the Oxfordshire Music 200 celebrations. Years 2 and 6 pupils have taken their SATs tests - we are very pleased with the results again this year.

During the holiday a number of repairs will be carried out to the school buildings, and Class 3 will be decorated. **We would remind everyone that the school grounds are private property and should not be used out of school hours without permission.** Recently some damage has been caused to the property as a result of unauthorised use.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school over the year. The School Association raised in excess of £2000 during the year, which will be used to help fund new computers.

The Autumn term starts on Wednesday, 6 September and finishes on Wednesday 20 December. We look forward to working with our sister schools in Sweden, Holland and Greece next term. We have received European funding for this project. Thirty-one children will be attending the North Wales residential visit in October and we also look forward to participating in an Asian Arts residency in November in November for which the partnership have received lottery funding through Southern Arts.

Wendy Clifford
Headteacher

JENNY HOLT

Jenny departed this life, July 19th in her fifty second year. She had fought Cancer, privately and without complaint to her friends and those who lived around her. Strong willed and undaunted she persued her treatments with a will that even surprised her surgeons. This was her way. Alas her struggle ended and we mourned her at our Church of St. John the Baptist. It was her last wish. At her funeral her brother Michael spoke of her strong will as a child. She was the second of three. Madelaine being the eldest, born within a Military family. Her father, Group Captain Squires had flown bomber sortees' during the war, for which he was awarded the D.F.C. and Bar. Jenny soon learnt the discipline of life moving to various parts of England, to Cyprus then on to Thailand where she continued to live for twenty years. It was there that she married James Holt, who, for his support of the British community in Thailand and particularly for this representation of British commercial interest in South East Asia, was knighted in 1974. This of course then involved Jenny in diplomatic life, meeting Politicians, visiting Royals, her husband forging links between Thailand and the United Kingdom. She became adept with the customs of the local communities. She would visit British prisoners in the Bangkok jails, most of whom lacked the publicity afforded today. Organising charity works, including a yearly Antiques Auction which would raise enormous funds for the Church organisations. Little do we know of the help she extended to refugees fleeing the Vietnamese war. A compassionate woman to those in need both in human terms and towards animal charities at home and abroad.

This life gave Jenny a gift which we had the honour to share, the ability to accept other people, whatever their rank or file. In her it was second nature, and from her it was extended to all who crossed her path in Hornton. Meeting Jenny was always preceded with a large smile, a cheery Hello, then time to talk or gossip (which she loved!) on any subject. Always uplifting one departed refreshed. That one body could fill the village green with her presence.

She first came to Hornton in 1981, and there after, on regular occasions, staying at 'The Cherry Orchard' with her dear friend and school colleague, Olly LeMar. By 1984 she'd caught the "Hornton bug" and she made the village her home. It was not long before a little grey bundle in the form of a Schnauzer pup arrived, duly called "Steps". This little bundle became a constant companion to Jenny and I know of few occasions when they were parted. Animals in our valley were always of concern to her, Foxes, Badgers, Rabbits, even the Cows that roam nearby were always under a watchful eye. Any distress call would be answered.

She supported our local charities. Often giving anonymously and generously. I could always depend on Jenny for a box or bag of "White Elephant". She would be so pleased to see the erection of the Millennium seat. The appeal for which she gave such effort.

Socially her sparkle would animate around a room. She adored a party or any get together with her friends. Her humour would abound and roar the loudest no matter how course the joke.

She had style with a capital S. I've chatted to Jenny after walking the dogs, up to the elbows in John Innes potting compost, pricking out bedding plants, and one hour later there she would be, putting "Steps" in the car, hair done, make-up perfect, Chanel bag, immaculate suit, off to town. "Harvey Nicks" sale, and a Matinee at the Ballet.... Now thats STYLE, totally AB FAB...wonderful, she wore modesty and beauty well. A truly good human being. I am one of the many in the village who will miss her terribly. Whilst writing this piece I asked a colleague for a thought, she replied "As I walked to the funeral I said to my husband, 'A light had dimmed within Hornton' and he replied, 'No, Jenny's light will always shine over the village'!

so

LADY JENNIFER MAY HOLT

"We will not stand at your grave and weep, you are not dead,
you do not sleep....."



PARENT HELPLINE

By Philip Williams

Now that the School holidays are in full flight, and hopefully some sunnier days now that August has arrived. A couple of suggestions that might assist the hard pressed parent who needs something near, and dependable for the interest of children of any age and grown ups!

**COTSWOLD FALCONRY
CENTRE
AT BATSFORD PARK
(40 minutes from Hornton)**

A mile from Moreton in the Marsh on the Bourton on Hill road. There are many species of birds of prey to be seen, and regular "flights" and demonstrations during the day, by Hawks, Falcons and Owls. Do go, you won't be disappointed.

There is an adjoining Nursery with a huge choice of shrub and perennials, many unusual. A shop and terrace Cafe/Tea shop for a well earned cup of tea, and for those who like to walk and gawp, the Batsford Arboretum is open daily 10 - 5 O'clock. Entry via Garden Centre.

**BURFORD - COTSWOLD
WILDLIFE PARK
(50 minutes from Hornton)**

Via Chipping Norton. Animals, Birds, Fish and Reptiles from all corners of the globe. To be found set out in a huge garden and parkland setting. Adventure Playground, Tropical House and Children's Farmyard feature. Open 10 - 7 O'clock, there is a Cafe and picnic area. To be found on the Lechlade Road A361 from the A40 Burford Roundabout. The husband of a recent client of mine, in charge (unusually) of two daughters, aged 6 years and 8 years, had a great day. He being an American, I took that as a good recommendation. Enjoy!



**HORNTON EXHIBITION
OPENING TIMES**

At Methodist Church
Saturday August 12th
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday August 13th
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday August 19th
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday August 20th
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday August 26th
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
and
CHAPEL COFFEE
MORNING ON CAR PARK
WEATHER PERMITTING

Sunday August 27th
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS WILL
BE SERVED EACH
AFTERNOON
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
on car park weather
permitting

**Sponsored
Ride or Stride
for
Oxfordshire Historic
Churches Trust
on
Saturday 9th Sept.**

Bicycle or walk around Oxfordshire to raise money for YOUR CHURCH and for the Oxfordshire Churches Trust. You can also be sponsored as a welcomer - volunteers needed to sign in the bikers and walkers as they visit Hornton's two Churches. Sponsor forms from Julie Stanley, Langway, Bell Street.

GROWING OLD

None of us is getting any younger but these lines describe how to tell when you cross the threshold from middle to Old age. This is what to watch for!

Everything hurts - what doesn't hurt, doesn't work. The gleam in your eye is the sun hitting the bifocals. You feel like the morning after, but you haven't been anywhere.

Your address book contains only names ending in M.D. You get winded playing cards. Your children start to look middle-aged.

You know all the answers, but no-one asks the questions. You look forward to a dull evening.

You need your glasses to find your glasses.

You turn out the light for economy instead of romance.

You sit in a rocking chair and can't make it go.

Your knees buckle but your belt won't.

You put your bra on back to front and it fits better.

Your house is too big and your medicine chest isn't big enough.

You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles.



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CHURCH SERVICES

First Sunday in Month

8.30 am Parish Church
11.00 am Methodist Church
(United Service)

Second Sunday in Month

11.00 am Parish Church
(United Service)

Third Sunday in Month

10.30 am Parish Church
(Matins)
11.00 am Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday in Month

11.00 am Parish Church
11.00 am Methodist Church

United Sunday School
meet in the Sunday School
Room, Methodist Church
at 11.00 am. starting in
September

SONGS OF PRAISE

Our annual 'Songs of Praise' service for the Millennium was held in the Methodist Church on Sunday 6th August. It was again a wonderful occasion. Seven favourite hymns were chosen from the many requests collected during July and these were sung with great gusto by the large congregation, accompanied by Chas Fox on the Organ.

The eighteen strong choir especially formed for the occasion, sang six pieces selected and lead by Jean Puddle. Joy Hillman and Irene Harwood sang a duet, Cyril Cowan sang a solo and the Harwood family treated us to a musical round accompanying themselves on Guitar, chime bars drum and shakers. Lindy Bridgeman lead the service and Jane Wain and David Harwood read pieces for meditation. The atmosphere was enhanced by the beautiful flower arrangements of Philip Williams.

Thank you to all who took part and to all who came and joined us in raising our voices to the glory of God. Truly it was a 'Great Day'.



DOES ANYONE KNOW?

By Philip Williams

Our churchyard has a marvellous array of headstones, many of which date back to the 17th and 18th century, the stone quarried from our local quarries, many of huge proportion. The most decorative being of the Jacobean period with their scroll and Cherub cappings. Many of the Victorian age carry names of families living in the village today.

On the west side of the Church porch there is a memorial in the shape of a casket, now wind blown and blistered by years of varied weather conditions. The words remaining tell of the death of five children. some letters are obliterated, these I've given a question mark.

IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM, BLANCH, MARY ANNE,
ELIZABETH AND MARY (SON
AND DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM
AND ANNE FORTNUM)
?OLD IN? ELITY - TURN PALE
AND DIE, NEAR TO THIS STONE
FIVE INFANTS LIE. SAY ARE
THEY LOST OR SAVED IF
DEATHS BY SIN. THEY SINN'D
FOR THEY LIE HERE IF
HEAVENS ?Y WORKS. IN
HEAVEN THE CAN'T APPEAR.
?? ASON OH! HOW DEPRAVED
REVERE T?? ??LE SACRED
PAGE. THE KNOT UNTIED
THEY DIED FOR ADAM SINN'D.
THEY LIVE FOR JESUS DIED.

I have been told of a fire in the village in which the children tragically died. Can anyone give light as to the year, and site of this tragedy?

On the east end of the Chancel are two stones set to the wall, with beautifully carved borders, but with the unusual use of a "Skull and Crossbone" atop one and a "winged" skull at the base of the other. Both date to the early 18th century. What I feel makes them more of interest is that they are memorials to two servants, one being Anne Hemings of Birmingham in the County of Warwick, the other Ian Bryon (buried September 16th 1702). He has the skull and crossbones.

Both were in the service of a Mr. Meddams. Unfortunately the stones have weather worn and Mr. Meddams place of residence has been obliterated. He must have been a man of some standing to have afforded his staff such fine stones and obvious respect for his servants. There by lays a tale, does anyone know of there having been a Meddams family in Hornton?? , and to which property?

LOCAL OLDER PEOPLES PANELS

A chance for older people to advise and influence.

Feel nobody listens? Now people over 50 have a chance to be heard through five Local Peoples Panels around the county. The new scheme aims to feed their opinions into policies as organisations seek their views on services. It's a chance to turn ideas into suggestions by getting a word in edgeways before big decisions are taken. The independent Local panels are being set up by Age Concern Oxfordshire City & County with support from the Oxfordshire Better Government for Older People project. they will advise local authorities, health services and voluntary services.

This is definitely not to be missed. The idea has been taken up enthusiastically and those providing public services are waiting to hear what older people say is needed. It is hoped it will appeal to people of all interests and backgrounds, who just feel like having their say. A genuine dialogue and partnership in reshaping local services that gives a better balance of care provision, easy access and good information and advice is needed.

Already the Local Panels have started to meet. Cherwell Panel had their first meeting on July 17th. More people are needed for the Local Panels and those who do volunteer their time will be offered appropriate training where needed and out of pocket expenses will be paid.

To find out more about joining a Local Panel contact Gill Martin at Age Concern, the Lodge, Rivermead Centre, Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4XD (Tel: 01865 240619) or Barbara Jordan of Oxfordshire County Council Social Services, P.O. Box 118, Thame DO, Oxfordshire OX9 3FT (Tel: 01844 217904).

Summer time

and the living is easy

Summer time - holidays - empty houses. You know what we're going to say ... Make sure everything is safely locked away, both indoors and out, before you leave the house. And do tell someone that you're going away. You won't be putting them to any trouble - unless they are kind enough to make sure all the papers, mail, dustbin liners etc. are all put out of sight. But it does help their peace of mind and eliminate the dilemma of should they or should they not raise the alarm if a large furniture van arrives and starts loading up.... And if you are out in the car, take sensible precautions. Put anything valuable - CD players, binoculars, cameras, that sort of thing - out of sight in the boot, preferably before you reach the place where you intend leaving your car. And although we know that thieves can remove a steering lock in 30 seconds, use one anyway. They will naturally head for the "softest" target.

Let's all try to take sensible precautions and be alert. Have a good holiday!

Dogberry

HORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEEDED URGENTLY FOR SEPTEMBER

Cleaner-in-Charge - 12.5 hours per week (cleaning, opening & closing school) OR

Cleaner - 10 hours per week (cleaning & closing school only)

This can be for one person or two, on a job-share basis.

For further details please contact school on 670335 (term time), Mrs Wendy Clifford on 01608 811006 or Sally Phelan 730578

SPECIAL DELIVERY!

Congratulations to Jane and Simon Perkins on the safe arrival of their son, Hornton's own Millennium babe.

Also, to Linda and Malcolm Cross on the birth of their new granddaughter

THREE H'S GARDENING CLUB

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST
AT HORNTON PAVILION

ALL GOOD WISHES AND EVERY HAPPINESS

To Claire and Graham on their forthcoming marriage, 25 August.



F A R E W E L L

We are sorry to report that Chas and Betty Fox are moving from Hornton.

They have been part of our community for most of their married life and have brought up their four children here. At first they lived at The Manor and farmed the land at the top of Langway. I remember Chas driving his grey tractor through the village during the 1950s and Betty sitting on the wheel arch. Chas lost his sight and so they sold the farm and The Manor and had their present home built in the grounds. Chas's vegetable garden was immaculate - not a weed to be found and every row dead straight. The annual Rogation Sunday service was always held there.

The Church has always been a big part of their lives. Chas has played the organ for over 40 years and Betty has been a member of the Ladies' Working Party for as many years.

We will really miss them and we hope they will return often. We wish them every happiness in their new home.

HORNTON PAVILION

The builders have started on the updating of the existing toilets and have formed a new disabled toilet to comply with the ruling of the Cherwell District Council. Most of this work is well in hand and should be completed in about a week's time. Ramps will also be installed at all exits making it easier for anyone in a wheelchair.

The Pavilion Committee trusts that this work has not caused too much inconvenience to persons hiring the Pavilion.

Eric Turner

PAVLOVA WITH TROPICAL FRUITS

Serves 8

4 medium egg whites
200g caster sugar
2 tsp cornflour
2 tsp white wine vinegar
1 tsp vanilla essence
300ml double cream
1 pawpaw, peeled & deseeded
1 mango, peeled & deseeded
2 kiwi fruit, peeled
2 passion fruit

Preheat the oven to 120C, Gas ½.
Line a large baking sheet with non-stick paper.

Place egg whites in a large bowl and whisk until stiff and standing in peaks. Whisk in sugar, about a third at a time, whisking hard until mixture is very stiff and shiny. Whisk in cornflour, vinegar and vanilla.

Spread mixture onto the baking paper to form a circle about 25cms in diameter. Make a wide hollow in the centre.

Bake for 1-1½ or until crisp and slightly browned but still a little soft in the centre. Remove & cool completely. The meringue may crack at this stage.

Whip cream until soft peaks form then spoon into hollow centre of the meringue. Chop pawpaw, mango and kiwi fruit into bite-sized chunks then arrange over the cream. Halve passion fruit and spoon the flesh over the fruits. Serve with extra cream if liked.

The Final Cut

Well, nearly. The editing of the Hornton Millennium Film is now well under way - thanks entirely to the dedication of Anne Joyner in the face of horrendous technical difficulties from the editing computer.

If everything goes according to schedule - and the computer keeps behaving itself - the film will be finished well before the end of the Millennium Year.

After it's completed, that's the time when we'll be knocking on your door, asking for the money from everyone who has placed an order, as we'll then need to get it duplicated on VHS cassettes. It's also the last chance for people to order extra copies for that unique Christmas gift! (Extra copies can be ordered from Olly Le Mar - telephone 670544 - at any time).

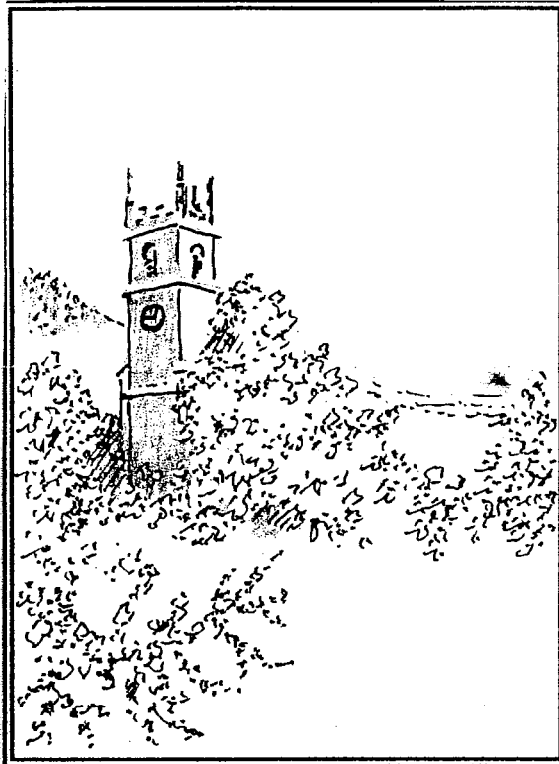
So many people have asked if we're going to have a premiere of the film, prior to its release on video, that I think we'll have to stage one by public demand! A premiere will also raise extra money which, with luck, will lead to the film's finances more or less breaking even. Assuming we hold the premiere in the pavilion, it will have to be held after the end of October, when British Summer Time finishes, as we'll need it to be dark outside so people can see the screen properly.

It should be a great night and I hope as many people as possible will be there to support it. Tragically, one person who has been closely linked to the Hornton Millennium film right from the start will not be there - Jenny Holt. Jen was a constant source of wit, ideas and inspiration from the very first time the four of us sat down to plan this film. She only knew one way to live her life and that was to throw herself into it. That's exactly what she did with this film and she was immensely frustrated when her illness stopped her taking a greater part in its production. But the film would have been much poorer without her and she became a very dear friend.

So I'd just like to say, thanks, Jen. This film will be for all the villagers of Hornton but especially for you.

Roger Corke

GARDEN ART EXHIBITION AT HOPKIN HOUSE, LOWER TYSOE, WARWICKSHIRE



**THE LATEST WORKS OF
HAZEL ROBINSON
FROM AUG 26TH - SEPT 6TH
10 AM - 4.30 P.M**

Thankyou Harold

The Parish Council came up for election on the 4th May, and Mr. Harold Hart decided not to seek re-election. He had been a Parish Councillor for 51 years attending his first meeting on 9th June 1949. In that time he saw the mains electricity brought to the village the four council houses built at the bottom of Langway, then later the eight bungalows in Perkins Close. In the early 1960's the main drainage was installed throughout the village and the 1970's the purchase of the field from the Banbury Rural District Council which is now the Sports Field, and where the Pavilion was built. Harold fought hard to get these and smaller projects into the village and we have a lot to thank him for over this long period.

He also represented Hornton on the Banbury Rural District Council, and the Hornton Ward on the Cherwell District Council. I feel honoured to have served with him on the Parish Council for many years, and wish him well in his retirement.

Eric Turner Chairman

HORNTON CYCLISTS CONQUER THE NORTH

Three Hornton cyclists (together with a friend from Oxford) completed the 140 mile trip from Whitehaven to Sunderland, passing through the Lake District and over the Pennines in the process. The journey took four days and involved a number of climbs considerably longer and steeper than Sun Rising Hill.

Any fatigue was quickly forgotten when we saw the views from the summits and heard the haunting cries of the Curlew. In fact, it became quite a nature trail as we saw Hen Harrier, Red Grouse, Golden Plovers, Lapwings and a Red Squirrel! We also saw plenty of examples of man-made landscapes including disused lead mines, derelict cottages, massive viaducts, the Angel of the North, and isolated beautiful villages.

It wasn't all plain sailing. We did have a couple of punctures, an interesting encounter with some skinheads, air guns and pit bulls in Sunderland, and an inability to find anywhere to eat at 11.00 p.m. in Ambleside.

However, our main memories will be six mile descents at 38 mph (dodging kamikaze sheep, pigeon lofts at Whitehaven, bars of chocolate at Garrigill and probably the most amazing pub in the country (not to mention the human percolator).

Altogether we raised over £900 split between the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust and the new paediatric ward at the Hornton Hospital, Banbury.

Anybody interested in cycling from the village should note that a group of cyclists of all abilities leave from the Green on most Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m. If you've got a bike you're welcome to join us. We generally end up in the pub at the end. Phone Oliver or Lynne Fickling on 670739 for further information.

CONGRATULATIONS to
Henry Turner on his 18th