

The Gossip



HORNTON

Issue Number 42

OUR CROWNING GLORY

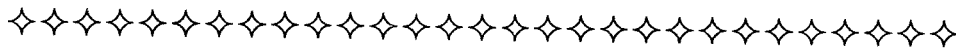
WE WON!



It's official. We are the Best Kept small village in Oxfordshire, thanks to your efforts. Hornton has not won this competition since the 1960s.

Hornton's school and the centre of the village particularly took the judges' eye. The school had flowers outside and the judges were pleased that such a small village still had its school.

We are all proud of where we live and it shows. The way we care for our gardens and keep our "patch" clean and tidy makes our village a neat and beautiful place to live. Long may it continue.



CHAPEL UPDATE

In the last Gossip I wrote of our plans to refurbish our Chapel. The transformation has now begun. People who attended the United Service last Sunday morning walked through the doors to be confronted by a bare Chapel. The entrance porch has been demolished and all the pews have gone. Our Neighbourhood Watch was on alert when the men came to remove the pews. They came to check they were not being stolen by Church thieves.

At the moment the Chapel looks a little bare and shabby with our old wooden folding chairs and a few borrowed from the Church Room as a temporary measure (the acoustics are even better with less furniture).

Our first improvements will be to sand and seal the wood block floor and the decorators are booked for the end of October. We will then replace the temporary seating arrangements with smart upholstered chairs (colours to be decided).

We will be having our Harvest Festival as usual on 7 October and a Bring and Share Harvest Supper, as last year, in the Chapel on Friday, 12 October (we now have plenty of space).



SUMMER 2001



Blue Tits – have the magical ability to put their eggs on 'pause' so that they don't hatch until the very moment that all the tiny caterpillar baby-bird food appears on the leaves. What a pity that a couple of days later they're drenched in poisonous spray.

Birdbrain

HORNTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Hornton F.C. is in the Premier Division this season.

Training is now on Wednesday evenings at the Sports field at 6.30 p.m. It is hoped to run two teams again so anyone interested in playing should contact Malcolm Cross (Tel 670562) or Glen Walther (Tel 670627)

SONGS OF PRAISE

19 AUGUST 2001

AT 6.00 P.M.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH

MUSICAL CORNER

"Lullaby Of Birdland"

Part 3

By Mike Webber

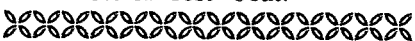
This is the third and final part, of the George Shearing story. We take it up again in 1949 after George's first big 'hit' recording with his then-new Quintet, 'September in the Rain'.

Many more Quintet recordings followed, notably 'Roses of Picardy', 'If you were the only girl in the World' and of course, 'Lullaby of Birdland'. They also recorded with many artists during the 1950's and 60's, including Peggy Lee and Nancy Wilson, and probably the most famous pairing, with the late Nat King Cole. Numerous people would know the Nat King Cole hit 'Let there be Love', perhaps not so many would know that the pianist in it was George Shearing. Considering that Nat was one of the finest pianists himself I'm sure that this was quite an accolade for George (Nat himself influenced many pianists, including George Shearing).

From around the middle 1970's he dropped the Quintet format and worked with duos (double-bass) and trios (double-bass and drums). In the 1970's he also teamed up again with his old friend, Stephen Grappelly.

George is, of course, still alive; occasionally returning to the U.K. where he has residences. He also still plays at some concerts, although not as frequently as in the old days. He will be 82 on the 13th August this year.

George's 'Quintet Sound' is unmistakable. The musical precision required to play it is quite outstanding. Even if George read the music in Braille first (I have never seen this documented) he still has to remember every small note or 'rest'-beat!



THREE H'S

GARDENING CLUB

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

SATURDAY AUGUST 18TH
AT HORNTON PAVILION

Hornton Primary School

The Governing Body of Hornton Primary School currently has a vacancy for a 'co-opted' Governor for a four-year term starting on September 1, 2001. This vacancy is one selected by the Governors usually to fill any skill gaps within the Governing Body or to represent one of the School's stakeholders not currently represented.

Although the Governors will decide who fills the current vacancy, they will be very happy to hear from anyone who would like to be considered for this role-it is always preferable to select someone who is enthusiastic about fulfilling the role! If you are interested and/or have any questions about the role and what it entails, please contact a School Governor if one is already known to you or to Dave Harwood, Chairman of the Governors, via the school.

Hornton School News

This last year has been a very successful one for the school. We have received three awards - Investors in People status, which recognises the commitment of all the staff who work for the school; the Basic Skills Quality Mark, which recognises the high standards the children achieve, and most recently the DFEE have awarded the school Beacon Status. This is a very high accolade and one that recognises the work of everyone at Hornton School, both paid and voluntary.

This term children have visited Sulgrave Manor, The Coldswold Wildlife Park and the older children have taken part in two initiatives-Junior Citizen 2001 and the IMP's programme held at the Horton Hospital to train children in accident prevention. A number of Warriner Partnership events have been held - sports, 'kwik' cricket, a

swimming gala and the area athletics tournament. We also finally managed an enjoyable Sports Activity session on the final day of term!

Thank you to everyone who supported the school fete and grand draw - a grand total of just about £1600 was raised. A truly superb effort! Look on our website for further fete news.

Our musical 'The Sea' was enjoyed by pupils, staff and audience alike. The children worked extremely hard to perfect their performance and, I think, were highly successful.

During the summer break some work will be carried out on the large windows of the school and the children's cloakroom will be decorated.

We say farewell to 12 year 6 pupils, most of whom will be attending the Warriner School in September. We also say goodbye to Kate Hart, one of our lunchtime supervisors, who is leaving to have her second baby. We wish them all well.

I trust that everyone has a pleasant summer and that the weather is kind. School starts again for the children on Wednesday 5th September.

Wendy Clifford
Headteacher

Ride or Stride

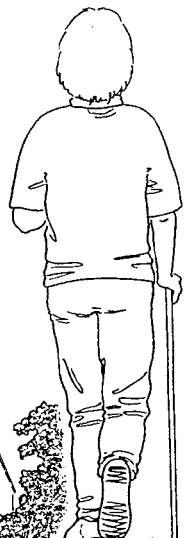
Sat 8th Sept 2001

A sponsored event to raise money for:

- The church of your choice and
- The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust



Your contribution will be divided equally between the two



Sponsorship forms available from:
JULIE STANLEY Tel: 670507
County Organiser: John Hewitt (01865)735180 Registered Charity 235644

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By Lynne Corke

You will know from 'The Gossip' that work has been going ahead on the Hornton Website since the Spring issue we have:

- Formed a committee to take forward the website.
- Had a table at the school fete.
- Done further work on the site's design and content.
- Submitted a bid for funding from Oxfordshire County Council.
- And circulated a survey to every home in the village to assess internet and e-mail access (at home or work)!

We are waiting to hear from Oxfordshire before we can do more work on the site itself but we:

Need your survey response. If you haven't had a copy or it hasn't been collected contact Lynne Fickling on 670739 or at Henstones, Bell Street.

Will be at the village social evening on 14th September to tell you about the website and how it could be used.

We want to hear from anyone interested in joining a babysitting circle (who hasn't let us know before) and

We need permanent content for reference and will in future need current up to date content about things going on in the village. Content for inclusion can be passed to Paul Barrett or James Prentice at Starveall Barn on Quarry road or by e-mail to Paul at p.f.barrett@btinternet.com. We have already set up contact with the Parish Council, the school, the Church and the Chapel.

The committee is myself, Paul and James, Lynne Fickling, John Offord, Brian Wright and Mathew Burden. You can ask any of us about the website!

Lynne Corke
670673

Watch out – watch out! There's a Humphrey about!!

The garden tools 'Humphreys' are around again – in Bloxham last week, we're told. How many of you remember the Milk Marketing Board's milk thief, Humphrey? If you didn't watch your milk carefully, he would appear and slurp it up through a straw – as easy as that! Much the same with things you leave about – slurped up, sold at the local car boot sale. "My uncle died last month and we're clearing out his stuff", they say. "Got to let it go cheap; haven't room for all this at home." Uncle, my eye! It's your precious stuff, bought

with your hard-earned cash, chosen with care – and then left about.

Putting it away in a shed is on the way, but not enough. It's not exactly difficult to open a shed door! The next step is to mark it. (A few Alpha-dot kits left at discount prices: 670275)

But the most practical deterrent is to **LOCK THE SHED DOOR**. And make sure that the lock is a strong one, and the hinges secure. Sheds are not always very sturdily constructed, but a few modifications can help deter a potential thief. The following advice comes from the Banbury Area Watch newsletter, 1998.

Most hinges are of the 'T' hinge type, screwed to the shed exposing both screws and hinge. Change the screws for the security type which can only be screwed in a clockwise direction and cannot therefore be unscrewed. Alternatively, the hinges can be fitted using coach bolts instead of screws. Doors should be locked with a hasp and staple which, in the closed position, hides the screw heads. The padlock should be of good quality and with a short shackle so that it can't be attacked by bolt croppers.

Don't neglect the possibilities of prickly hedges as a deterrent to thieves! But don't let hedges grow so high that they allow a thief to gain access to shed or house unobserved.

Enough for you to be getting on with – NOW! Advice on securing garages can be obtained by ringing 670275.

I did enjoy the party last week – wasn't it fun? Thanks for coming!

Dogberry

CONGRATULATIONS

to Lorraine England on her graduation from Loughborough University with a 2:1 BA Hons degree in Politics with Economics. Good luck for the future.

Best wishes to Peter Dyson on his forthcoming 18th birthday

GIFT DAY
AT THE PARISH CHURCH
SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER
10 A.M. TO 12 NOON

Jammy tip – to make your jam set always use cane sugar and not beet sugar.

Irene Harwood

"THE GOSSIP" 10TH ANNIVERSARY CAKE RECIPE

(7" round/6" square tin).

Cake should be made at least 2-3 weeks before required. The fruit should be washed and thoroughly dried before use.

Currants	8 oz
Sultanas	5 oz
Raisins	3 oz
Glace cherries (halved)	2 oz
Almonds (blanched & chopped)	2 oz
Mixed cut peel	2 oz
Grated lemon rind	1
Brandy (optional)	1 tbsp
Plain flour	6 oz
Mixed spice	¾ level tsp
Nutmeg	¼ level tsp
Ground almonds	1½ oz
Stork table margarine	5 oz
Soft brown sugar	5 oz
Black treacle	1 tbsp
Eggs (large)	3 large

Preheat oven to very slow (275°F, Gas No. 1). Cook on middle shelf. Prepare and protect cake tin.

Mix the prepared fruit, almonds, peel and lemon rind together in a mixing bowl and pour over the brandy, if used. (If like leave overnight).

Sieve the flour, nutmeg and mixed spice and add the ground almonds.

Cream margarine and sugar together until light and fluffy.

Beat in treacle, if used. Add the eggs, one at a time beating each in thoroughly and adding a little of the sieved flour with every egg after the first.

Fold in the remaining flour mixture with prepared fruit etc half at a time, gently but thoroughly until well mixed.

Place in the prepared tin and smooth top with the back of a wet metal spoon.

Bake in the pre-heated oven until firm to touch.

Remove from oven. Leave to cool in the tin for 15 minutes. Turn out and remove paper.

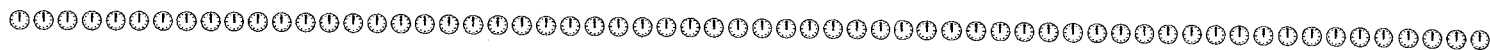
When quite cold, wrap in double greaseproof paper or foil and store in an airtight tin.

(Optional – during storage time unwrap cake and pierce with skewer. Sprinkle over brandy (about half the amount used in the recipe)

Cover with almond paste and icing as desired.

Contents of the Millennium Time Capsule 2000
To be opened in 2100
Buried in centre of Millennium seat on the Village Green

- 1 Millennium edition of 'The Times' newspaper
- 2 Oxfordshire Country Life magazine (featuring Hornton Church)
- 3 First edition Hornton Gossip 2000
- 4 Banbury Guardian January 2000 (article Hornton Millennium project)
- 5 Hornton Millennium mug
- 6 Hornton stone paperweight made by Michael Palmer
- 7 Millennium tea towel
- 8 Index catalogue
- 9 Hornton School prospectus, musical production programme, fete draw tickets, three Banbury Guardian reports
- 10 Hornton Pavilion accounts, ticket from Shows' party night, Gardening Club, club cards, 3 Hs flower and vegetable show schedule, Hornton Millennium accounts, postage stamps. Photos: Firebirds (Hornton Rock Band), Hornton and Horley Brownie Pack, Flower show, Millennium Committee, Parish Council, Stonemason and designer of Millennium seat, Banbury Guardian featuring stone Millennium seat, Eric Turner presenting Harold Hard with a clock for 50 years on Parish Council
- 11 Stone Quarry
- 12 Houses for sale in Hornton (cuttings from Banbury Guardian), Hornton Gossip No. 36, 39, 40 and 41. Neighbourhood Watch news.
- 13 Methodist Church preaching plan 2001 Arthur Miles's Thanksgiving Service, Palm Sunday service, Songs of Praise, Women's World Day of Prayer, Benefice Christmas card, photo of Benefice Service and Tea, leaflet Lent service. Photos: Church and Churchyard, service sheet for Clare and Graham Bottoms' wedding, photo of flowers at wedding, leaflet service for Battle of Britain 17 September 2001, (coins), Millennium candle which was given to every house in this village.
- 14 Village film, Banbury Guardian 20 January 2000 and 4 January 2001, leaflets asking for volunteers to help with film, invitation for residents of Hornton for village photo, village screening of Millennium film and tickets.
- 15 Crown House paint colour chart, wallpapers, samples of fabric
- 16 Hornton book by Arthur Miles
- 17 TV Times July 2001
- 18 Calculator
- 19 Foreign coins
- 20 Tool catalogue, leaflets for flight link and airport coach. Miscellaneous: daisy shire horse, Chinese take-away menu, Castle Inn, Edgehill menu, Sherington Doctors' surgery times, train timetable, bus timetable, telephone bill, electricity bill, tax tables 2001-2002, butcher's customers letter, Millennium pencil, food shopping bills, seed catalogue
- 21 Millennium film (There's Only One Hornton)
- 22 Past Minutes of Hornton Football Club
- 23 Picture of the boys football team



RECOLLECTIONS

House shown in the Millennium film where Laura Pike and Jonathan Short now live at West End was a farmhouse at the turn of the last century. Its roof was of thatch and it was a very cold and damp house to live in according to Ena Miles who was born there 93 years ago. She recalls that her mother often complained about the crickets in the kitchen. They left there when she was 2 years old and moved to a farm at Darlingscote.

Some time later John and Edith Sumner bought the property where they farmed and started a carrier business. No major alterations took place to the house but during the 1950s the barn was converted into a garage with an inspection pit to house the two buses. When they died in the 1960s (within 2 weeks of each other), Vincent Sumner inherited the property and moved there with his family from Blenheim Cottage. The house was then completely modernised. The thatch was changed to tiles and all the windows were replaced. The roof space was made into rooms but it was decided not to install a proper stairway there as further bedrooms were not required and this would have increased the rate charge. Central heating was installed. The enclosed stairway was replaced by an open staircase. The fireplace and partition wall was removed from the dining room and an inglenook fireplace was discovered, much to Mrs Helen Sumner's delight. The kitchen was modernised and the house was decorated throughout to make a very comfortable dwelling.

A woman stood at the Heavenly Gate,
 Her face was lined and old.
 She stood before the man of fate
 For admission to the fold.
 "What have you done" St Peter asked,
 "To gain admission here?"
 "I've worked for the National Health Service, sir, for many
 and many a year.
 The pearly gate swung open wide as
 St Peter touched the bell.
 "Come in and choose your harp, my dear -
 you've had your share of hell!"

Vincent was a keen pigeon fancier and kept his pigeons in the pigeon loft adjacent to the house. The garden to the back of the house was made into a lawn and flower garden and over the years many Coffee Mornings for Chapel funds were held there during the summer. Vincent was a keen vegetable gardener and his plot was across the road opposite his house. They also grew flowers here to cut for decorating the Chapel. A new house has recently been built on this piece of land.

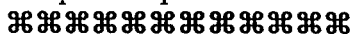
GIVE A HOME TO WILDLIFE

Birds: Put up nest boxes on a sheltered part of a wall or tree (facing north-east or south-east to avoid the hot sun), at least 2m off the ground and away from branches. Put up a bird table away from bushes and out of reach of cats. A range of birdseeds and nuts can be purchased, but make sure they carry the Birdfood Standards Association 'safe nuts' mark. Refill any dispensers early each morning and clean bird tables regularly.

Bats: Put up **bat** boxes made of untreated wood. Similar to bird boxes they have a slot in the base to allow the bats in. Place 2m or more above the ground away from branches.

Hedgehogs: Hibernation boxes may be bought or built to encourage hedgehogs in the garden. Cover with plastic, soil, leaves and twigs to protect and disguise the box. Log piles are good feeding grounds for these beetle, worm and slug munchers. Supplement their diet in autumn, when they need to put on weight before hibernation, with dog food and a saucer of water.

Lacewings: You can now buy lacewing boxes with lacewing-attracting scents to encourage these gardeners' friends in your garden. As larvae, lacewings are capable of eating 200 aphids in their first few weeks and will continue to eat more as an adult. Frogs, toads, **grass snakes** (all of which munch slugs) and various creepy crawlies will make use of log piles and stone piles as well as compost heaps.



Slug Pellets: including so called 'bird friendly' brands, work by paralysing the slugs so that they eventually die. Bet you couldn't tell whether a slug was paralysed by poison or simply being sluggish – unfortunately neither can our rare and beautiful Songthrushes.

Birdbrain

Why do bees hum?

Because they don't know the words.

Seed Gathering Sunday

The Tree Council has designated 14 October 2001 as Seed Gathering Sunday, with the aim of encouraging the collection of seed to grow the trees of the future. Groups wishing to organise seed gathering events can get more information from the website, www.treecouncil.org.uk or from



AnnEdwards @treecouncil.org.uk.

WHATS WRONG WITH BONFIRES?

In view of the recent problems incurred in the village with garden bonfires, Cherwell District Council has kindly sent some information on how to dispose of garden rubbish and waste. Hopefully this will help us all.

Linda England

Burning garden waste produces smoke which causes air pollution. This can also cause problems for asthmatics, bronchitis sufferers, people with heart conditions and children. The smoke, smuts and smell from bonfires can prevent neighbours enjoying their gardens, opening windows or hanging washing out. If unattended fire can spread to fences or buildings and scorch trees and plants.

Piles of garden waste are often used as a refuge by animals, so look out for hibernating wildlife and sleeping pets.

There are no laws to prohibit bonfires but it is more neighbour friendly to consider other alternatives.

Composting: Rather than burning garden waste or putting food waste in the dustbin a compost bin will produce a useful soil conditioner, saving money on commercial products. *Woody*

waste can be shredded to make suitable composting or mulching. Shredders can be bought or hired. **Recycling;** Most household waste can now be recycled and bins are available at most main supermarkets. Hornton School have a paper recycling bin which you can use. They receive money for their funds from this.

A bonfire can be a convenient way of getting rid of a large amount of waste, or perhaps just for fun – Guy Fawkes night for instance. If the bonfire is the most practicable way to dispose of garden waste i.e. diseased plant material that cannot be composted, **WARN YOUR NEIGHBOURS** – they are much less likely to complain. Remember that bonfire or barbecue parties can cause noise as well as smoke.

N.B. Information can be obtained from National Society for Clean Air.

<http://www.nasca.org.uk>

CHURCH SERVICES

First Sunday in Month

8.30 a.m. Parish Church
11 a.m. Methodist Church
United Service

Second Sunday in Month

11 a.m. Parish Church
United Service

Third Sunday in Month

10.30 a.m. Parish Church
Matins
11 a.m. Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday in Month

11 a.m. Parish Church
11 a.m. Methodist Church

See noticeboard for Village Services



United Sunday School begins on
Sunday

9th September

in the Methodist Church
9.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.

DAVID MILES

**Carpenter
Joiner and
Builder**

☎ 01295 670550



*Speech by Philip Williams as
introduction to the premiere of*

THERE'S ONLY ONE HORNTON!

"Hornton! There is only one Hornton. There are Hortons (no n), Houghtons (with gh) and Haughtons (with augh) - but there is only one Hornton.

Having read the enlightening book - "Walking through the Centuries - written by Mrs Bowes (Mark's mother) - we can discover that our Hornton derived during the Saxon period.

The Great God of the Woods, depicted as a giant with an antlered stag's head was known as Hoehn or sometimes Hornan.

The followers of this god, or leader using the same name, may well have settled along the stream that springs from our valley, making its way to the Sor brook.

Hornington is the first known spelling of our village, i.e. Horn from Hoehn, Great God of the Countryside, ing representing the followers of Hoehn and ton, the enclosure of earth walls and ditches. Through the roll of the King's Court and the Bloxham Hundreds, Hornington is registered, albeit in a number of guises: originally as Hornington in 1194; Horminton in 1213; Horlington in 1275; Horington in 1285, And finally as Hornton in 1302.

Hornton stone or gingerbread stone, can be seen in Canterbury Cathedral, St Paul's in London, Oban Cathedral as well as at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. It was a favourite material for sculptors Henry Moore and Eric Gill.

The Romans were familiar with our stone too, there being villa sites at Horley and very possibly on the field area above the new foot bridge where ancient crab apple trees grow today.

Our Church has Norman beginnings. Tomb stones from the 17th century grace its yard. Many from these earlier centuries bear the names of established families living in the village today: Webb, Stanley,

Gilkes and England most dominant, Miles, Hillman and Freeman.

Today most of us here are now part of this family of residents who hope Hornton will retain its atmosphere, social activities and well-being. Ronald and I came here 15 years ago and I would not wish to live anywhere else. Returning to the village after any business elsewhere is always with a feeling of home-coming and welcome.

There is only one Hornton."

Unfortunately Philip was unable to give this speech as he was unwell. (We send him our best wishes.)

Peter Whitehead read the speech on his behalf and concluded with:

"So, whilst it seems likely that there were people in this valley celebrating the New Millennium 1000 years ago, always assuming that they could tell the time properly, I think it's fair to say that what we are about to see is Hornton's FIRST Millennium Film. Even if those ancient villagers had been technologically advanced enough to have a video camera, there was one vital ingredient that they must have lacked - and without which no film would have been possible ... a Roger!"

Congratulations to everyone involved in the making of the Hornton Millennium film - all the hard work has really paid off; it's a production to be proud of and a great asset to the village. We've always felt extremely lucky to live in such a beautiful location but this video clearly shows it's the people that make the place so special.

Barbara Gadd, Blenheim Cottage.

There's only one Hornton, and there is probably only one village with a millennium video of this length and quality. Thanks to all those who took part and to the dedication of Roger and Anne, we have a unique record of a year in the life of a very special village. Those of us who live here will treasure this record and I think it will be of great interest to anyone who has the opportunity to see it, wherever they may come from. Perhaps, one day, the contents of the video may be compared with the works of Flora Thompson?

Ian Harris

LIMITED EDITION

Copies of the film are selling very quickly and I now have only about 25 copies left. If you haven't got yours yet, or can think of anyone you know who might like one, please hurry while stocks last - contact either Roger on 670763 or myself on 670337. If you still need to pay for your videos please pop the £15 per copy through 'The Gables letterbox - cheques should be made payable to 'The Hornton Millennium Festival Committee'.

The American format copies are underway and I will telephone everyone who has ordered this version as soon as it is in.

Anne Joyner

Congratulations to Roger, Anne and all the helpers for a job well done! The film was worth waiting for with its well balanced view of all the issues affecting Hornton as it prepared for entry into the new Millennium. It was brilliant the way the ten main people were selected coming as they did from each decade in the 20th century and from such varied backgrounds giving an all-round view of life in Hornton.

David Miles, Chairman Hornton Millennium Committee

I really enjoyed the film. Bill Freeman must have been very pleased to have taken such a big part and Elisabeth spoke very clearly.

Hetha Bateson, former resident of Hornton (Manor)

Former resident of Belle Vue, Rachel Miles, came to the Sunday film show at the Pavilion and was so impressed that she bought three videos, although she does not own a television or video recorder!