

The Gossip

HORNTON

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ONLY BIRDS AND FOOLS FLY, AND BIRDS DON'T FLY AT NIGHT

(A shortened version of the address given by Lord Tweedsmuir at THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN SERVICE held at the Parish Church on September 17th).

What were they like, those pilots who flew all the long summer days against enemy forces which must have seemed numberless: who, when shot up, crash-landed or parachuted down, very often found another aircraft and went up to fight again?

They were very young men for the most part, some scarcely out of school - cheerful, boisterous, easygoing, happy to be allowed to fly, something which many of them, since childhood, had longed to do. I don't think they bothered their heads much about the larger aspects of war and world politics, or the reasons why they were required to pit their skill and courage against the German air force. They simply knew that their country was in danger and that they were charged with its defence. There were also a number of them who, if they were not killed, ended up highly decorated. Such men enjoyed every aspect of aerial combat, whilst others were often terrified yet carried out their orders just the same.

Those young men, by today's standards, were extremely innocent. Loving to play games, many of them had travelled for miles of a Saturday with a bag full of football kit, to play at remote small clubs. It was there, at after match parties, that they learned to sing very shocking songs, the burden of which bore no earthly resemblance to their emotional lives. Most had little or no experience of the opposite sex, mothers and sisters apart, and were at first inclined to be shy with women.

Taken together those pilots were a remarkable cross section, for the extrovert majority was diversified with poets and scholars - some whose university careers had been interrupted by war - athletes, musicians, writers-to-be, and some scions of well-known families.

I may not have had a part in the air-fighting of 1940 but I was immensely lucky that my first posting to an operational unit was to 32 Squadron, which had so distinguished itself flying from its base at Biggin Hill in Kent. Thus I spent my days among seasoned fighters. I listened to their stories and came to admire their spirit as I relished their particular sense of humour. More than this, since I had always been specially attracted to foreigners, I was happy to have as colleagues Poles, Czechs and Free French, who quite outnumbered the British element among the officers.

These men had found their way to England to continue fighting an enemy whom they had every reason to hate. Each one of them had lost family and friends, homes and possessions and, at last, a beloved country. They were single-minded in their hatred, to a point where those of us who had not suffered as they had, felt hopelessly inadequate. A Squadron was a kind of family, close-knit and self-sufficient. We were impatient of any authority other than that of our Squadron Leader and the two flight-commanders. We thought poorly of staff-officers, even when they were pilots. When I came back from the East in late 1944 I became one myself and, of course, found that staff-officers were really splendid people, hard-working, honourable and sadly misunderstood!

Sixty years is a long, long time over which to stretch one's memory. Even so, certain things come back with surprising immediacy: the laughter, the friendship, the drinking sessions when we sang those deplorable songs, and to memory's nose the scent of warm grass mixed with high octane exhaust: to memory's ear the sound of engines running up, the telephone orderly's bellowed - "Scramble!" which got us into the air.

I have touched on things which will occupy writers and broadcasters for many years yet, of the courage and devotion of those young men who so selflessly hazarded their futures, and too often lost their lives in that far-away summer sixty years ago.

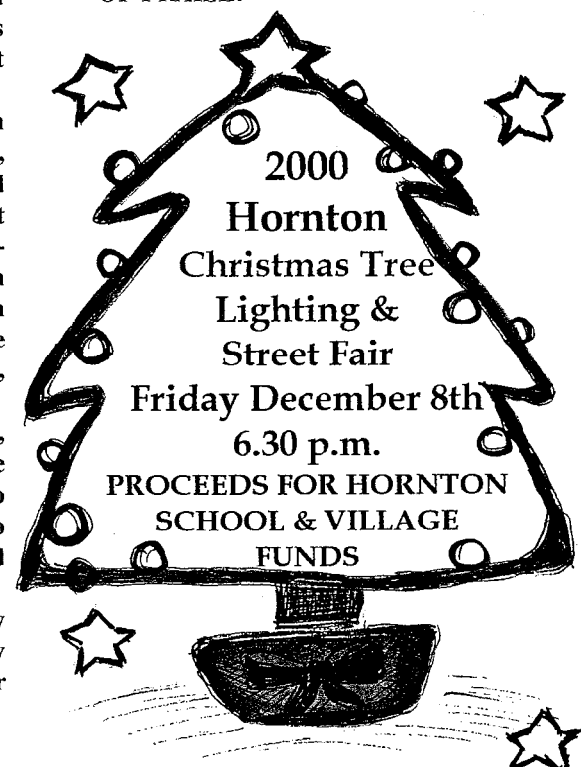
German bombers caused great devastation to our cities. Night after night they dropped their bombs onto London. Many Londoners lost their homes and all their possessions. Many children were evacuated to the country to escape the bombs.

Approximately 60 children from London were taken in by Hornton people and spent the war years here.

Charlie Evans was one such youngster who came from the East End. He was taken in by Mr. & Mrs. Price, a middle aged couple who had no children of their own. They treated him as a son. Mrs Price was a staunch Methodist and went to Chapel every Sunday. She took Charlie with her and he has been going ever since! Mr. & Mrs. Price died several years ago but Charlie still keeps in contact with Hornton and visits every year.

The BBC are planning to commemorate the Battle of Britain and Blitz by screening two Songs of Praise programmes from Plaistow, in the East End of London. They will be screened on Remembrance Sunday (Nov 12th) and the following Sunday. One of them is planned to include an interview in Hornton Methodist Chapel with Charlie.

HORNTON CHAPEL ON SONGS OF PRAISE!



HORNTON SCHOOL NEWS

Eight new children have started at Hornton School this term - we welcome them and their families to the school community.

Thirty-one children from years 4, 5 and 6 accompanied by five adults spent an enjoyable, if slightly wet, week in North Wales on a residential visit. The activities were many and various, including an outing to a copper mine, and 'mountain' walks. The children remaining at school spent one of their days that week doing a local study at Horley Study Centre.

Two initiatives this term will involve some of the children in international work. The Central European Bureau have funded a project between Hornton school and our sister schools in Greece, Holland and Sweden. This term we are sharing information about our schools - the theme is "Getting to know you and your Community". We are also lucky enough to have secured a lottery grant for a Warriner Partnership project of Asian Arts - dance and music. Fifteen children in years 5 and 6 have elected to take part.

During the week beginning 20 November we shall be holding a Science Week. Various events have been planned including a visit by a Science Theatre group who will perform a show based on "Forces and Motion". The fire service will also be visiting.

Our year 6 children went to Katharine House Hospice before half term to take part in their Harvest Service. Our own Harvest appeal raised £120 for the charity Concern. Our children donated money usually spent on snacks to the appeal and had a snack-free week.

We will be taking all the children to see "Cinderella on Ice" at Oxford Ice Rink at the end of term. Our Carol Concert will be held at the Methodist Chapel in Hornton on Tuesday 19 December at 6.30 p.m. We shall be celebrating the Christmas traditions of our sister schools as well as our own.

The School Association will be holding their Christmas Bazaar on

Friday 8 December. As last year, this will be in conjunction with the village lighting of the Christmas Tree, and we shall sing carols. A BBQ supper and drinks will be available and Father Christmas may make an appearance if he's not too busy. Everyone is welcome.

Finally, we were disappointed to discover that the school porch and windows were smeared with raw egg and flour after Halloween. This meant extra work for the caretaker and, I am sure people will agree, was not in the spirit of Halloween.

Wendy Clifford
Headteacher

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND SALE

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER
7.00 P.M.

IN THE PARISH CHURCH
FOR LADIES' WORKING PARTY

WE ARE SURVIVORS (for those born before 1945)

We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, frisbees and the Pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens; before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes ... and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?) We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual cars and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting along with cousins and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt or young men wearing earrings. For us

'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word. Before 1945 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker to the bus depot. Pizzas, MacDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an icecream, a 'gay' person was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1945 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today ... but, by the grace of God ...
**WE HAVE SURVIVED.
HALLELUJAH!**

BINGO

AT CHURCH ROOM
EYES DOWN 7.30

MONDAY 11 DECEMBER
FOR METHODIST CHURCH

Many thanks to Philip Williams and the Ladies' Working Party for their kind donations towards the running costs of The Gossip.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
ON,
SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER



6.00 P.M. IN THE PARISH
CHURCH
For Church of England
Children's Society

Film News

"A Hundred Years in a Hundred Minutes" is coming along nicely - we promise that we're going as fast as we can in the teeth of software glitches and the intrusion of the day job! Some of you may have noticed our intrepid film-maker 'Aviator Rog' dangling out of a microlight recently filming some aerial footage. He'll scale any heights to ensure that this film does our unique village justice.

We need to reassess the situation regarding orders and the price of the video. This will need to be at least £15 a copy in the hope of covering some of the expenses involved in the final professional edit and transfer. Would you please fill in the form attached and return it to me at The Gables, Millers Lane, regardless of whether you've ordered before or not? Don't pay anything at this stage - the orders will be cash on delivery. Please bear in mind that repeat orders will not be possible so we will need to know the exact number required in advance.

Anne Joyner

THE MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE PRESENT

ABIGAIL'S PARTY by Mike Leigh

Thursday 11 Jan to
Saturday 13 Jan
7.30 p.m. at Hornton
Pavilion

Ticket £6 (inc glass of wine or
coffee) available from
Audrey Turner, Tel 670304

HORNTON PAVILION

The building work to revamp the toilet block and include a new disabled toilet, plus fitting of external access ramps, has now been successfully completed and is a great improvement. The fund-raising sub-committee will be meeting shortly to arrange an exciting entertainment programme for next year with, hopefully, something for everyone to enjoy. Watch out for further details - your invaluable support is still very much needed.

Limetrees Cottage
Hornton

To all our dear friends, old and new

It was only after a lot of anguish and discussion, and with deep regret, that we reached the decision to sell up and move to pastures new.

It is over fifty years now since we arrived in Hornton and we have seen and done so much here. We have managed to run a farm, raise a family and build so many friendships so you can imagine the wrench it will be moving on.

We have seen and endured so many changes from the days of recharging Leclanche cells at Roland Miles, the introduction of electricity and sewage, to the many high tech innovations that surround us today. Who would have dreamed of television coming from satellites in 1950! The one unchanging thing has been the friendliness and community spirit that exists here. We will miss it so much.

May we take this opportunity to thank you one and all for your wonderful parting gift. When we sit and watch the sunset in the future you will be uppermost in our thoughts.

You, of course, will be most welcome to call in for the proverbial cup of tea and chat if you are ever in the vicinity of Bloxham and we hope to make regular visits back to Hornton.

Chas and Betty

The Young 'Uns

Sorry that the children's drama group has gone into temporary abeyance. Charlie Ward has moved to Leamington with his new family, and I have been totally preoccupied with the film. As soon as it is finished I shall revive the Young 'Uns - but if there's anyone out there who would like to do it, please contact me on 670337 for information.

Anne Joyner

CONGRATULATIONS

to James Hannah on his 18th birthday

CHESTNUT AND SAUSAGE STUFFING

450g (1 lb) sausagemeat
450g (1 lb) chestnuts
25g (1 oz) butter (melted)
1 cup fine breadcrumbs
Salt and pepper

Make slit in each chestnut, cover with boiling water and cook till tender
Remove skins and chop finely, or pass through coarse sieve
Mix with sausagemeat, add melted butter, breadcrumbs and seasoning.
Use to stuff turkey or chicken

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY CONCERT

The annual Concert moved back to the garden of the Dun Cow this year which, although does not have the capacity of the Sports field, is a lot more intimate for both the audience and the bands. Apart from a short shower just before the start, the weather was fine all afternoon! The almost capacity audience were treated to some great Rock & Blues music, with a fantastic selection of 'Byrds' songs as a tribute to the late Ivor Shawyer who was a founder member of Hornton's very own band 'The Firebirds'.

A special thanks must be made not only to all the musicians who give their time and talent for free, but to David Miles, Malcolm Cross, Ian Harris, Les England and everyone else who gives up their time for the event. Also to Terry and Doreen Bell for the use of their wonderful establishment! Last but not least, Mark Bowes who for the last 15 years has organised and brought everyone together for what he admits "is not everyone's cup of tea but is still a great way to raise funds for the village".

The amounts raised were £115 for the small playing field fund, £230 for the football club. An extra donation of £339.54 was made by Mark and "The Firebirds" for the new disabled toilet conversion in the Pavilion.

BINGO
MONDAY, 27 NOVEMBER
AT CHURCH ROOM
EYES DOWN 7.30 PM.
IN AID OF CHILDRENS
SMALL PLAYING FIELD

OUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

The year 2000 has seen a change in the Parish Council. It was election year and three new Councillors have joined also we have a new clerk.

Our new clerk is John Peace who is also Parish clerk to Horley and Kings Sutton. The latter being where he lives.

Our new Parish Council is as follows:-

Eric Turner - Chairman

(Roads & Footpaths, Finance and Planning, Pavilion & Field)

Eric lives in Bell Street. He is now retired, a keen gardener and a member of the gardening club. He has a large and beautiful garden which is sometimes opened to raise money for Macmillan Nurses and Church funds. He is a Church Warden for Hornton Church and has long standing ties with Horley Cricket Club. He is a committee member of the John Fox Charity.

David Miles - Vice Chairman

(Small Playing Field, Pavilion & Field, Finance, Planning

David lives in Bell Street where he runs his own carpentry and building business. He is Chairman of the Millennium Committee this year and a School governor. In the past he has been a keen thespian. He can always be found at the front of the procession on May Day as our very own Village Crier.

Paul Burden

(Small Playing Field, Pavilion & Field, Planning & Allotments

Paul lives in Millers Lane. He is a carpenter/site manager for A S Humphrey, Builders. He is a member of Hornton Allsorts, Horley Cricket Club and the Dun Cow Crib team. He sings in the Benefice Choir and Hornton special Services Choir and is a member of the Gardening Club.

John Offord

(Planning, Pavilion & Field)

John lives in Bell Street and is a freelance Business Consultant. He is a School Governor. His young family attend Hornton Primary School where his wife Jill is a teacher.

Malcolm Cross

(Planning, Allotments, Pavilion & Field)

Malcolm lives at Holloway Cottages, The Green. He is warehouse manager at Cleenol in Banbury. He very kindly tends the flower tubs on the round Green and can also be thanked for keeping some of the Greens mown. He helps to run the village football teams and does a lot to keep the pitch

in good order. He is a very keen gardener and member of the Gardening Club and is also a member of the Dun Cow Domino team.

Bill Jeffs

(Planning, Pavilion & Field)

Bill also lives in Bell Street. He has just retired and now does freelance gardening etc. He is a member of the Millennium Committee and is a keen traveller.

Lynne Fickling

(Planning, Pavilion & Field)

Lynne lives in Bell Street and is a teacher at Banbury School. She is treasurer of the Pavilion Committee and a keen cyclist. She has made village history by being the first woman Parish Councillor.

THE GREENS

We all do our bit to keep Hornton lovely. Thanks to Malcolm Cross we have beautiful tubs around the flagpole, and thanks to Jonathan Short we have splendid new gates into the field at the end of Town End Lane. Rarely, 'them from the Council' come round and hack and strim fairly indiscriminately leaving dead wild flowers and shredded litter in their wake. However, Hornton owes quite a debt of gratitude to the Brooks family who never fail to prepare the Greens perfectly for every function, and who keep Tink-a-Tank and other areas clean and weeded. They've done this quietly and voluntarily year in and year out for what seems like ever, and most of us are completely unaware of their actions. Perhaps it would be a good idea if one of our Parish Councillors was able to collect and pass on any contributions towards the Brooks' petrol and expenses that we residents would like to make?

Anne Joyner

*Our traditional **Harvest Festivals** were once again greatly supported and both churches were decorated beautifully.*

The Chapel held a Harvest sale and raised £86 for Chapel funds. On the Thursday following a Harvest Supper was held in the Chapel for members and friends. Unfortunately due to lack of space, numbers had to be limited. Everyone who attended had a lovely evening.

After the Church Harvest Festival the Vicar presented Chas and Betty Fox with a garden seat and a cheque from church and village

★ HORNTON ★

METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY
25 NOVEMBER
IN THE PAVILION

★ AT ★

2.30 P.M.

*Gifts White Elephant Teas
Cakes Raffle Games*

United Sunday School

The Sunday School has played a big part in Church life for many years. Sandra Parker, Isabelle Harris and Julie Stanley started the present Sunday School 25 years ago. Sarah Walther and Jean Burden joined as the number of children attending grew, and Mike Webber has always been available to help with the music for special services.

Unfortunately in the year 2000, Sunday School is unable to compete with all the activities available to our children on a Sunday morning and therefore due to lack of numbers we have had to close for the time being. However there is a family service being planned for the new year and Horley have now started a Sunday School so hopefully our children will not miss out too much.

Children from the village will still be performing a Nativity Play at the Christingle Service this year. Please come and support them.

CAROL SERVICE
METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY DEC. 17TH - 6 P.M.

friends. Chas has played the Organ for 47 years and will be greatly missed. Tom Pratt was also thanked and given a presentation for helping with the singing along with Daphne Sadler. Chas and Betty were then invited to plant the special Yew Tree in the churchyard for the Millennium. Keri Harwood and Anna Miles also helped to plant the tree.