

The Gossip

HORNTON

Issue Number 45



SPRING 2002.

OUT AND ABOUT HORNTON

By Philip Williams

The increase in much of our bird population, particularly among Finches, Woodpeckers (green and Spotted) Owls and Buzzards also show a more sympathetic attitude in farming methods. Skylarks hover and sing above the wheat meadows in high ground, which only a short time ago were canyoned in deep quarrying.

On a similar note the Glebe west of the church is being cared for by Bill Jeffs, who rather than strim to an overall level for "tidies" sake, has mown paths in order to allow nature its Spring growth and encourage a surprising variety of wild flowers to grow. There is a gate and the path "invites you to wander". You will find Ladies Smock, Marsh Marigolds, Bluebells, Comfrey, Blue Anchusa, Primroses, Wild Iris and flowering shrubs as left from past days when the Glebe was gardened. It is a peaceful spot and hopefully under Bill's care will become more of an Educational area for children and a place for quiet thought. As many of you know Bill is also responsible for the high standard of maintenance in the Churchyard. He has really struck a happy balance between the mown lawns of the yard and the wildness of the Glebe to please the perfectionist and the environmentalists.

Have you noticed that Honeybee Cottage is having a new thatch!! It's quite refreshing to see a young lady on the ladder and making an excellent job, and why not, I hear our females yell!! Amazingly she suffers an allergy to straw!! But I'm told regular treatment and mind over matter deals with that small problem! I'm impressed.

Two religious services recently stand out in my mind, one at St. Johns the other at the Chapel. On the 21st April a Benefice Eucharist was held for the Feast of St. George and commemoration of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The Church was full. The congregation made up of people from all the Ironstone villages. The Benefice Choir in their Burgundy Cassocks added full voice and colour. The Reverend Ormerod gave a stirring address honouring the courage, bravery and fortitude of St. George and Her late Majesty. The Choir sang "All in the April Evening", we then stood to sing "I Vow to thee, my Country, all earthly things above" followed by the National Anthem, by which time I was a hopeless mess! Roll on the Jubilee. On May 7th following the May Day Celebration a Dedication service was held at the Methodist Chapel to celebrate the refurbishment of Chapel interior. Again the Chapel was full (extra seating having to be found). We were surrounded by the glorious and imaginative flower arrangements created for the May Day Floral and Art Exhibition, each depicting a passage from the Bible. The Shenlow singers sang a medley of short spiritual pieces, the most poignant a Negro Spiritual called "Morning Song" which tingled ones senses and transported us briefly to the Deep South. The final hymn, with Mrs Puddle at full flight at the organ, "Lord for the Years" was sung with such gusto the rafters shook. I'm sure Lily Freeman could hear us in her heaven. Great stuff.

Anyone visiting the Floral/Art Show at the weekend or have joined the Yoga classes will have seen the transformation of the Chapel interior. Gone is the dour duck egg green, the restriction of the pews and the screen at the door. The walls are a sunny buttermilk with camel skirting making the windows a "feature"; the Parquet floor has been sanded and waxed to a high golden sheen.

MAY DAY 2002

White Elephant to:-

Brownies	50.00
Youth Club	50.00
The Gossip	25.00

<u>Pavilion</u>	600.00
<u>Bowling</u>	86.00
<u>Teas</u>	215.69
<u>Wheel of Fortune</u>	62.00
<u>Barbeque</u>	223.00
<u>Lucky Square</u>	60.00
<u>Stall Rents</u>	50.00
	1,296.69
<u>Expenses</u>	24.50
	<u>£1,272.19</u>

Hornton School

<u>Classic Cars</u>	52.57
<u>Bottle Stall</u>	160.00
<u>Diary Dates</u>	£212.57
(Still running £198.00)	
<u>PeachTree</u>	£150.00

Methodist Church

<u>Pick a Ticket</u>	195.00
<u>Flower & Arts</u>	200.00
	<u>£395.00</u>

Ladies Working Party

<u>Cakes etc.</u>	<u>£157.00</u>
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Small Playing Field

<u>Raffle</u>	<u>£100.57</u>
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Toddlers

Face Painting etc.

Thank you from Hornton Pavilion Committee for all the hard work everyone put in again this year, making May Day a great success.

This with blue upholstered chairs and carpet give a whole new airy atmosphere, modern and welcoming. *Cont'd on page 2*

SCHOOL NEWS

We are delighted to have some lovely summer weather to greet the start of this summer term. We welcome eight new children and their families into the school, which brings our number up to 69. We welcome, also, Masahito Hakamada from Japan. He will be working with us for the whole term as part of an international internship. During that time he will be sharing aspects of Japanese culture with us. We, in turn, will be helping him improve his English. During June a teacher from our sister school in Sweden will be spending two days with us.

CURRICULUM: Focus for this term is Growth - plants, minibeasts, life cycles etc. Class 3 will be involved in a local study of Hornton later in the term.

SATS tests take place during the week 13 to 17 May.

ARTS WEEK: 27 to 31 May. A number of activities have been organised. We shall be hosting visiting artists to do one large mosaic which the pupils have helped design, wood and wire sculpture and a drummer to develop some rhythm work with the children. Alongside these professional visitors we shall be offering experiences in claywork, sculptural weaving, poetry, dance and music. The week will commence with a whole school outing to "Nature in Art" in Gloucestershire on Monday, 27 May. We shall complete the week with an open afternoon, where we invite all parents, friends, local community, etc to see the results of the week's activities (with refreshments).

SPORTS: Pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have already taken part in the Warriner Cross Country Run this term, with some successful results. Partnership Sport for Years 5 and 6 and some Year 3 and 4 is on Tuesday, 25 June. We are holding our own Sports Activity morning on Thursday, 11 July on the Pavilion field.

SUMMER FETE: The School Association is holding its Summer Fete on Saturday, 13 July.

BEACON ACTIVITIES: We have been involved in a number of projects this year, mainly involving staff training in the Arts. This term,

however, the Warriner Partnership are staging an exhibition of pupils' work "Art in Nature" at the Warriner School from Monday 15 July to Wednesday 17 July. An Open Evening for parents, friends and other visitors will be held on Monday 15 July from 6.30 to 8.00 p.m.



Thank you to the Hornton Allsorts for the donation of £500 to the Pavilion's New Kitchen Extension Fund from the proceeds of their comedy plays

Hornton Methodist Church

Invite you to a COFFEE MORNING

In the garden of Langway,
Bell Street,

On Saturday, 25 May

10.30 to 12 noon

and to

CREAM TEAS

At Yellowell House, Horley

Saturday, 15 June

2.00 to 5.00 p.m.

STALLS GAMES RAFFLE

OPEN AIR SERVICE WITH THE SALVATION ARMY

Sunday June 16th

On the Greens

OUT AND ABOUT HORNTON

Continued from page 1

I expect most hearts sank when viewing the dawn of May Day. The skies couldn't have been greyer. Nevertheless the team's who labour to put on Hornton's biggest fundraising day were on the green by ten and quietly each doing their allotted duty. By one o'clock the village was already filling up. The white Elephant being ambushed by "Boot Sellers". Drizzle fell for a while, but thankfully by two o'clock our day went into full swing. Our captive audience arrived and the street thronged. The results as you will

read were good, and I was very surprised to find our "Elephant" had topped last years £700. Amazing.

Personally I would like to thank all of you who turned out your cupboards and came up trumps again. It is a bore, but you see the results. Thanks for the canopy Jonathan, a Godsend, and to my team Lyn, Laura, Jane, Ronnie, Roger and Simon. What would I do without you...? and a huge hug for Doreen Bell who even after a very busy day, fed the stallholders with a delicious Steak and Kidney supper.

Now to future events, the School Fete will be coming up in June. The Gardening Club holds its Plant Sale 25th May. We want a full turn out for the Jubilee weekend 1/2/3 June (Republicans can stay at home!) and on Sunday May 19th young Megan Bottoms is being Christened at 10.30, it's Whit Sunday and should prove to be a happy occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jennie Walther on her 21st birthday on 25 April

To Glen Walther on his 50th birthday on 28 May

To Katie Walther on her 18th birthday on 31 May

To Sarah and Glen Walther on their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 11 June

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

Hornton Golden Jubilee Weekend



The Highlights



Saturday 1 June:

- 11am Golden Mile Fun Run, Quarry Road Sponsored event, starting near Varney's Garage.
Tel. 730530 for details and forms
- 8pm The Challengers, The Pavilion – music and dance. Tickets £5 - tel. 670529

Judging of the Best Dressed Jubilee House

Sunday 2 June:

- 11am Church Service(s)
- 2.30pm 'Sports For All' and Children's Fancy Dress, The Pavilion
Bring a picnic - or food for the barbecues provided
- 5.30pm Coronation Nostalgia Display, Church Rooms

Monday 3 June:

- 10.30am Final showing of Nostalgia Display, Church Rooms
- 12.30pm Jubilee Street Party on The Green

Make sure you book your table in advance. Bring your own food and drink. Music and entertainment.

Prizes for Best Dressed Table and Best Fancy Dress

Evening – Beacon lighting at the allotments, top of Miller's Lane

Gardening Club visit to Highgrove

By Philip Williams

A visit to Highgrove, the home of the Prince of Wales, was awarded to us on the 26th April, following a request made by Sally. Lady Tweedsmuir, two years ago!

Names were submitted for visiting, the bus booked and the day eagerly awaited. After the driest sunniest April ever, our day dawned heavily clouded, with a brisk cold wind and threatening showers. Undaunted we made our way to Tetbury, pausing for lunch, and escaping heavy hail storms. Thankfully these cleared allowing the sun to break through as we approached the Royal Estate. Taking the trade entrance we were duly stopped by a Policeman, counted and the bus compartments searched, then waved on. I think we all felt an inner thrill of being on hallowed ground as we glimpsed the house for the first time, as we made our way to the recently built reception centre. We were made welcome by our guide, a charming lady who, as with the National Trust, gives her services for free, and for the joy of being there. Bracing ourselves against the wind we were led first to the west end of the "Thyme Walk" edged by clipped golden yews, backed by pleached hornbeams, giving us a long view to the house and ancient Cedar tree. We lingered by an ornamental water pool gushing its flow into thick lily pads beneath. The cobbled stone surround bordered by beds of spring flowers, tulips and forthcoming perennials, clipped spirals of yews and huge terracotta oil jars helped to give the area a Mediterranean atmosphere. (When the Prince has a summer garden party, nightlights are set among the Thymes and Lavenders creating not only a lovely sight but wonderful smell). We were then led away from the house to a woodland area that borders the kitchen gardens. Beneath these trees are many of the new projects, the most spectacular being "The Stumpery" where old stumps and roots of trees have been stacked and half buried and some arching the footpath. Planted

with Ferns, Hostas and Hellebores, the effect is pure fantasy. Water gushes from conche shells set into a huge plinth of volcanic rock, on top of which Gunneras (huge Rhubarb) have been planted. The effect in high summer will be amazing. Temples and statuary emerge as one continues along cobbled footpaths. A thatched tree house comes into view, built in an ancient holly tree, which sadly has died, leading the red and green paintwork of the play house to reflect its past glory. Through red leafed Acers and handkerchief Vibernums to a clearing in which stands the "Sanctuary" built to mark the Millennium, a Chapel-like building which would befit a Christian Anderson Fairy tale, set in Eastern Europe. A place for solitude and only the Prince has a key. From the shade of trees, through beautifully hand crafted gates an Azalea Walk leads us to the walled kitchen gardens. The Azaleas in huge ornamental terracotta pots, a statue of Diana the Huntress watches our approach. A small mound in the grass verge capped by a small faded wreath marks the place "Tigga", the Prince's favourite Jack Russell, is buried. The kitchen gardens were sheltered and warm. The beds still in early stages of planting, each edged with clipped box and pleached fruit trees, arching the footpaths. An Italian tiered fountain and pool forming a centrepiece and housing huge Carp, a gift from Sir Yehudi Menuhin. Hence then onward back toward the house and one of the day's most memorable sights. Set across the meadow between woodland and house an avenue of tulips, hundreds of them, in varying shades of purple intermixed with "ladies Smock" snakes head Fritillaria and Cowslips. Pure magic. The house itself a well proportioned Georgian "Dollhouse" in the Palladian style., swathed in Wisteria welcomed us to a series of formal and informal gardens and a glimpse of the family swimming pool. Prince Charles has a passion for terracotta pots, which one finds grouped in clusters around the house and terraces and befits the mixed cobble and brick paving that links the Thyme Walk and large millstone water pool to the west

view. Through Rhododendrons, Azaleas and spring cottage borders we returned to the farm buildings which now incorporate the garden commissioned and bought from the Chelsea Flower Show last year. Enclosed in a Moorish walled setting of Cotswold stone, the garden is planted to resemble a Turkish carpet. Summer visitors will have the benefit of seeing it in full colour as intended.

Our tour ended with complimentary tea and coffee with a selection of Duchy biscuits in the splendour of the reception rooms, surrounded by watercolours of the Prince's hand. Before boarding our bus again, a visit to "The shop" offered a medley of merchandise including wines, books, plants, Duchy products, aprons, silverware and the inevitable mugs, all profits to the Prince's Trust. We walked a full mile and enjoyed an hour and a half of visual delight. The reality far outweighed the painted picture. I left feeling privileged to have shared what must be for Prince Charles a haven away from public life. Without doubt he has a soul.

BANANA AND NUT BUNS

5 oz plain flour
1½ tsp baking powder
2oz butter or margarine
6 oz caster sugar
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla essence
3 medium bananas, mashed
2 oz chopped pecans
3 fl oz milk

Sift flour and baking powder, set aside.

Cream butter/marg and sugar together. Add egg and vanilla essence and beat until fluffy. Mix in bananas.

Add pecans, beat in flour and milk alternately.

Spoon into bun cups.

Bake at 180° C for 20-25 minutes until golden brown and skewer inserted in middle becomes clean

CONGRATULATIONS to Amy Harris and Peter Dyson on their forthcoming 18th birthdays

The A-Z of the Hornton Millennium film

The Hornton Millennium Committee has now been wound up but one of their last acts was to ask Roger Corke, the producer and director of There's Only One Hornton! to explain just how miles of videotape shot over many months was turned into a feature film-length documentary. Here's his A-Z of the Hornton Millennium film...

Assemble your team. I just couldn't have made *There's Only One Hornton!* without the local knowledge of Mike Webber, the wit and enthusiasm of Jenny Holt and, most of all, the fantastic dedication and support of Anne Joyner.

Borrow your equipment. TV equipment costs a lot of money. I knew we couldn't afford to buy it, but a cameraman friend lent me a small digital TV camera and lights, whilst another friend in the business lent me a high quality broadcast microphone. The microphone was very important. The biggest difference between home movies and broadcast television usually isn't the pictures but the *sound*.

Come up with a theme – or themes. *Visions of ten* was our first theme. We decided to interview 10 people – one born in each decade of the twentieth century, some born in the village, some who have come here from outside. When we talked to them a second theme emerged – *Hornton through the twentieth century* – for their collective recollections told that story.

Don't forget how active this village is! I promised myself that I would not film a year-long diary of events over 1999 because it would just take too much time. But there are so many people who make this village so special, so many activities that you couldn't leave out. The pub, the football club, the Allsorts, the gardening club. All had to be in the film somewhere, so *Hornton through the last year of the Millennium* became the third theme. Weaving the three themes together was surprisingly easy.

Editng the film began whilst we were still filming throughout 1999. We quickly amassed loads of material (around 55 hours of videotape by the end of the year), all on small video cassettes. That's far too much to deal with, so as the cassettes were shot I took them to my office at Granada Television and transferred them on to compilation tapes, cutting out the rubbish in the process (and believe me, with my camerawork, there was plenty of it!).

Finally, we ended up with about 25 hours of "highlights". But we still couldn't start editing proper, not until every shot had been logged and everything people said in interviews had been noted down.

Going to those lengths might seem a bit extreme but it's vital. There's no point in having fantastic material if you don't know where it is – and you can spend hours spooling videotapes back and forth if you haven't made a complete log before you begin. It wasn't just the film we had shot in the village we had to go through. Photographs had been filmed on a computer-controlled rostrum camera by another friend of mine in return for a bottle of wine. Music, much of it specially played by Tom Gibbs, had

been recorded. Library film of key events such as the Coronation had been acquired. It all needed to be catalogued before we could begin to edit for real.

How does the editing actually work? With film you physically cut it and stick it together but with videotape you *never* do that. Instead, you dub it from one tape to the next.

In that way, you build up a completed film. Sounds easy, doesn't it? But what order do you put it in and how do you reduce a day's worth of videotape to just a couple of hours? Here's how...

J is for Joyner – the fantastic Anne Joyner! Without her, *There's Only One Hornton!* would never have been made.

Keeping track of all the material is only the start. Then you have to capture it on computer and edit it into a sequence. As Anne needed a new computer, she bought one with a video editing programme on it. She would capture tape during the week and put them roughly into a sequence which I would "fine cut" at the weekends.

Long days and nights followed! It takes me about 10 working hours to produce one *minute* of television – and that's with an expert cameraman, sound recordist and videotape editor to help me. Here, Anne and I were doing all these jobs ourselves, so it took even longer. Even with Anne working most weekdays and me working nearly every weekend, plus full-time for two months, it still took us 10 months to finish the Hornton part of the editing.

Many, many times we felt like throwing a brick at the computer! We had to buy a second editing programme because the first was not up to the job and we often spent more time on the phone to the computer help desk than in front of the computer screen.

Nevertheless, in April of last year we finished what is called the off-line edit, with all the pictures and words in the right order. However, to save storage space on the computer, we had only captured them at low resolution.

On-line editing is the process which turned the low quality copy of the film in Anne's computer into one of high broadcast-quality. At the on-line edit, all the sequences are laid down afresh but at the highest possible resolution. This is the point at which we began spending big money.

Putting it all together in the on-line edit is easy. Every videotape has an invisible electronic clock called a timecode running from the beginning to the end in hours, minutes, seconds and frames (one 25th of a second). Anne's computer had remembered which bits of which tapes we had used and in what order. She put that information on a floppy disc and this was loaded into the on-line computer. The computer asked for each tape in turn, captured the bits it needed at high resolution and put them in order.

Quick as it was, the on-line edit still took five days, working round the clock at an edit suite in Essex run by an editor friend of mine. You would normally pay at least £200 per *hour* for on-line equipment and editor but we

were able to use the equipment for free and just pay for his time.

Repairs to the film were still necessary, though. When Laura Pike took us round her new home and Sam Offord walked across the school playground, they both had unsightly microphone wires sticking out of the bottom of their legs and trailing across the ground. They were electronically "removed" by a skilled TV graphics artist.

Special effects were added. Do you remember the way that shot of Harry Brookes and Bill Freeman outside the old Red Lion turned into an ancient photograph? A job for yet another skilled editor and different kind of edit suite.

Titles had to be added to the film and the pictures were complete. Well, almost.

Up in Manchester is a remarkable computer called a Da Vinci, which can transform the look of a film. Video cameras can make things look rather dull – like the sunset in the opening aerial shot, which looked waterery because video cameras don't capture sunsets well. But after the film went through Da Vinci, the sunset was restored to its original glory. Colours were brightened and over-exposed shots were toned down. Every major TV drama goes through Da Vinci. Why shouldn't *There's Only One Hornton*?

Voice-over from Mike Webber and Jo Joyner was recorded and then added in a dubbing theatre, along with special sound effects and music. Finally, *finally*, the film really was complete.

We then got them duplicated onto domestic VHS tapes, with a brilliant dust jacket designed by Eleanor Campbell, just in time for the premieres in July last year.

Xmas gift ideas were no problem for Horntonians in 2001. *There's Only One Hornton!* was the perfect gift – and is still available from Anne Joyner.

Yawn... it's was time for an exhausted production team to get some rest...

Zzzzzz

There's only one **HORNTON.org.uk**

Logo

We have a logo for the web site. To see it in its full colour glory, visit the web site. Thanks to Eleanor Campbell for donating a fantastic design job for us.

We're VERY popular

Closer to home, the recent Quarrying Planning Application caused a 25% leap in visits. Within 24 hours of a request at the Parish Council Annual Meeting on 15 April, the detailed application was scanned and made available on the web site for villagers to view. This important issue generated hundreds of visits to the site. If anyone wondered what relevance a web site had to sleepy little Hornton, they need not look any further.

A Call for help

Do YOU run a Hornton Village Organisation? If so, you probably already have a page on the Hornton web site devoted to your group. Please make sure the details are correct. If they are not, drop an email to p.f.barrett@btinternet.com or sniff@tgfy.co.uk and we'll update your entry for you. Or drop a disc containing your content in to Starveall Barn. If you have no access to a computer then handwritten will be fine (although your page will be updated quicker if you give us the content in electronic format.)

Let us publish your programme of events on-line. Maybe we can even publish your newsletters?

Which Organisations are represented on-line?

JUMPA – Parish Council – Brownies – Youth Club – 3 H's Gardening – The Churches – School – Cricket – Football – Neighbourhood Watch

We also have Maps – Photos – Useful Web Links – Useful Phone Numbers – Pet Directory – email Directory

Who runs the Web Site?

Officially it's an offshoot of the Parish Council activities. Day to day it is run by James Prentice and Paul Barrett from Starveall Barn. Like all other village social activities, this is spare time occupation for us.

Tell us what you are doing

We know how to put together a web site but we're not clairvoyant! The only way we know that something needs to be put on the site, or changed is if YOU TELL US. The Web site is a dynamic medium. The Gossip is quarterly, the Banbury Guardian is weekly. The web site can be what you want, when you want it, as the quarrying issue has shown. So, please give us your content.

Have you gone On-Line recently?

If you've recently taken the leap into hyperspace and have joined the Internet, remember that we have an email directory on the site. Go online and use the facility to send us your details. Not only will that get you an entry in the e-mail directory but you'll also receive regular e-mails from the site telling you about news items and new feature.

Call to Local Businesses

More than a few Horntonians run a business. How about a 'Business Focus' section on the site? Interested? Drop an email to p.f.barrett@btinternet.com or call Paul Barrett on 670919.

OPEN GARDEN AT BELLEVUE

On Sunday June 16th
2pm – 6pm
under the National
Garden Scheme for
MacMillan Nurses etc.

PLANT STALL
TEAS –In aid of Hornton
Youth Club
(served in
Church Room)
Any Cakes Welcome

3 H's Gardening Club

PLANT SALE

On Saturday
May 25th

From 10.30 am
at
Hornton Pavilion

JUMPA 'kicks off' its fund-raising challenge

Planning approval granted

Our new sports area has been given the go-ahead - and it's going to be a busy summer for the committee members of JUMPA (the Jubilee Multi-Purpose Play Area) who will lead our design, building and money-raising efforts...

Along with fellow villagers, the team face the challenge of raising around £30,000 to take care of the construction and first year maintenance of the JUMPA hard playing area, which will be situated in the corner of the field directly behind the Pavilion.

Judging by feedback so far from residents of all ages, there seems to be plenty of enthusiasm for this multi-function area that will cater for tennis, five-a-side football and as many other sports as we can fit into the space. It will certainly fill a gap in sports provision in this parish.

Horley residents are also keen on the idea: the eventual site will be accessible by both villages on a booking basis and two Horley residents, Mark Wright and Lynn Andrews, have joined our JUMPA team.

Grant aid will be vital to complete the project: committee chairman Steve Woodcock is leading the process of identifying the best grants available to us, locally and nationally. Thanks should go to all villagers who have contributed ideas on this front.

At the same time, we must demonstrate that we're keen by raising as much money as we can. This began in earnest on May Day when, among other activity, there was a JUMPA 'wheel of fortune' stall and Lynne and Ollie Fickling sold Jubilee paraphernalia too.

Steve says: "There's no shortage of good ideas on how we might raise money. Everyone is very supportive - and you definitely don't have to be an avid sportsperson to get involved. It's great, too, that it's been agreed that the proceeds from our Jubilee celebrations will be divided between

JUMPA and the Pavilion kitchen extension. This will give us a real boost right at the start."

And this is only the beginning Here are some of the other varied fund-raising activities already lined up for this Jubilee year and beyond:

- There's an extra JUMPA event planned for the Jubilee weekend - a revival of a 'Golden Mile' run, open to all ages and abilities, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, 1 June. (Some of you may have signed up for it on May Day.) The course starts at Varney's Garage on Quarry Road and finishes at the turning into Miller's Lane. You need to raise at least £10 of sponsorship to enter - see full article in this issue of The Gossip.
- Hornton folk taking part in this year's Oxfordshire Fire Service Spring Triathlon on Sunday, 19 May, will be raising money for JUMPA. If you didn't have a chance to sponsor them on May Day, then contact Ollie Fickling (tel. 670739).
- Hornton greetings cards will make their debut soon. They will be high quality notelets and cards with views of our village and are being produced by Pete Whitehead with other members of the JUMPA team. It is hoped the first batch will be on sale in a couple of months, perhaps in time for the Jubilee weekend. If you have any excellent images of the village - photographs or sketches - please let Pete know (tel. 730530)
- The next Allsorts Theme Night will be on a sporting theme - it will probably take place this summer and all proceeds go to JUMPA.

Some villagers have also already offered to donate money to JUMPA. To deal with these kind donations, there are plans for a 'sign up for a square' scheme, where donations of a certain value get a section of the new sports ground dedicated to the donor More details later this year.

Meanwhile, back on the practical front, Ollie Fickling is investigating pricing for the construction of the site (which will have a tarmac surface) and it is hoped details will be available for the next JUMPA meeting.

Finally, for now, look out for JUMPA's lively new logo, co-devised by Stuart Clegg and Eleanor and Freddie Campbell. The logo will appear on the back of the new greetings cards and - eventually - on the sign erected next to the sports area. (The black-and-white version is shown here.)

See for yourself ...

If you'd like to see the plot reserved for us, on land donated by the Nunneley family, then do drop down to the Pavilion and you will see that a new, temporary fence marks out the boundary.

Although the JUMPA committee has a full quota of participants, ideas are always welcome. Please contact Steve Woodcock (tel. 670795) or Ian Harris (tel. 670541).

HELP NEEDED FOR GOLDEN JUBILEE WEEKEND!!

Volunteers to help with decoration of the village greens, please meet outside School House on Saturday, 1 June at 2.30 p.m.

Also, help required for setting up tables for Street Party on Monday, 3 June. Please meet outside School House at 10.00 a.m.

The stray black cat that had made his home at Jubilee House, Bell Street, since last October, has been reunited with his owners who live at Shenington. His name is Henry and they were delighted at his safe return.

NOSTALGIA

Remember Banbury, that old market town,
Where it was pleasure to walk up and down,
To go to the pictures, or walk in the park,
To window-shop safely, when evenings were dark?

In Parsons Street, High Street and Market Place too,
Were shops that sold everything; isn't that true?
Pilsworths and Brummits for kids toys and books,
Knitting pins, wool, silks, press-studs and hooks.

Bernard Smiths, Kingerlees and Mansfields for gifts,
There was always the Co-op, "Let's go in the lift".
Dossetts and Maypole and Butlers as well.
That wonderful, freshly ground, rich coffee smell.

Allsops, Nathans and Timothy Whites,
Walking round town held so many delights.
The Market - the one place we HAD to call,
To buy Banbury rock from Leach's sweet stall.

Remember The Appletree for cream cakes and chats,
Or giggling in Judges, while trying on hats?
Miss Thurston sold wool for hand-knitted socks.
John Bonham fixed watches and winding up clocks.

Stevens, the stationers, was up by the Cross.
Chapmans, Wyncolls and Lays now we've lost.
We can meet our Friends in Woolworths no more.
Shopping's no longer a joy but a chore.

The Yeast shop, with baking utensils galore,
The Pork Butcher's shop with saw-dusted floor.
All these and more are so clear in my mind.
Am I viewing through glasses - the rose-tinted kind?

The market day buses were crowded with folk,
Who were friendly and helpful if a carrier bag broke.
Men with their sons, who always wore caps,
And chattering women with babies on laps.

Now we drive in our cars to the big Super store.
Buy pre-packs in kilos, no pounds any more.
Progress is making all towns look the same.
Each one distinguishable by its name.

I know things weren't perfect, sometimes there were fights,
Outside the pubs on Saturday nights.
But old Banbury had charm, the shops their smell.
What next will we lose, The Cross? Who can tell?

Brenda Kirkham, Bloxham (with her permission)

OPINION

At Hornton AGM on Monday 15th April it was easy to see that some of the residents are determined to put pressure on the village and/or Parish Council over the digging of stone on some extra 40 acres.

We've been here before in 1992 when 14 people stood for 6 places on the Parish Council. Two seats were obtained by those affiliated to the anti mining group. To the best of my knowledge nothing of any importance was gained by the action.

These action groups, or in this case anti mining, allegedly consisting of mainly new or relatively new residents to villages, seem to be more evident in village life. Whether it is planning, go-carts, mining or even some petty problem action groups rather than patience are used.

As an observer of such activities this type of behaviour does pose questions and answers from those concerned. For example, the mining activities around Hornton in particular and North Oxfordshire in general have been in evidence for decades. So why do you choose to live in Hornton? Didn't your property search point this out, did you look at a map of the area before you decided to buy. Maybe the world renowned Hornton stone didn't ring any bells?

You may have made your fortune or still be actively involved in business, the chances are that your success has been gained at some cost to others, so why take the high moral ground over other people's livelihood.

Countless road improvements, the M40, houses, drives, patios, extensions, stone walls, Millennium seat, the list goes on. You almost definitely drive on the roads and it is possible you have a Hornton stone house. Where do you think the stone came from to build all of these? It may have escaped your notice that the village of Hornton has built up good relationship with BSC and Bennies lasting many years. Neither the long lasting residents of Hornton or BSC/Bennies are going to see that co-operation ruined by people who have lived here for ten minutes.

This note is a small voice on behalf of those who have lived with mining in this area for generations. Never complaining and just accepting that a little inconvenience for a few years is nothing compared to the benefits for us all.

A democratic society almost means that you have to vote yes or no. Action groups are making me feel guilty by my innocence. I am happy with the status quo. I do not wish my civil liberty to be abused by anyone who isn't satisfied and who is hell bent on causing ill feeling by rocking the boat over some hypothetical problem of their own imagination. When Bennies operations have stopped close to the village what will you target then? Lawn mowing, children playing on the green, farm or builders traffic? It is no secret that dead villages attract the wrong kind of visitor. The choice is yours, a happy active village full of life or a dormitory where car washing is the main feature, which will be on Tuesday's between 9.00a.m. and 1.00p.m.

Action groups' alleged behaviour can be likened to the bully boy tactics of the Government's handling of the countryside. Start by trying to ban hunting, and then if successful, move on to other country sports and activities. We don't like it, so we will try and ban it. To need is not the same as want. If there is a sale for stone, there is obviously a need to dig it, rather than a want to stop it!!

Hornton Resident

Hornton Grounds Quarry A Few Facts and Opinions

Hornton Grounds quarry is owned by Corus (British Steel) farmed by Nunneley Family Trust and operated by Peter Bennie Ltd.

Planning permission to quarry at Hornton Grounds Farm was granted in 1957 by the Secretary of State to ensure the country's supply of iron ore in the wake of the Suez crisis. The planning consent gave the quarry operators the right to work right up to the southern boundary of the village. As it became clear that the land would be quarried, not for iron ore

but for aggregate, the villagers of Hornton sought ways to alleviating the effect of the quarry on their lives.

It was quite clear from the start that the quarry operators were going to exercise their right to extract stone on to all the land for which they had planning consent unless compensation was paid. This left a swap of planning consents as the only way to protect the southern boundary of our village.

Firstly, in 1992 the quarry operators proposed an exchange of a 200 metre strip of land along the top of Bell Street for a new planning consent to quarry land around Starveall Barn on the N.W. boundary of the village. The village accepted the offer. The quarry operators made it quite clear the offer was subject to the quality of the stone under the new area being acceptable to them and they began to carry out test bores on the swap land.

Four years later, the quarry operators informed the village that the stone around Starveall Barn was of little value to them and proposed a second swap of planning consents. This time they proposed to stand off 100 metres at the top of Bell Street in exchange for permission to quarry Nunneley Family Trust land at Manor Farm on the eastern side of the village.

The village voted against this swap as the land at Manor Farm is clearly visible from the road as you approach the village and would extend the time the quarry was in the vicinity of the village by 3 to 4 years.

The quarry operators were informed of the villages decision and have from that time been working right up to the edge of the village, 30 metres from the gardens. Now they have nearly finished quarrying the land for which they have planning permission, they are trying to swap Manor Farm, the very land refused to accept as a swap in 1996 to protect our own village boundaries, for the surrender of planning consent around Alkerton.

The people who represented the quarry owners and the Nunneley Family Trust at the open village meeting in 1996 when the original swap was proposed, are the same people who are applying for the new planning permission. Are their memories so short they have forgotten our opposition to quarrying Manor Farm? Evidently not by the way the application was made. An open way to have gone about this would be to have written to the Parish Council and told them they wanted to dig a new 30 acre quarry on the edge of the village and find out what the village's reaction was. Instead, the application was made so discreetly that although the statutory notices were eventually sent to the Parish Council, the first we actually knew about it was when a resident read the local paper.

So what areas of outstanding natural beauty are being preserved by a new planning permission being granted at Manor Farm? Well, Corus are prepared to surrender consents at Alkerton and at Hornton Grounds farm (the home of the Nunneley Family) in support of the Nunneley Family Trust's application to quarry Manor Farm. In the past residents of Hornton have been called N.I.M.B.Y's for objecting to having the quarry close to their homes. This is a good example of the kettle calling the pot black. It would be interesting to know if any of the other land being surrendered by Corus is also farmed by the Nunneley family.

The swap is simply not a fair one, the application implies that it is being sought for environmental reasons, it is not; it is being sought for economic reasons.

Surely it is now time to wash the dust out of our eyes and wake up to the fact that all along it was the quarry operators long term plan to quarry Manor Farm and we were naïve to tolerate the noise and dust in the vain belief that when the original consent was worked out the quarry would go elsewhere.

A lifetime resident of Hornton

Why has Quarrying Become Such A Dirty Word?

I am a lifetime resident of Hornton and Hornton has always been involved in quarrying. Indeed many years ago there would have been ten or more small quarries in and around the village. Its part of our village history. My father was a builder and was always very proud when he went to other parts of the country and spotted a building built with Hornton Stone. The quarry at Hornton Grounds is mainly for roads etc. We all have cars. Some of the stone is also used for building. It seems to me that Corus and Bennies are considering the Manor Farm site as the weighbridge and other equipment would not need to be moved. This would be cost effective. Surely this is good business practice.

As for the quarrying they have already done, Bennies have so far made a good job in reinstating the land and I have no reason to doubt that they will continue to do so.

Perhaps I am naive but I can't see anything wrong in the Nunneley family wanting to swap land around their house which has permission for quarrying, for the land at Manor Farm. They have been most affected by the quarry but have co-operated with Bennies and as far as I can see have a very good working relationship with them.

Farmers lately have had a bad time with BSE and foot and mouth. The Government have imposed many restrictions on them, which makes it very difficult to move animals about. I fear it is the end of Livestock Markets in this Country. Many farmers are giving up livestock farming because of all the paperwork involved.

The fields around Hornton would look very different without animals grazing them, keeping them green pastures and a pleasant place for us to walk.

They allow us to enjoy their land - should we not be supporting them! I suspect that most people in

Hornton would not mind if they quarry Manor Farm as it is not that close to us and it would mean that the whole of that section would then have been quarried. I think that the decision will probably be out of our hands as the planning will depend on whether a Badger sett will be disturbed.

Julie Stanley

THE HORNTON GOLDEN JUBILEE MILE



Whether you're an athlete or a couch potato, here is your chance to set yourself a realistic challenge! If you fancy yourself as the next Roger Bannister or merely need to prove that you can still travel a mile without the car, the Hornton Golden Jubilee Mile gives you a non-competitive chance to settle those arguments while raising money for the proposed Jubilee Multi Purpose Play Area that we are building in Hornton.

The mile is between Varney's Garage and the village turn. It will take place on Saturday, 1st June 2002 at 10.00 a.m. All ages, sexes and abilities are welcome. The cost of entry is £10, or minimum £10 sponsorship. More details from Mark Wright (Tel 01295 730530)

UNDER 11'S FOOTBALL

By Malcolm Parker

It has been another successful season for the football team. This season they have won the under 11's league title in the Three Counties League, having won all their games, except one which they drew. We have had a very good squad of players, who have played well as a team with everybody making excellent contributions on the matches.

Most of this squad of players helped us to win the under 10 league last season - also unbeaten. The squad of players this season were:-

Matthew Parker, Sam Pearce, Sam Slater, Dan Watkins, Tommy Miles, Alex Short, Nick Lloyd, Anna Miles, Oliver Wright, Joe Coleman and Sam Thornton.

They will receive the Cup and medals at the Three Counties Tournament on May 19th.

CRICKET

Last Year was a particularly successful one for near neighbours Horley Cricket Club both on and off the field.

The first team managed promotion to division one of the Oxfordshire Cricket Association after fighting relegation battles for the last two years finishing in runners up spot and in the process becoming the only team in the division to beat every other side.

Additionally they also had a successful run in the Airey Cup (the oldest cup competition in Oxfordshire) reaching the semi-final before losing in an exciting battle to the eventual champions Garsington. The second team had a solid year and finished mid-table with a very young side that improved out of all recognition as the season progressed.

The Sunday teams season was a very similar story with the accent very much on youth which augers well for the future of the club.

Off the field it was pleasing to see the field used for various sports and charity days again, as Horley Cricket Club are very keen to be seen as part of the local community.

The Club are pleased to report they have received a grant of almost £4500 from the 'Awards for All' Lottery scheme for development of cricket, particularly within the Youth

Sections. The money will be used to purchase new Practice Nets, Coaching apparatus, Cricket Equipment etc. as well as improving the comfort and safety for spectators and participants alike. Also gratefully received is support from the Michael Harding Foundation, who are to provide Trophies and Mementoes for the Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 sections. The club would like to thank the people of the village for their continued support.

For further details contact for club Cricket: Nick Wills Tel: 730143 or for Youth Sections Richard Hart Tel: 738561 or David Beck Tel: 258421



HORNTON TODDLER GROUP

By Ruth Griffiths (Chair)

We are a small but friendly group, meeting on Wednesdays 10.15am - 12.00, always keen to welcome new parents and their offspring.

This year has begun to see an increase in our numbers, and we are attracting parents from the surrounding villages, Hardwick, as well as Hornton.

As most playgroups close during the holidays, it is our policy to run throughout the year to provide continuity and a service where there might otherwise be nothing available. In an effort to fulfil the need for early years education, we now organise an activity each session, run by the parents themselves - a quiet few minutes (generally) in the morning with songs and music. As many of our toys are worn out and need replacing, and we wanted to offer some costly new items such as a dolls house, garage, scooter, easel and play parachute, I applied for charity grants. The upshot of this is we now have £300 from Banbury Charities. This will pay for most of our requirements so the money from face painting on May Day will be donated to JUMPA.

I felt that this good news was worth sharing with you, as it will go a long way to improving the service we provide and give the toddlers more scope. We welcome visitors from the village to see what we do, and if there are any parents out there who haven't tried us yet - come and have a go!

CONGRATULATIONS to

Claire and Graham Bottoms on the birth of their daughter Megan

Yoga Class is Underway

A weekly Yoga class has begun in Hornton - and new members are welcome.

There have been a few sessions so far - they take place at 7pm each Thursday evening at the Methodist Chapel, where the hall has been refurbished and the floor re-sealed, so it's a good space for yoga.

For £4 per lesson, we get an hour-and-a-half from our teacher, Pam Monk, of Banbury. Pam plans a different sequence of yoga movements each week, with a deep relaxation session at the beginning and end of each class. It's focused on relaxation, breathing, stretching and suppleness. Beginners are very welcome.

You'll need loose, comfortable gym clothing and an exercise mat. Also, a foam headrest is a good idea, if you have one. (Pam can supply them if you don't have one).

You don't have to come every week - although that's the best idea - just arrange with Pam what lessons you want to attend. For more details, call Chris Woodcock on 670795.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY TO PHYLLIS MILES ON 23 JUNE

Thank you, Hornton residents, for your contributions to our village newspaper over the past eleven years. Due to your community spirit we always have plenty of village events to report on or advertise. Also, a big thanks you to those people who put pen to paper and write articles for us. The Gossip is a unique record of Hornton village life since 1991 and all back issues can now be found on the Hornton website.

Thanks to the May Day White Elephant stall for the kind donation.

Next issue beginning of August. Articles wanted - to Julie Stanley or Ann Hemmings, please.