

The Gossip

H O R N T O N

ISSUE 113

MAY 2019



An amazing sum of £5117 was raised for village causes when hundreds of people turned out on a rain-free but chilly day to support the Hornton May Day Fair.

It was the archetypal village fair, an age-old tradition, with a May king and queen, maypole dancing, morris dancers, barbeque, a ride for small children, candyfloss, lots of stalls, a raffle and teas served at the Chapel.

"Children from Hornton School delighted the crowd with their procession through the village and maypole dancing," said Carol Overton, coordinator for Hornton's May Day Fair this year. "Many thanks to Ian and Isabelle Harris for once again training the dancers, to Tom Gibbs for providing the music and to the morrismen.

"Thanks are also due to all the stall holders who served and entertained so many visitors and for raising such an impressive amount of money for village causes."

The barbeque did a roaring trade with 300 burgers and 140 sausages sold. Lesley



Tilling helped Jan and Graham Hall peel and chop 30 pounds of onions.

This year the Good As New clothes stall topped the money-raising charts with its best year ever. "Our stall has been a part of May Day for over 10 years and each year it expands," explained Jenny Bowes who, along with the help of Ni Marot and Alice Protheroe runs the stall.

"This year we had a larger gazebo which allowed customers to have a good look at items for sale. This led to a big increase in sales.

"A big thank you to everyone who, yet again, donated the most beautiful clothes and accessories and to Anne Joyner who stepped up at short notice and gave us a location to hang up the clothes ahead of the event."

Jenny also said that she, Ni and Alice were proud to be able to support village causes.

Julie Stanley added: "May Day also produced a great result for Chapel funds with money raised from teas, books and bric-a-brac and art exhibition donations."

The Gossip had a stall for the first time this year. The winner of its "Guess the Weight" competition was Bernadette Jeavons, who guessed correctly that 112 copies of *The Gossip*, all the newsletters published since May 1991, weighed 1.99 kilos. Bernadette won a bottle of Prosecco and a box of chocolates.

Breakdown of money raised:

• Barbeque	£617.51
• Books	£184.00
• Bowling	£132.00
• Cakes	£302.65
• Children's Games	£48.00
• Cornucopia	£240.80
• Face Painting	£76.75
• Good As New	£758.00
• Lucky Squares/Circles	£130.00
• Raffle	£485.00
• School Tombola	£306.00
• Smashing Crockery	£277.85
• Stall Fees	£110.00
• Teas/ Art Exhibition	£508.00
• The Gossip	£77.00
• Toys	£174.90
• Wheel of Fortune	£19.80
• White Elephant	£358.00
• Wine or Water	£301.00

Looking back



The first ever issue of *The Gossip* was published in May 1991. That year, like this one, May Day was on the sixth of the month and featured on the front page. Apparently, there were grey skies and a sharp east wind. The May Queen that year was Laura Hemmings, daughter of Ann and Martin Hemmings who still live in Hornton. Laura has moved on since she "arrived in state at The Green" and is now head of PE at the North Oxfordshire Academy in Banbury.

**For 'What's On' see
centre pages**

Grand Garage Sale



Chris Woodcock on her pitch at Cromwells

The first ever Hornton Grand Garage Sale, staged on the morning of Saturday April 13, was a great success and meant significant donations for village causes.

More than 200 people from within Hornton and beyond visited the 14 pitches in garages and on front yards around the village. There were 24 sellers who all contributed a percentage of their takings, the beneficiaries of which were The Gossip and JUMPA.

Maps had been prepared to make the trader route clear. They were handed out at the Bell Street entrance to the village by Julie and Harry Stanley and, at the top of Millers Lane, by Glenis Griffiths who also directed drivers to the car parks at the Pavilion and on the football pitch.

A couple from Banbury, Karen and Robert Pollock, who bought several things, expressed their enthusiasm for the event. "It's very well organised and because the pitches are spread all over the village, it has given us the chance to explore Hornton for the first time," said Karen. "It's a beautiful place."

Chris Woodcock was largely responsible for the overall organisation of the Grand Garage Sale and thanks are due to her for all her hard work.

She said: "We were incredibly lucky with a cold but sunny and dry day and all of the sellers had worked hard to set up their stalls and attract interest. Many thanks to all those who took part and all those who supported them and managed to bag a bargain or two."

There was also much hard work at the church where teas were served. Nine creative bakers presented a wonderful choice of cakes and, at one point, there was a queue of 15 people, so popular were they. A magnificent sum of £230 was raised for church funds.

Below left: Glenis Griffiths did a sterling job at the top of Millers Lane.

Below right: Lindy Bridgeman and Sheila Hillman hard at work in the Church kitchen.



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Message from Julie

Ann and I very much appreciated the flowers and bottle presented to us by the Parish Council for our long service writing *The Gossip*. Best wishes to the new team.

Welcome

Hornton extends a warm welcome to James and Ally Hill who have moved into The Quarries on Quarry Road. They have two children: Tobias who is nearly four and Jonty who is two. The Hills haven't moved far as the family previously lived in Shenington.

If you're new to the village and would like to be introduced through *The Gossip*, please do get in touch: abbott@hornton.myzen.co.uk

Thank you

Cindy, Jane and Lorna would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has supported *The Gossip* financially, whether it be through sponsorship, advertising or donations.

Special mention must be made of Roger Corke who, on hearing that we were to be self-funding, immediately paid £300 into The Gossip's bank account, and of Pete Joyner, who immediately offered to cover the cost of our first issue.

This is it. While we have made some changes, we hope that *The Gossip* continues to reflect the community spirit that it encapsulated under Julie and Ann's stewardship. We hope, too, that it vindicates the faith that many people have shown in us.

Copy deadline for the August issue of *The Gossip* is July 30. Submissions please to abbott@hornton.myzen.co.uk

First Line Takes Pole Position



First Line, a leading supplier of premium quality automotive components to the vehicle aftermarket, is to be the first sponsor of *The Gossip*.

The Banbury-based company, whose chairman Pete Joyner and managing director Dan Joyner live in Hornton, has made the generous offer to cover the production costs of *The Gossip*'s first self-funded issue.

Founded in 1983 by Pete and his business partner John Madden, First Line today has one of the largest portfolios of products in the automotive aftermarket. It supplies customers in more than 70 countries through its distribution centres in the UK, Spain and Germany and has third-party logistics arrangements in several other countries.

First Line's particular success in export markets has been recognised by the prestigious Sunday Times HSBC International Track 200 which ranks Britain's private companies with the fastest-growing international sales. First Line has won a Track 200 award three times in recent years.

Above and below: First Line's distribution centre in Banbury houses an extensive range of chassis, engine and braking components for all makes of vehicle.



FIRST LINE LTD
www.firstlineltd.com

Search for New Head

The search is on for a new head of Hornton Primary School following the recent resignation of head teacher Matt Green.

An advertisement for head of school was placed on the Times Educational Supplement website on April 25 and the recruitment process is expected to take around one month.

Chris King and Joss Atkinson, co-chairs of the Local Governing Body, said that they were looking for an experienced teacher with the enthusiasm, vision and drive to lead the school on the next exciting phase of its journey from good to beyond.

"We would like to thank Mr Green for his time at Hornton Primary School and all his efforts in getting the school to where it is today. We wish him all the very best for his future career."

Under Matt Green's leadership the school improved to achieve a "good" Ofsted rating. He will be missed by pupils, staff and parents who nonetheless recognise that he feels it is time for new challenges.

There are two new appointments to the school's Board of Governors: Martha James and Tom Hill.

Parish Council takes on speeding motorists



Tim Hewlett with the SpeedWatch camera equipment (photograph reproduced by kind permission of the Banbury Guardian)

A new speed monitoring system is now in operation in Hornton, tackling the issue of vehicles speeding in and out of the village and the danger and annoyance that involves.

Introduced on the initiative of Hornton Parish Council (PC), the SpeedWatch equipment has already identified several offenders inside the village's 30mph area.

It records the speed of an offending vehicle while its operator records vehicle details such as make, model and registration number. This information is sent to the police who, in turn, write to the owners of vehicles advising them that they have been caught in a SpeedWatch speed trap. Repeat offenders are likely to be visited by the police.

The SpeedWatch project began over a year ago when the PC, aware of concern about the threat to the safety of school children and families in the centre of the village, determined to look for ways to discourage speeding motorists.

Councillor Tim Hewlett takes up the story. "The response to our initial approach to Oxford County Council was unhelpful. Rather than accept Hornton PC's view that a 20mph speed sign

would suffice, OCC advised that a full survey and research would be required with the possibility that speed bumps or narrow access chicanes would be installed and at the PC's expense.

"However, we then discovered the SpeedWatch equipment which is used by community police support officers on an infrequent random basis for monitoring speeding in local villages. After a lengthy period of consultation, demonstration and discussion with other North Oxfordshire villages, and with full police support and approval, Hornton PC decided to share the purchase of a SpeedWatch system with Swalcliffe, Broughton and Tadmarton.

"The equipment, which cost £2000 + VAT, included the SpeedWatch sensor, a tripod and a tablet. The sensor, about the size of a small brick, is mounted on the tripod and positioned looking up the road towards oncoming traffic. The sensor detects the approaching vehicle up to 100 metres away and relays the speed to the hand-held tablet which can be up to 10 metres away. This means the operators can be out of sight of the motorist and the sensor is non-confrontational, unlike a radar gun which is hand-held and pointed at the oncoming vehicle."

It is still early days for the system but it has already had considerable success, not only in Hornton but also in Broughton where, in its first week of operation, 120 vehicles exceeding 35 mph were identified.

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Oxfordshire County Council's Fire & Rescue Service Offers Sound Advice

Do you know that 95% of collisions are due to human error? Distraction, speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and driving under the influence of drink or drugs are the big fatal four on our county's roads.

Could you?

- put your phone in your glove compartment or set your phone to 'do not disturb' before you start your journey
- adjust your speed and make sure you have time to react to the unexpected
- make sure everyone is wearing their seatbelt before you set off
- get a taxi, the bus or be the designated driver on a night out
- make sure you're safe to drive the morning after; you could still be over the drink drive limit, even if you feel fine

Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service have put together top tips to help you avoid the fatal four, and have created an handy 'don't get caught out the morning after' guide 365alive.co.uk/fatalfour.

Forest School

If you go down to the woods on Tuesday you're sure of a big surprise for there, in the copse area below Hart View, will be children from Hornton's Primary and Preschool having enormous, constructive fun at Forest School.

By visiting the same local woodland area on a regular basis, Forest Schools allow children of all ages to learn, through play, about the natural environment, how to handle risks and, most importantly, to use their own initiative to solve problems and cooperate with others.

For the last couple of years, Laura Short, Hornton School teaching assistant and governor, has been qualifying for and then leading Forest School. She is helped by other staff members and, in an after-school session, by Ruby and Esther, year 9 students who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards.



Here Laura gives us an insight into our Forest School's activities.

"The children who take part have really started to own the area and look after it. They know what the behavioural and physical boundaries are and have become very independent. This allows them to grow in confidence and self-esteem.

"We have put up bird boxes, made a bug hotel, installed a couple of hedgehog houses and we make sure that the area is kept tidy.

"You may have heard us enjoying our fire circle sessions, reminding children how to move around a fire circle safely even when there isn't even one! We have enjoyed cooking on our fires and using a Kelly kettle to produce hot chocolate, marshmallows, bananas with chocolate, chocolate orange cakes and popcorn among other things. The older children are becoming more



independent in preparing and lighting their own small fires using a flint and fire steel to create sparks, a challenge to be mastered! We always know how to put them out safely too.

"We learn how to use many tools like a hammer, lopper, bow saw, billhook (split wood), gimlet (make holes in wood) and knives (whittle sticks) to toast marshmallows or cook bread on the fire, create a bird box or just to make a branch shorter. To use these tools children are always given a safety tool talk and one-to-one guidance until they show respect for the tool they are using. This starts as young as preschool age.



"Opportunities are given for children to be curious about the world around them through flora and fauna. They take in the seasons and changes, ask questions and follow their own ideas through. They enjoy finding out about natural materials and we use them to make things like elderflower cordial, necklaces with the elder stem, coloured mud paint and natural dyes.

"We create many dens, use string and rope, make up our own games, write many a mud pie recipe, explore the stream, create lots of art, use clay, roll conkers, make homes for woodland animals and generally take advantage of the lovely village we are in.

"Our Forest School has received huge support from parents and villagers. I thank everyone for helping us embrace this in our village and encouraging our young people to appreciate and respect the world around them. If we can inspire children to love and appreciate the outdoors, this can only have a positive impact on life skills in the technological age we live in."

What's On

Church Services

First & third Sundays – Chapel, 11.00am

Second & fourth Sundays – Church, 11.00am

Every Tuesday

Knit Natter - Chapel, 2.00pm

Yoga – Chapel, 6.30pm

Keep Fit - Pavilion, 7.00pm

Every Wednesday

CRIB – Dun Cow, 8.00pm

Every Friday

Coffee Morning – Chapel, 10:30am

Once a Month

Chapel Lunch - Chapel, 1.00pm on the first Monday of the month

3H's Gardening Club - Pavilion, 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month

Women's Institute - Chapel, 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month

History Club - Dun Cow, 7.00pm on the second Thursday of the month

Plant Sale - Pavilion, 10.30am on Saturday 18 May

Bingo - 7pm on Friday 24 May

Super Sunday Lunch

There are still dates available for the super Sunday lunches offered by Carol and Andrew Overton at their home on Church Lane to raise money for the Church. They are July 14, August 11, September 1, October 6, November 3 and December 15.

The cost of a delicious two-course lunch is £10 per adult and £5 for under 16s. Lunch is from 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm. If you'd like wine with your lunch, bring a bottle. Contact: aoverton64@gmail.com

SHENFEST

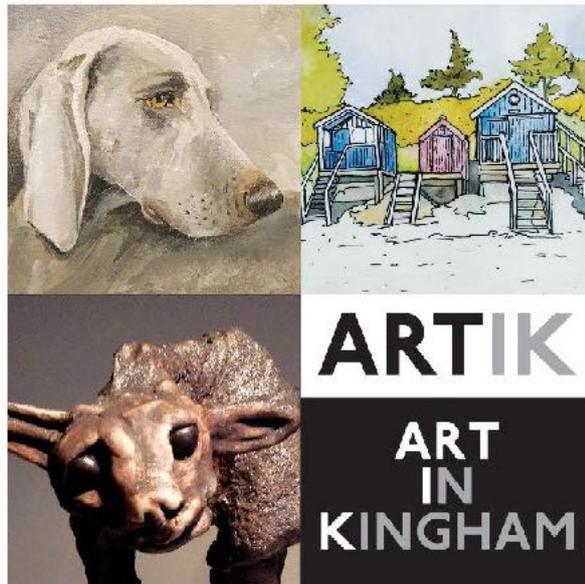
Shenfest, Sherington with Alkerton's Music and Literature Festival, takes place from June 14-16. It will include an evening of old and new swing and jazz classics; a Narnia-themed family picnic; talk and slideshow from Jacqui Furneaux, Royal Enfield Bullet motorbike rider; concert from London Mozart Players Ensemble; a cricket match; and a talk from award-winning author and historian Tom Holland of *Rubicon* and *In the Shadow of the Sword* fame.

HanFEST

HanFEST, Hanwell's food, farming and folk festival, is on Saturday July 13, 11.00 am – 5.00 pm and 6.00 pm to late, and offers a naturally fun day out for all the family. There will be lots of friendly animals to meet, a farmers market, over eight hours of live folk music and lots more.

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Open Gardens

Hornton is staging an open gardens event on Sunday July 7, 1.00 pm – 6.00 pm. Nine or 10 gardens and hopefully the allotments will be open with the proceeds being shared between Katherine House Hospice, the Pavilion (towards a stage), the Church (towards a sound system) and The Gossip. Some of the gardens have not opened in recent years and others have new planting or features.

There will be tea and cakes, a plant sale and a raffle. Admission is only £5 for adults, children free.

"Help is needed on the day as well as with donations of cakes and raffle prizes," says Lynn Corke who is organising the event. "I have already had some offers of help but do contact me if you are willing to help at all and let me know if you can make a cake. It is very nerve-racking to be looking at a single cake on the morning of the event wondering how to divide it between many visitors!

"And, of course, come rain or, hopefully, shine, we need visitors. Do come along". Lynn's contact details are phone: 670673 or e-mail: lynnjcorke@aol.com.

Diary Date for Cyclists

This year's cycle ride and pub lunch will take place on Sunday, September 1. Designed for cyclists of all ages and abilities (electric cyclists welcome) the route will be decided nearer the time and communicated via the noticeboard and the August issue of *The Gossip*.

Coffee, Cake & Chat

Do call in to the Chapel for coffee, cake and a chat, every Friday from 10.30am - 12 noon. And don't forget to exchange your books at the village library in the Chapel foyer!

Croquet Tournament

The ever popular Croquet Tournament will be held again this year, on Sunday 25 August from 2pm, beside the Pavilion.

Bull's-Eye

If you're looking for an interesting activity for children or grandchildren during half-terms or school holidays, have a go at archery, suggests John Abbott.

"I took grandchildren aged 12,10 and eight to JB Archery at The National Herb Centre just before Easter," he says. "They loved it and surprised me by how quickly they were good at it."

Run by Barry, a qualified archery instructor who has long experience of working with children, JB Archery offers an hour's instruction for £10 per person with equipment provided.

Opening times are Monday-Saturday 9.00 am – 5.30 pm, Sundays and Bank Holidays 10.30 am – 5.30 pm. Phone 07813 638714 to book a session.



Ted Abbott takes aim at the bull's-eye

Gardening Club set for strong growth

The Three Hs Gardening Club is looking to grow its membership. Anyone interested in joining the club can look forward to an exciting new programme of events, including an outing to the magnificent National Trust gardens at Cliveden in Buckinghamshire on July 6.

On July 9 there will also be an evening visit to Mr and Mrs Waley Cohen's garden next to Upton House. The plant sale is on May 18 and the Flower and Vegetable Show is on August 17.

"This year the Flower and Vegetable Show will include some classes for children of primary school age," says secretary Sally Tweedsmuir.

The Three Hs Gardening Club is named after the three villages it serves: Hornton, Horley and Hanwell. Its meetings take place in Hornton Pavilion at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

There is a guest speaker at each meeting. On May 14, Chris from The National Herb Centre will be talking about wildlife gardening.

Membership of the Gardening Club costs only £10 a year. To join please contact Sally Tweedsmuir on 01295 670608 or sally@tweedsmuir.plus.com

How wrong I was

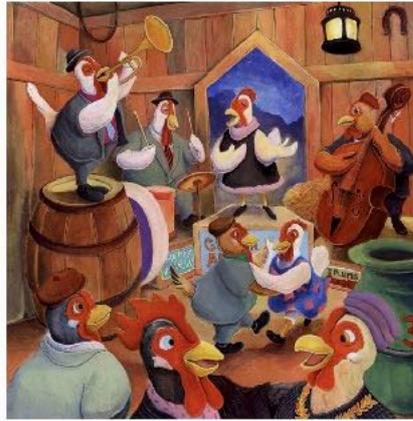
Sally Spencer, secretary Hornton WI, shares her enthusiasm for a much-loved but sometimes misunderstood institution.

After moving to Hornton from Yorkshire in October 2017 I thought I'd try a mixture of clubs and groups to get to know new people and feel part of the community. Having never been a member of the WI I was under the impression that I had to be over 70 to join. How wrong I was. Any age is welcome but I guess if you're over 45 then you'd feel more comfortable and have things in common with the others.

The WI in Hornton meets once a month on a Thursday at 7.30 pm in the Chapel and is a very friendly bunch of ladies including several from Horley, Hanwell and Balscote.

Last year was the group's tenth anniversary, celebrated with a garden party with lashings of Pimms and Prosecco, along with some very palatable nibbles courtesy of M&S!

Each month we have a guest speaker and, during the summer, evenings out. Still to come this year are a visit to a local nursery to learn how to make hanging baskets, talks from a local vet, an antiques dealer and a survival expert and some Christmas crafting. Already we've done Pilates, had a painting workshop and enjoyed a fish and chips supper. So if you have a free Thursday do give us a try. Maybe we could learn something from you!



Barn Dance in a Barn Sat 22 June

7pm 'til late Hornton Grounds Farm

Live music, burgers and bar

Entry by advance ticket only

Tickets: Adults £7.50; children (16 & under) £5

Tickets available from:

Isabelle Harris (01295) 670304 ii.harris@btinternet.com

Carol Overton (01295) 678920 caroloverton54@gmail.com

Steve Woodcock (01295) 670795 stevejwoodcock@btinternet.com

Proceeds to Hornton History Group, Pavilion & Gossip



Fiona Bridgland in her studio at Proffitts House where she is launching a zero-waste eco-friendly sustainable goods pop-up shop. She'll be selling pulses, grains, cleaning products, bamboo goods and many other things. The pop-up shop will open once a fortnight. Check out Facebook page @everythingusefill or e-mail Fiona@visionfields.co.uk to learn of opening days and times.

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Father and Son

Congratulations to Neil Madden and son Freddie who have both achieved their brown belts in karate. Nine-year-old Fred now plans to continue working towards his black belt. If he is successful he will be the youngest person to achieve this status in the history of his club, Banbury Shukokai.



HISTORY GROUP NEEDS YOU

Hornton History Group has a new research project – to find local stories connected to the Second World War which began 80 years ago.

Can you help? Do you know someone who lived through the war or fought in it? Do you have a relative or friend who joined up or did your family do their bit locally to help the war effort?

During WW11 many children were evacuated from London and many other major cities to the countryside. The History Group also wonders if any villagers have stories about children being evacuated to this part of North Oxfordshire and perhaps even to one or more of our Ironstone villages.

“We believe that there is a wealth of Second World War information held in the memories of people who live in Hornton or have lived here in the past and we'd be very happy if they would share it with us,” says Laurie Furneaux, HHG secretary. “We'd like to collate the information so it is not lost and is available to villagers indefinitely.”

People willing to contribute to HHG's research project should contact Laurie on 01295 670417 or chairman Kevin Wain on 01295 670616.

Coughton Court Outing



Hornton History Group members and their partners enjoyed a private guided tour of Coughton Court in Warwickshire on Wednesday 3 April.

The National Trust property has been home to the Throckmorton family for over 600 years and the family still live in one wing of the house.

The HHG party, 27 people strong, was divided into two for the guided tour. Each group was accompanied by two National Trust volunteers who did an excellent job in explaining the history of Coughton Court and the Throckmorton family.

Devout Catholics, the family faced persecution over the centuries. Their links to the Gunpowder Plot put them in particular peril.

The greatest peril faced by HHG was the cold. Coughton Court's central heating system is there for conservation purposes not for comfort and the temperatures on April 3 were low.

“At the end of the private tour we emerged to welcome sunshine and were able to enjoy walking around the beautiful gardens,” said Laurie Furneaux, HHG secretary. “We then moved on to Arrow Mill near Alcester for lunch in a lovely setting beside the River Arrow.”

Hornton History Group welcomes new members. It costs only £12 a year and there is an exciting programme of talks and visits. For information please contact Kevin Wain on 670616 or Laurie Furneaux on 670417.

Love is in the Air

We all love the idea that birds mate for life and indeed 90% of songbirds do indeed form a pair bond for one nesting season, for several seasons or for life. Swans and geese do pair for life but that universal symbol of love, the dove, only pairs for a season, and it's close relative the pigeon, for about five minutes with any female on any ledge or roof ridge. The hedge sparrow is reproductively well blessed, not choosy about his partners and may mate as many as one hundred times a day. The bullfinch, on the other hand, is much less well blessed and has a smaller appetite for love, but is monogamous and equally effective.

Perhaps the most romantic examples are the skylark, who intersperses his glorious musical accent to the sky with diligent care for his grounded mate, and the beautiful barn owl. Barn owls pair faithfully for life and show affection to each other all year round, not just in the breeding season. The male barn owl is the perfect husband and father. The male mallard, however, is his complete opposite – this flashy dresser has drowned several girlfriends and has no idea how many chicks he's fathered. Less said about him the better.



In most songbird pairings the male defends their nest and territory, to the death in the case of cock robin, feeds his mate while she's incubating, and helps to feed and defend the nestlings and fledglings. Some, like the blackbird, will even help with incubating. But this is very much a practical Mother Nature arrangement and not the sweet romance we humans would like to think of it. Genetic testing shows that it is likely that not all of the eggs in a nest are dad's offspring and mum's eggs can be found in other hen's nests. The bonded parents, however, will treat them all with the same care and dedication. Clever Mother Nature has taken all the possessive jealousy and hate that accompanies human romance and replaced it with sharing, selfless nurturing and the teaching of essential survival skills.

Birdbrain

PS *Please remember* – NEVER use slug pellets of any description and PLEASE put a bell on your cat's collar and keep cats indoors at dawn and dusk during spring.

Trio make their debut at Artweeks

Three of Hornton's amateur artists have joined forces to make their debut in Oxfordshire Artweeks later this month (18-27 May 2019), calling themselves ARTIK - Art in Kingham.

Steve and Chris Woodcock and Eleanor Campbell, formerly of Copse Cap Barn, Eastgate, have been busy creating images and planning their open studio as part of this major annual arts event. Their work will be on show - and for sale - at Eleanor's garden studio in the heart of Kingham. The varied and vibrant pieces will range from paintings and drawings to thrown and hand-built ceramics, prints and hand-made greetings cards. Subjects for the three artists' work focus on animals and the natural world.

Steve, who creates striking bowls and hand-built creatures from his Hornton pottery, says: "We're hoping to see many of our Hornton friends as this is a lovely setting for a day out, perhaps combined with visits to other nearby Artweeks studios plus lunch at one of the pubs in Kingham or Chippy or a dog walk in the surrounding countryside."

Eleanor trained at Glasgow School of Art and also studied textiles, ceramics, bookbinding and photography, taking up graphic design as a career. She says: "In the last few years I've painted many dog and animal commissions for clients. I also enjoy painting landscapes and still life plus silversmith jewellery production at a local workshop."

Entry to the exhibition is free. See the advertisement in this issue of *The Gossip* for full details of opening times or go to the Oxfordshire Artweeks website.

ARTIK

ART IN KINGHAM

Supersonic



On the evening of April 26 two former work colleagues came together to deliver a unique talk to a packed house at The Old School in Horley.

These weren't any old colleagues, they were Concorde pilots and good friends, Dave Rowland from Horley and Norman Britton from Hornton.

Their talk, entitled A Real Life Time Machine and a Michael Hardinge Trust fundraising event, kept the audience riveted as they described how 50 years ago a joint project between the aerospace industries of the UK and France culminated in the first flight of the Concorde airliner, capable of achieving twice the speed of sound.

The first Concorde flight in the UK was in April 1969 and, coincidentally, was on Norman's 30th birthday. The first commercial flight was on January 21 1976 and a couple of years after that Norman and Dave were flying Concordes together.

"Even by today's standards Concorde was the most amazing advance in commercial aerospace engineering since man's first powered flight," said Dave, "The aircraft is still unmatched in its design, style and performance by any modern airliner flying today."

The two British Airway captains illustrated the story behind the development and deployment of Concorde with striking photographs and talked of their experiences flying it. A lighter note was introduced when Dave revealed how on one flight and in a quiet moment Norman, often the joker, had passed Dave a note which simply read: "Jesus wants you for a sunbeam".

With the talk concluded, the audience had plenty of questions to ask. Undoubtedly, everyone had had a fascinating and very enjoyable evening.



Norman Britton



Dave Rowland

POOH!

Poo is being deposited by dogs on the grassy verges in the centre of the village. The dogs don't know any better but their owners do. Please pick up. There are three collection boxes in the village. Use them or take your poo bags home with you. Don't leave dog poo where children play or walk to school and the playground.



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Well Done!



This year's Hornton pantomime, *Snow White and the Seven Non Gender-Specific Persons of Limited Stature*, which was performed over three days in February, went down a storm.

A very big "well done" is due to all those who trod the boards, those who helped in very many ways and, above all, to Anne Joyner.

Anne not only directed the pantomime very skilfully but she also wrote and produced it. What would we do without her?

The pantomime made a profit of £1,605. £1,500 was donated to the Pavilion fund while £105 was given to *The Gossip*, for which it is very grateful.



Grandparents Galore

Congratulations to Paul Burden on the birth of grandson Noah William; to Lynne and Richard Miles on the arrival of grandson Loxley Arthur Jack; to John and Laurie Furneaux on the arrival of granddaughter Freida Maisie; and to Kate and Juergen Fricke on the birth of grandson Henrik.

Hornton Bulk Oil Orders

Most people in Hornton use oil to heat their homes and water. For some years I have run a bulk oil ordering service for villagers to try and achieve the best possible price. I will probably do a "round robin" email to villagers sometime in June in order to get a good summer price, so if you wish to avail yourself of this then please look out for the email from me which will give information on the details I require. We normally put in three to four bulk orders per year.

Bob Langton: 01295 670359, bobslangton@gmail.com

Rhubarb & Date Chutney

We are in the time of rhubarb glut and here is something for you to make but not have to eat right now. Jam and chutney recipes always say use clean sterilised jars - you can wash them in the dishwasher (if you have one) or wash them and warm them in the oven - I do this by microwaving them for a few seconds!

Ingredients:

50g fresh root ginger, grated
300ml red wine vinegar
500g eating apples, peeled and finely chopped
200g pitted dates, chopped
200g dried cranberries or raisins
1 tbsp mustard seed
1 tbsp curry powder
400g light muscovado sugar
700g rhubarb, sliced into 2cm chunks
500g red onions

Method

Put the onions in a large pan with the ginger and vinegar. Bring to the boil, then simmer for 10 mins. Add the rest of the ingredients, except the rhubarb, plus 2 tsp salt to the pan and bring to the boil, stirring. Simmer, uncovered, for about 10 mins until the apples are tender.

Stir in the rhubarb and cook, uncovered, until the chutney is thick and jammy, about 15-20 mins. Leave the chutney to sit for about 10-15 mins, then spoon into warm, clean jars, and seal. Label the jars when cool. Keep for at least a month before eating. Enjoy!

Lynn Corke

Lump bump

Watch out for quarry lorries, warns Norman Britton, who came close to what he reckons would have been an "unpleasant experience" a few weeks ago.

"I was driving on the A422 between Wroxton and Drayton when, on a bend at the bottom of the hill, a number of lumps of four-inch hardcore fell from a lorry in front of me.

"The lump that jammed in my aircon radiator weighed over one pound. With a closing speed of around 90mph, if I'd been another 20 yards down the road, it would have been very unpleasant."

Norman also advises installing a dashcam. "They are cheap and useful devices," he says. "Mine recorded the quarry lorry incident and resolved any issues there might have been with insurers."

You're Kidding...

Q: Why did the jellybean go to school?

A: Because he wanted to be a Smartie!!!

An Omelette & Quiche joke

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CLASS 4



CLASS 7



CLASS 5



Graham Hall leads Angus, his trusty donkey, in a procession from the Chapel to the Church for a village service on Palm Sunday.

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Condolences

Condolences to Bill and Lizz Jeffs and to Andrew and Maggie Higgins. Bill's mother, Lil, and Andrew's mother, Ann, died in April.

Thank You Hornton

We would like to thank everyone who rallied round to help with Andrew's mother's wake: Colin MacLeod for organising the screen on which to project photos of Ann's life; Pete Lemon for stepping in with technical assistance; and, most especially, Julie Stanley and her team of ladies for providing a fantastic spread.

We feel so lucky to live in a community where everyone helps in times of need. Thank you Hornton.

Maggie Higgins

The Gossip

The copy deadline for the August issue of *The Gossip* is Tuesday 30 July - submissions please to abbott@hornton.myzen.co.uk. To advertise in the next issue of *The Gossip*, please contact Cindy Koberl at ckoberl@btinternet.com

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Quarry Nurseries



2019 Opening Hours

<u>SPRING</u>	20 April to 22 June - 7 days a week - 10am-5pm Open Bank Holiday Monday - 27 May
<u>SUMMER</u>	26 June to 6 July - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday - 10am-5pm
<u>AUTUMN</u>	4 September to 27 October - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday - 10am-5pm or dusk, if earlier