

The Gossip

H O R N T O N

ISSUE 115

NOVEMBER 2019

New Head of School

Karen Locke has been appointed head of Hornton Primary School. Formerly head of Peachtree Pre-School in Hornton and deputy head of the Primary School, Karen had also been acting head of the school following Matt Green's departure a few weeks ago.

Her appointment has been welcomed by staff, pupils and parents, many of whom have come to know her well.

"The Local Governing Body looks forward to working with Karen and the school team in these exciting times of moving the school forward for the students, staff, parents and the community," said LGB co-chair Chris King.

Save the date!

It's now 20 years since Roger Corke made the film *'It's Only One Hornton'*. So as we don't have a pantomime this season, we are showing the whole film at the Pavilion for 2 nights - Friday 31st January and Saturday 1st February 2020 - with bar and raffle. Tickets £5 from Isabelle Harris - telephone 670304.

Awesome Amy



Image of the finale showing the whole catwalk in the Savoy Hotel

Hornton's Amy Harris, fashion and textiles tutor, had a summer that she'll never forget. Not only did she find herself collecting nettles at Highgrove House with Prince Charles's consent and then participating in one of the world's premier fashion events but she is also to have the results of her creative work on display at the V&A Museum.

Amy takes up the story.

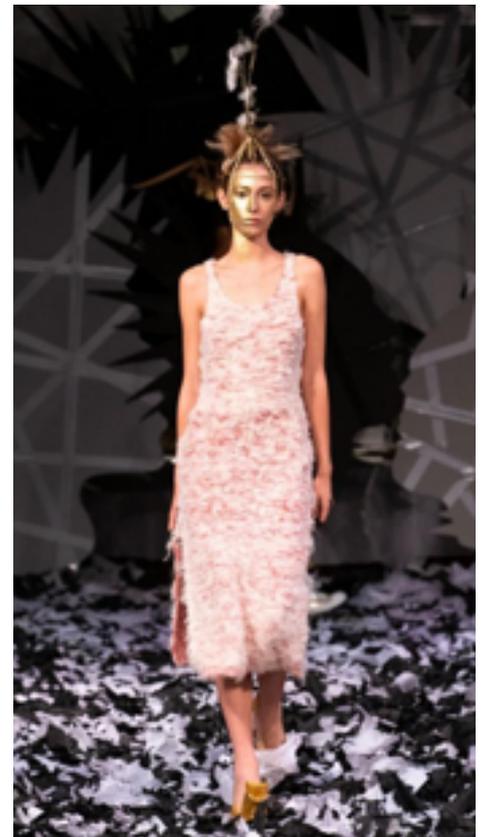
"This summer I worked on a really exciting project for London Fashion Week. The project was a collaboration between fashion duo Vin and Omi, Oxford Brookes University and Tudor Hall school.

"The Vin and Omi fashion label was established 17 years ago. It has a punk/anti-fashion aesthetic and pioneers working with ethical and sustainable practices in fashion. A chance meeting between the designers and Prince Charles kick-started the project and led to some Brookes students and me collecting nettles at Highgrove House which were turned into fibres.

"I spent some weeks in my studio in Hornton knitting four pieces for the collection, using the processed stinging nettles and organically processed alpaca wool.

"Ten students and I then worked with the Vin and Omi team at the Savoy Hotel in London finishing garments and accessories for the collection. Meanwhile, students from Tudor Hall were busy working on producing the set for the catwalk.

"On show day, over 40 students from both Brookes and Tudor Hall participated. It was an amazing team-building opportunity for all involved and a chance



One of Amy's dresses on the catwalk

for the students to deepen their understanding of the range of roles available in the creative industries.

"It was also amazing to be part of one of the world's biggest fashion events and, for many students, it will be a highlight of their experience. For me, as a fashion and textiles tutor, it was a great way to stay in touch with the industry."

It is one of the dresses knitted by Amy that will be on display at the V&A Museum, London.

For 'What's On' see centre pages

Hornton School pupil wins poetry awards



Emily at the Betjeman Poetry prize giving ceremony at St Pancras Station, London

A former Hornton Primary School pupil, Emily Hunt, is making her mark in the world of poetry writing by winning coveted awards in the 2019 Betjeman Poetry Prize.

Twelve-year-old Emily, who attended Hornton's school for three years, leaving in July 2018, won Highly Commended and Best Nature Poem awards with her beautiful poem Evensong (see opposite).

The Betjeman Poetry Prize is designed to inspire children aged 10-13 to read, write and perform poetry. It is open to children from the UK and Ireland and offers prizes for individuals and schools.

Emily, who is now in Year 8 at Kineton High School, said: "It was very exciting to be a finalist in this year's Betjeman Poetry Prize and great to share the news with Hornton. I loved my time at Hornton Primary School, in particular the creative writing lessons. My teachers and teaching assistants were brilliant and definitely helped to encourage me and develop my writing skills."

Evensong

*The path runs with a river
of cow parsley and campion.
White and pink.*

*Air heavy, honeysuckle sweet
draped over hogweed heads which push up
and up in fat green knuckles
to grasp at hawthorn
her clustered blossoms like
fragile snowflakes, slowly melting.*

*Blackbird sits amongst the buds.
Black against white.
Dappling the path
with his evensong
which unfurls in spirals and swirls
like the tendrils of vetch,
moving to the pulse of insect hearts
softened by dusty moth wings.*

*He sings for me and I listen
until the trees disappear into dusk.
Grey upon grey.
Until his song slips into silence
and we flow
safe in our secret
towards a new day.*

Looking back

With Karen Locke newly appointed as Head of Hornton Primary School, it's an opportune moment to revisit an item in the Winter 1991 issue of *The Gossip*. In it a former headmistress wrote of her experiences as a newcomer 50 years earlier.

Miss Thompson was appointed headmistress in 1941. "I had been teaching in Birmingham for 10 years and when war came I was sent with evacuees into Worcestershire for a term," she wrote. "During that time I became so fond of the country that I did not wish to return to city life and so I applied for a vacancy at Hornton School.

"My first surprise on arrival was to discover that there was no electricity in the village. The School House and School had to resort to oil lamps which had to be trimmed every day – a very tiresome task."

Another surprise for Miss Thompson was "the ease with which children could have leave of absence from school. The school had to be closed for two days to allow the children to visit Banbury Fair. Coming from a city, this was unheard of, as also was the request to have a day off to see the pig killed!"

Miss Thompson went on to write of how pupil numbers were swelled because of evacuees from London. Apparently, Mrs Eadon had taken in nine boys. "At that time there were over 100 children in the School," she wrote before adding: "During my stay in Hornton, the boys and girls remained at the School until they were aged 14. I occasionally see a few of the pupils, one or two of whom are now grandparents, which makes me feel very old."

She concludes: "In spite of the war years – I have some very pleasant memories."



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Worrying Signs...

It has come to the notice of the Council that there has been a recent outbreak of Steves in the village. Confined ten years ago to one case in West End, another in Millers Lane and a further one in Eastgate, the village could cope with a population at this sort of level. With only one further outbreak thereafter, measures to control Steves appeared to be working.

However, signs of increasing Steve incursion became apparent earlier this year with the Dun Cow being inhabited and then three further cases being reported at hotspots across the village. A 100 percent increase in Steves in just a few months.

Given current legislation it is not possible to cull Steves (except in parts of heavily-infested West Wales) but we would urge all villagers to look for tell-tale signs of Steves and please report them.

So remember, if you don't want your village over-run with Steves it is down to all of us to be vigilant.

Anon.

Full steam ahead



Calling keen photographers

If you have good photos of Hornton or the local area and think they might be appropriate for the Hornton website, don't delay, send them to James Prentice and he'll happily add them to it.

Webmaster James explains: "When you visit the homepage of the website you are presented with an image of Hornton or the surrounding area. The images that you see are served up at random via a script I use. But I have only a limited number of images – seven to be precise. If you keep pressing refresh on your browser you'll see the images and sometimes nothing will change because you are being randomly served the same image."

What James needs is more images. They need to be a specific size: 1951 x 761. This allows them to be displayed on desktop machines and then get resized on mobile devices. They can be sent to James at info@hornton.org.uk

So come on keen photographers. Let's lend a hand to James who for many years has designed, developed and constantly updated our village website.

It was full steam ahead for *The Gossip* this issue when Cath Bellamy, who lives at Norland House, Millers Lane and is managing director of Vintage Trains Ltd, stepped up to provide sponsorship.

Vintage Trains is one of only four companies in the UK licensed to operate main line steam services. It runs full-day steam trips out of the West Midlands all over the country: its hugely popular *Shakespeare Express* Sunday lunch and picnic trains in the summer between Stratford upon Avon and Birmingham and *The Polar Express* train ride at Christmas.

Of the other three licensed companies one is owned by the German government and the other two by billionaires. "We are the little guys – owned and controlled by a charity," said Cath. "Our job is to keep steam trains operating on the main rail network and give people the chance to enjoy the thrill of them. But it is a fact that without a plan and a new generation of steam drivers, firemen and heritage engineers, steam trains will be gone from our network forever within very few years."

Cath is no stranger to the railway industry. Her 27-year career in UK passenger railways included being managing director of Chiltern Railways until 2007 and more recently being contracted by civil servants and politicians in Westminster, including two secretaries of state.

But in March last year, when she was asked by a Birmingham-based railway charity to set up a train operating company from scratch to run heritage main line express trains her career took another interesting turn and Vintage Trains was born. To find out more about the company, or book a ticket, go to vintagetrains.co.uk. Treat yourself to an amazing day out and help Cath's charity at the same time.



Oh yes you can!

If you think that only teachers run schools like ours in Hornton, think again! Our village school wouldn't survive without the help of ordinary people who do an extraordinary thing – they give up their precious free time to help manage it .

And that goes for five other schools around here because, although Hornton School has been an academy ever since Oxfordshire County Council decided it wanted to stop running education, it's also part of a trust. Hornton has combined with four other primaries and also the Warriner, which most youngsters round here attend from the age of 11. Through the trust, schools can learn from each other and buy everything from electricity to school dinners cheaper, leaving more cash for what really matters - the pupils' education.

But neither the schools nor the trust can run themselves. At least, they probably could but they're a lot stronger and better-run if people like you and me get involved. So the schools – the primaries in North Newington, Farthinghoe and Sibford Gower, as well as Hornton and the Warriner – need governors and the Warriner Multi-Academy Trust needs trustees.

"I can't possibly do that!" I hear you say. Oh yes you can! I didn't think I could do it, either - hell, I haven't even got children! - but I could and, slightly to my surprise, I've enjoyed every minute of my time both as a Hornton School governor and, more recently, as a trustee of the MAT.

I think you will too - because it's really fulfilling. If you know anything about the law, or marketing, media and PR, or you've got experience of working in an organisation that's expanded, the trust would love to hear from you. Or you may have worked in human resources or in education. They're looking for people with experience in those areas, too.

But these fields are just the ones the trust has a particular need for right now. It also needs help from committed people from every other walk of life, too. If you just want to make sure the

next generation of children round here has the best possible start in life, the trust wants you to get in touch.

So why not drop Catherine Musgrove a line? Catherine's children used to go to Hornton School and she's the person to contact if you might – just might – be interested in helping our children get the best possible start in life. There's no commitment, so what have you got to lose? Just email Catherine at c.musgrove@warriner.oxon.sch.uk before you change your mind.

And if you'd like to find out first hand what being a school governor or a trustee is like, please give me a ring on 670673/07721 988977 or email me at roger.corke@aol.com

Roger Corke



The Hornton website came up trumps this summer when it received and passed on an enquiry from a young Canadian woman, Meaghan McFall Gorman,

"I am reaching out for help in finding the current resident of Barry Cottage where my great great grandmother was born and married before emigrating to Canada," she wrote. "I would love to see inside the house, meet the current owner and learn more about the village."

James Prentice, who looks after the website, passed Meaghan's message to Kevin Wain who in turn passed it on to the owner of Barry Cottage, Paul Burden. Paul lost no time in contacting Meaghan and inviting her, her sister Gwyneth and cousin Amelia to visit him and fulfil their ambition to see the house where their great great grandmother, Caroline Elizabeth Walden was born.

The girls, all in their twenties, arrived on September 2 and spent several hours with Paul, looking around Barry Cottage and at photos, hearing what Paul knew about the history of the house and then enjoying lunch at the Methodist Chapel. They also looked at a family grave in the churchyard. Meaghan said of Hornton: "It is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen."

Paul knew that Barry Cottage had originally been called Walden House and that a couple of that name had lived there at the turn of the twentieth century. "I didn't know more than that," he said, "so it was very interesting to learn more from the Canadian girls."

The family's research suggests that the girls' great great great grandfather was George Walden, born 1825 and a gamekeeper who married Eliza Watkins in Hornton. Their three children were William, Caroline and Beatrice. William remained in England; his descendants still live in Oxfordshire. Beatrice, known as Bessie, trained as a nurse at Florence Nightingale's School of Nursing. She accompanied her cousin, Deacon Watkins, on a church mission to India and died there of yellow fever in 1901. She never married.

Caroline left England in 1884 for Canada to marry her fiance, William Gunn, whose family was also from Hornton. He had emigrated a year earlier and was a tailor. Caroline and William had five children and there the Hornton connection ends... until Meaghan, Gwyneth and Amelia drove into the village one September day.



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Financial pressures provoke stark option

Use it or lose it! The message, while not exactly worded this way, came through loud and clear when Julie Stanley, chief organiser and fund-raiser for the Methodist Chapel in Hornton, spoke recently to *The Gossip*.

Is the Chapel an asset to our community or isn't it," she asked. "If it is, the village must support it or it will close."

Julie's concerns arise from the financial pressures that the Chapel faces. It currently needs £12,000 a year to cover its costs: the contribution to circuit ministers' salaries, maintenance, electricity, oil and insurance. It does that through fund-raising.

The Friday morning coffee, cake and chat sessions and monthly lunches continue to be popular. They are a valuable amenity for villagers who find access to the Pavilion more difficult but attendance at the coffee morning, for example, does on occasion drop to only eight.

"Over the years our dwindling congregation has nonetheless worked hard to pay, with the help of some grants, for the extension and necessary maintenance projects," said Julie. "We did it not just for the Methodist Church but also for the village so people could come and meet others here. We would like people to use the building and enjoy it."

Julie works tirelessly to support and maintain the Chapel that was built, in 1885, by her forebears. Her great great grandfather, John Robbins, a farmer who lived in Sunnyside, donated the land on which it was erected by the villagers themselves.

Hornton's Chapel means a lot to Julie. "It is my way of life and always has been," she said. Her worry now is that if she were unable to continue her efforts, especially the fund-raising, the Chapel would have to close. The Methodist Church would almost certainly sell it.

It would be a sad day for Hornton. So if villagers have some helpful suggestions to make as to how the Chapel could raise funds and thus ensure its future we would be happy to include them in the next edition of *The Gossip* which will be published in February.

Unsung heroes

Raise your voices, Hornton, in a big thank you to the many men in the village who voluntarily and quietly put in a great deal of effort to keep it looking beautiful.

Take the greens, for example. Every week from early April to mid-November someone mows the grass there. Graham Hall, who undertook the job alone for ten years, now draws up a rota of volunteers which includes himself, Ian Harris, Doug Peltzer-Smith, Jon Cox, Ian Donaldson, Steve Woodcock, Simon Wolf, Andrew Overton and Gavin White.

"With the help of Ted Fox with his tractor and agricultural trailer, we also trim the side shoots from the lime trees on The Green," said Graham. "It's not uncommon for the odd beer to be provided by residents around The Green which might explain those occasions when the stripes aren't quite as straight as they should be!"

Malcolm Cross looks after the lower green single-handedly, cutting the grass and planting flowers at his own expense. In the same way, Martin Hemmings maintains all the grassed areas up at the allotments while Glen Walther mows the football pitch.

Many of the names on the greens rota are found again on the JUMPA one: Ian Donaldson, Simon Wolf, Steve Woodcock and Ian Harris. Add to those Martin Jones, Adam Busby, Bob Langton and Pete Lemon and you have another band of brothers who keep the area around the tennis court in tip top condition.

And then there are those who look after the village playground with some names appearing yet again. The playground committee comprises Paul Burden, Kevin Wain, Martin Jones, Ted Fox, Adam Busby, Ian Donaldson and Ben Tyrell.

"We all take turns doing strimming and mowing on a weekly basis," said Paul. "We also do painting and general maintenance. I carry out a weekly inspection and there is an annual inspection by ROSPA each autumn. It means that we have a playground to be proud of and which is an asset to the village and to the local pub."

The new gate into the playground was made to measure and donated by blacksmith Tom Gibbs – a very generous and much appreciated voluntary contribution.

Another volunteer is Andrew Higgins. Every year he joins Paul Burden, Malcolm Cross and Ian Harris in erecting the village Christmas tree and decorating it with lights. Ian also looks after the flag which flies on the lower green to celebrate residents' birthdays and anniversaries.

As well as those who help to keep the village looking lovely, we mustn't forget those who serve on the Parish Council, the Speedwatch team, James Prentice, who looks after the Hornton website and Roger Corke who, amongst other things, writes every week about Hornton goings-on for the Banbury Guardian and donates every penny from the exercise to village causes.



Julie Stanley at the Chapel



Malcolm Cross on the lower green



Mowers (l-r) Ian Harris, Andrew Overton and Simon Wolf

There are many others who contribute to the village in diverse ways but whose names have not been mentioned here. Women have missed out on this occasion but will be included in a future issue of *The Gossip*, which would be very pleased to hear about potential candidates for this.

What's On...

Churches Together Services

First & third Sundays – Chapel, 11am

Second & fourth Sundays – Church, 11am

Every Tuesday

Knit Natter - Chapel, 2pm

Yoga –Chapel, 6.30pm

Keep Fit - Pavilion, 7pm

Every Wednesday

CRIB – Dun Cow, 8pm

Once a Month

Chapel Lunch - Chapel, 1pm 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, 7pm on the second Thursday of the month

Coffee, Cake & Chat

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

Christmas Soup Lunch

Saturday 9th November

Methodist Chapel

12 noon - 2.00pm

Stalls * Raffle * Books etc



Children in Need

A coffee morning for Children in Need will be held at the Methodist Chapel on Friday November 15 from 10.30am until 12 noon. There will be bring-and-buy and a raffle.

Bingo!

Eyes will be down at 7pm on Friday 15 November when the Hornton Ladies Working Party holds a bingo evening at the Pavilion.

Questions Questions

Following the outstanding success of Pete Lemon's Hornton Quiz 1 several weeks ago, he has now organised – wait for it – Hornton Quiz 2.

It will take place in the Pavilion on Saturday, November 23, starting at 7.30pm, and is billed as “another lively, fully interactive, multi-media extravaganza of a quiz”. There will be a well-stocked bar.

Teams of up to six people are encouraged to book their team table asap at pete.lemon@gmail.com.

Funds raised will go to the Pavilion.

Christmas with Hornton Churches Together

Sunday 8th December 6.00pm

Christingle service in church in aid of The Children's Society, culminating in candle lit procession.



Sunday 15th December 6.00pm

Traditional Lessons & Carols Service in chapel with candlelight & mince pies.



Sunday 22nd December 11.00am

Morning Service in Chapel



Christmas Eve 5.30pm

The Blessing of the Crib in church with each generation helping to build the scene. Perfect timing for a mulled wine with Steve & Rebecca afterwards!

Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Welcome Christmas as the clock strikes 12.00!



Hornton Hoard Unveiled

The formal unveiling of the Hornton Hoard, the Anglo-Saxon jewellery discovered in the village in the mid-nineteenth century, will take place at Banbury Museum on Saturday, November 16 from 6-8pm.

It will be followed by a talk entitled *Early Anglo-Saxons in Oxfordshire: New Evidence and New Ideas* delivered by John Blair, professor of medieval history and archaeology at Queens College, Oxford.

Tickets for the event are £20 and must be booked in advance at www.banburymuseum.org.

The evening before, Hornton History Group members will be treated to a private view of the Hoard, a tour of the Museum and a cocktail party.

Party Time

If you're thinking of throwing a Christmas party, look no further than the Dun Cow.

Steve & Rebecca are happy for you to have your party there. Just give them a ring on 670524, or e-mail theduncowhornton@btinternet.com. There are plenty of other events going on there in the run up to Christmas and beyond.

November 10, after the Remembrance service, Steve and Rebecca would like any ex-service personnel and their immediate families from the village to have a drink on them. “It's a thank you for your service,” said Steve who spent many years in the British Army. “Just make yourself known to bar staff on the day.”

November 16 at 1.00pm Hornton's very own Bake Off. Bring along a cake, £2.50 entry fee, which will go towards the village Christmas tree fund. Adult and children's categories. Entries judged by panel of chefs.

November 20 - Steak Night

December 27 - Family Quiz – tbc

December 31 - New Year's Eve party

January 25 - Burn's Night

Lots on at the Pavilion

Jo Langton reports that the Pavilion Events Committee has organised a number of events and if you want to join in any of them please let her know.

On Friday, November 8, The Style Lounge is holding a ladies fashion show at the Pavilion at 7pm. Come and join us for a glass of fizz and light refreshments and find something sparkly for Christmas. Julie Archer, owner of The Style Lounge, says that her prices are affordable and all sizes and ages are catered for - you will be able to try before you buy. There will also be a beauty demonstration. Tickets, in aid of the Pavilion new stage fund, are £10.

On Saturday, December 14, there is a Christmas wreath-making workshop in the morning, followed by a light lunch and then a Christmas centre-piece workshop in the afternoon. You can come to both or just one session. We will need to limit the number of places, so if you want to register an interest, please let me know. Sarah Walther has kindly agreed to run the course and we will finalise the details shortly.

Starting on Wednesday, January 8 at 7.30pm, Strictly Hornton Latin American fun dance class starts for a six week run. £7 per person, pay on the door, we have singles and couples joining in, so everyone is welcome. The intention is to learn two dances but more importantly, have a good time to get us through winter blues. No experience necessary!

There are other ideas in the pipeline, so we will keep you updated. Hope to see you at the Pavilion.

Jo Langton

670359 or Joann.langton2013@gmail.com

Wool needed

If anyone has spare double knitting wool please let Isabelle Harris have it as soon as possible. It's used to knit hats and mitts for the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal.

Crafty Christmas

Studio B at Cromwells on Eastgate is holding its first Christmas art show and sale on November 23-24, 11am – 4pm.

Five artists and makers will stage the *Creatures & Crafts* exhibition, also offering their work for sale at very reasonable prices. Artworks and hand-makes will range from ceramics, drawings, paintings and prints to embroidery, textile art, knitted accessories, toys, bags, Christmas decorations, handmade or printed greetings/Christmas cards and much more.



Designer and art tutor Sally Moret makes screen-printed tote bags and handbags, cushion covers and other items using her own beautiful nature-based stencils and sometimes using her own eco-dyed fabric. She adds finishing touches in embroidery.

Burdrop's Jane Moffatt produces a range of textile-based giftware, including toy creatures in their homes, knitwear accessories - like gorgeous infinity scarves - and eye-catching Christmas decorations.

Meanwhile, textile designer Maggie Chinn has developed an appealing range of fabric and stitched pictures, focused on adorable animals and birds, including hens and sheep.

Studio B's Steve and Chris Woodcock will also show a range of their ceramic works (hand built sculptures and thrown wares) plus animal and nature prints, paintings and drawings.



New Churchyard Regulations

The Oxford Diocese has introduced new regulations for its churchyards limiting the number of memorial items that can be left on a grave and the length of time they can remain there. These will be introduced in Hornton in January 2020. The regulations are available to read in full in a black folder at the back of the Church.

John Bridgeman, Churchwarden

Sarah says ...

St John the Baptist Hornton Ladies Working Party is looking for volunteers to join us. We arrange flowers, clean the Church and fund-raise to keep our beautiful Church open and thriving.

We would welcome some new ideas and input from any lady or gent – do not be put off by the "Ladies" reference in our title!

If you'd like further information or wish to join us please contact me, Sarah Walther, on 01295 670627 or e-mail sarah.walther@hotmail.co.uk.

Come along to Kundalini Yoga

Sat Nam

My name is Anne and I'm a Kundalini Yoga teacher. I'm going to be teaching a Kundalini Yoga class in Hornton Pavilion on Friday afternoons at 2 pm and I hope you will be interested in coming along. The classes will be for one hour and will begin on Friday, November 15.

Kundalini Yoga is for everyone and you don't need any previous experience of yoga. It works on strengthening the immune, circulatory, glandular and nervous systems, making you feel alive and vibrant as well as encouraging a greater sense of peace and calmness. You will do this through practising pranayama (breathing techniques), kriyas (sets of exercises targeting specific areas of the body) and meditations (to focus and relax the mind and body).

Come along and give it a try – I think you'll like it.

What to bring: A yoga mat (if you have one, I have some spares); a cushion; a blanket to cover yourself during relaxation; and a bottle of water.

Cost of class: £6.00

Please feel free to contact me to book a place, or to ask any questions you may have: Mobile - 07835 086411 or e-mail - anneowen123@btinternet.com.

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Julie and Ann step out

Julie Stanley and Ann Hemmings stepped out on September 14 to raise money for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. They walked around the Ironstone Benefice visiting nine churches and raised £200 for the Trust.

Money for Macmillan

The success of the coffee morning held at the Methodist Chapel on September 27 meant that £293.80 was sent to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Gala Dinner

More than 120 people from Horley, Hornton and surrounding villages attended the much enjoyed Horley Cricket Club Gala Dinner on October 10. Hosted by Hadsham Farm, the event raised over £7,000 which will go towards the £350,000 needed to build a new club pavilion.

Horley CC runs a youth coaching programme during the season which is well attended by Hornton children from age five upwards.

Great Progress

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's progressive dinner such a success. The total raised was £1,180 which included several donations and the proceeds of Sue and Colin's game.

Thanks to your generosity we have been able to donate £500 to the pavilion expenses, £500 towards the running costs of *The Gossip*. A special thank you goes to the hosts who allowed me to press gang them at the last minute!

Anne Joyner

We are the champions!

The winners of the 2019 Hornton Croquet Tournament were Angus Hall and James Hook. The competition was held on a beautiful day in August. Runners up were Stan and Kaivel Ann Zdeb who had never played croquet before!



Angus Hall (left) and James Hook

Hornton History Group



Lording It

Ian Harris and Roger Bellamy took on the persona of a Saxon warlord at the conclusion of a talk on the Anglo-Saxon way of life by historian Peter Spackman.

There was a good turnout for the talk, held in the Pavilion on October 10, and a chance to don the Anglo-Saxon-style garments and wield replicas of a warlord's weapons. The proceeds from the event were shared by Katherine House Hospice and Hornton History Group.

A right royal visit

It was a grand day out for Hornton History Group and friends on a September Saturday when the whole day was devoted to exploring the nooks and crannies of Hampton Court Palace and its fabulous gardens.

First up were the vast Tudor Great Kitchens – a massive food factory where over 1,200 meals a day were prepared for a hungry royal court. Here we saw costumed staff making elaborate sweets and table decorations involving gold-leaf and, at the time, enormously expensive spices and food dyes.

We visited the beautiful Royal Apartments and the Chapel, where King Henry V111 was attending when Catherine Howard was dragged in screaming, pleading for her life.

And then on to the magnificent William and Mary Apartments, passing through chambers ever more richly furnished.

The amazing gardens with the fiendish Maze and gnarled ancient vine were a must. An extra perk in the grounds was a classic car concourse event which some of our petrol-heads enjoyed.

No-one missed the coach home by getting lost in the Maze so it was back to Hornton and, for some of us, a welcome supper at the Dun Cow.

Laurie Stewart-Furieux

Inspiring talk

An inspirational talk on the work of Send A Cow, the charity that has helped more than two million people in Africa to eradicate hunger and poverty, was given in the Church in September.

Delivered by Graham & Catherine Vint of Hornton Grounds Farm, the talk was very well attended and extremely well received. It drew on Graham and Catherine's first-hand experience of the work of the charity during their visit to Rwanda earlier this year.

An Africa-themed buffet supper was served at the event along with a brown cow cocktail: fresh milk from Poplars Farm enlivened with a shot of Kahlua.

The evening raised £326 for the charity.

Parking problem

Hornton Parish Council requests your help in tackling a parking problem.

The number of cars parked in the village has increased in recent years and this is now causing some problems.

We recognise that if you do not have a garage you have no choice but to park on the street. However, the Parish Council has to ensure everyone's safety and that all vehicles can get through the village without obstruction. This applies particularly to emergency vehicles but also to school coaches, lorries and tractors.

The major areas of concern are the lower part of Millers Lane, where parking round the grass triangle by the garages is severely congested; the line of cars parked down from the triangle to outside Sunnyside; and vehicles parked up Millers Lane, some partly on the pavement but sticking out into the road leaving only inches to spare for a large vehicle to get through. There is also sometimes an issue on the sharp corner outside the cottages next to Holloway House.

So our requests, particularly for those who own more than one vehicle, are:

If you do have a garage you are not using for parking your car in, please consider doing so, as we need to reduce the number of cars on the street.

If you have no choice but to park on the street, please do not park on a bend, do not park so that others cannot get past you and please do not park opposite or nearly opposite vehicles on the other side of the road.

Wherever you park, please consider if a fire engine, ambulance, coach or lorry could safely pass your vehicle in order to get to **any** house in the village.

We should be very grateful for your cooperation in tackling the parking problem and hope that you wont mind if vehicles blocking the natural flow of traffic in the village receive a reminder on their windscreens.

Hornton Parish Council



The weather on Sunday September 1 was pretty good for a cycle ride - sun and cloud, not too hot and certainly not pouring with rain like some of the other summer days we have had, although it was a bit windier than the cyclists might have liked.

There was a good turnout - 21 cyclists including three electric cyclists and the Overton's young grandson Stanley. As ever, people spread out and cycled at their own pace - some fast, some less so! The short route was nearly 13 miles going from Hornton to Balscote, Shutford, Epwell and back via Sugarwell, and for some, Ratley. The longer route peeled off at Epwell for an additional eight miles or so via Brailes and Winderton.

Obviously despite the availability of a map and familiarity with the route someone (no names) still got lost.

Then it was back to the Dun Cow for a reviving drink, alcoholic or not, and for some a hearty roast lunch but for most that important post cycling carbs treat of things and chips. Until next year.....

Lynn Corke

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Thames Valley Police

Claire Brennan Gates, a police community support officer with the Banbury Rural Geographical Team, provides a contribution to our newsletter.

We have been carrying out Speedwatch operations throughout the villages this month, with our new speed indication device as one of our team priorities. The results were encouraging. If you would like to join your Parish Council Speedwatch scheme and volunteer, please contact your Parish Councillor.

We have been dealing with reports of horses being ridden in the early hours and tack being tampered with, damaged and stolen. The reports are from the Epwell and Milton areas. The incident in Milton looked like someone was trying to take the horses. If you have experienced any suspicious activity please report it to us on 101.

We have been experiencing burglaries in the area where offenders break into houses and take car keys, then steal the car on the driveway. Please be mindful of your security, make sure you lock up and do not keep your car keys in obvious places in the house. If you see anyone acting suspiciously in your village please call it in.

We seized an illegal scrap-metal van this week. The scrap-metal collectors had no licence, no insurance, the van had failed its MOT and they had no license to collect waste either. If you see someone collecting scrap from houses in your area that isn't pre-arranged please call us as we need to check that the vehicle is safe on the road and that the people are legitimate scrap collectors.

Again we are having reports of parents parking dangerously and speeding when dropping off and collecting children from school. We would hope that parents are the people in the community who would be most protective of our children. Please do not speed or park dangerously. The rules are there to protect our children.

If you would like to contact PCSO Claire Brennan Gates, PCSO Jayne Langford or PCSO Lana Smith please e-mail us at BanburyRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or phone 101.

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CLASS 5

Buyers of MOT Failures - for the best prices ring Paul

Road restored



The extensive repairs to the portion of Horley Road which had been undermined by badger sets were completed as scheduled on October 11. The photo above, taken by Katie Walther, reveals just how deeply the badgers had dug.

Write to Hornton!

Barely a week goes by when I don't receive a request to add someone new to the Hornton email list. Since hardly anyone ever wants to come off it - even if they move out of the village - that means the list is growing all the time, which is great.

I'm really keen for as many people as possible to send out emails themselves, rather than you sending them through to me to put out. After all, it's not my email list - it belongs to the village and it's designed as an open list so that people can talk to each other. It also makes less work for me!

So how do you do that? First, take a *recent* Hornton email (it needs to be recent to make sure you're writing to all the new people recently added), hit *reply all*, delete the old email and subject heading, write a new email and you're ready to send it.

Seems simple enough - except that, in the world of computing, nothing is ever simple...because you've only written to half the village! That's because the Hornton email list has now grown so large that it's divided into two. Internet service providers try to stop the much-hated spam by preventing you from sending out emails to too many recipients at once. I get round that by sending out two identical emails to two separate halves of the village.

It's not a big deal - I just write the email, copy it, send it to one half of the village and then paste into an email addressed to the other half. But what happens if you don't have access to the other half of the email list? Well, most people in Hornton now do...

If you have a partner and you are both on the email list, I've recently put you on *different* halves of it. So all you have to do is take a recent Hornton email addressed to you, hit *reply all*, delete the old email and subject heading and write your new email. Then, before you send it, copy it and go to the same email sent to your partner. Repeat the process there and you'll have sent it out to the whole village.

If you're a singleton, drop me an email and I'll put you on both halves of the list, so you can do the same.

Then you've talked to the whole of Hornton!

Just one reminder. People like the fact that the list is open and we can write to each other but, due to tedious new computer privacy rules, please don't pass on email addresses on the list to anyone outside it.

Roger Corke

Observations of a petrol head

The Gossip asked Martin Jones, who has been involved in the motor industry and motor sport for over 25 years, to give his view on the contentious motocross issue.

It's fair to say that I'm a petrol head and maybe you think that I'm going to favour the motoX circuit's case without question but you're wrong.

I moved into this wonderful village seven years ago. I was on a short contract and never expected to stay but hey, it's probably the best place I've ever lived. I enjoy the old-fashioned community spirit and I've actively engaged in protecting the community with the fast-action response team, speed watch and tackling head-on some issues of anti-social behaviour.

However, I can't do anything about the noise from the motoX except for offering the following observations.

Over the years, I've seen disputes between circuits and local residents all over the world. Most are resolved through mutual agreement about the days when events can be held. This is fair and reasonable providing that the circuit adheres to the agreement.

From my understanding, this is where an unexpected problem arises. There is a second track in the disused quarry at the back of Varney's garage which is accessed via the Stratford road. I have seen racing there three times this year whilst on a walk over to Shenington. It's an unofficial track and it may be clouding the issue as regards the number of events that the official track runs.

As for the official motoX site, I have noticed more activity this year. This is the result of the higher status of the events being staged. I've read that it's considered to be one of the top ones in Europe now.

I've visited several of the meetings. I've seen a steady growth of the motor-home village and I must say that the estimates of 1000 spectators and competitors is very light of the actual. But I like the racing and the involvement of the competitors' families; seeing the generations, from tot to grandad, racing at the same event is great. Seeing a multicultural and economic diversity mix all enjoying themselves is, in my opinion, fantastic and should be a glowing model of sport bringing people together. I like this.

On the downside, while there appears to be excessive wear and tear on the road surface around the entrance to the motoX site, the biggest problem is the noise. This is a pain if the wind blows in the wrong direction and I do sympathise with those who are more affected by it than I am in the centre of the village.

Noise is a problem in our modern society. Hornton is very quiet at night but during the day it can be quite noisy with jets heading to and from Birmingham, strimmers, lawn mowers, delivery vans and the school. We accept these noises and live with them.

MotoX is different because it's an event staged for entertainment rather than everyday living. So, in my opinion, the organisers need to be respectful of this and keep to the approved number of days. They should also consider putting in place other sound-deafening measures like banking and tree planting. If they do this then there's a case for live and let live.

Slow down!

Villagers concerned about the excessive speed demonstrated by motorists coming into and leaving Hornton and, in particular, delivery drivers, may like to try a tip given by Alice Protheroe.

When ordering goods for delivery always take advantage of the delivery instructions request to write: "Please observe the speed limit in our village" or words to that effect.

You're Kidding...

Q: What do you call a chicken with lettuce over its eye?

A: Chicken sees a salad!

An Omelette & Quiche joke

Preparing for winter

How In the bleak midwinter when frosty wind makes moan
Can we help the fragile feathered friends who make our gardens home?

A winter of severe cold temperatures and plenty of snow and ice are predicted this year. Just as the weather gets colder the countryside around us gets more and more inhospitable for the birds. Insects die, the sheltering hedgerows are chopped down and stripped of berries, the cereals are harvested and the ground freezes. During episodes of bad weather we all must sometimes wonder at the small miracle of the birds' survival.

In fact, birds are well equipped to cope under normal conditions. They keep warm by fluffing their feathers to create air pockets and tucking down over their feet when perching with their heads under wings. Their leg skin has overlapping scales which act as insulation, and they can stand on one leg at a time to warm the other one.

On sunny days they will sun themselves by turning their back to the sun and spreading their wings and they can shiver to raise their metabolism. In extreme cold during sleep they may enter a state of torpor when their body temperature can drop by 50 degrees, but torpor renders them very vulnerable to hungry predators. So how can we help birds to survive until next spring?

We can help with **shelter**. Leave pruning hedges, conifers and evergreen shrubs until the worst of the winter is over. Bird-boxes, holes in walls and empty martins' nests provide roosting spaces where small birds can cluster together and share warmth. Stacks of brush piled against a sheltered wall or windbreak and barns and sheds with high-up entry and exit gaps allow bigger birds to roost in crowds.

We can help with **food**. Every daylight hour is precious as birds must store as much insulating fat as possible so they wake at first light hungry. Leave some of the dead and untidy plants in your flowerbeds, don't tidy them all up. The debris forms shelter for insects for the ground feeders to find.

Luckily most of our gardens contain a feeding station upon which birds will rely heavily, so once you start feeding please keep it up, but NOT with these: NO to anything salted, preserved, pickled, smoked, or derived from a bird, particularly turkey fat. NO to soft, greasy roasting pan fats or the fat and skin off of a boiled ham. This is because they will clean their greasy chops by wiping them on their feathers and thus destroy their own natural waterproofing, leading to certain death in the next storm. NO to raw rice or white bread, as these swell up and make them feel too full to eat the good stuff. NO to anything in netting – this can trap the feet of birds that hang to feed.

We can help with **water**. Birds can and do melt snow to drink but this uses up valuable energy. Keep bird baths topped up with tepid water and float a ping pong ball in them to keep some of the ice clear.

We can help with **diseases**. Clean bird-feeders once a week and dispose of any rotting or mouldy food. Change water regularly and keep it clean.

For squirrel-proof feeders and all your birdy winter supplies visit www.Gardenwildlifedirect.com – free UK delivery, 4.8 Google review rating, special offers and a plastics-free page.

Birdbrain

DIY fat balls

Here's a RSPB recipe for making food balls. The measurements are flexible!

You will need:

One cup full of good quality bird seed, raisins, peanuts, grated cheese mixed together.
Two cups full of hard lard or suet (ask the butcher if you can have any of the suet he takes off kidneys)

Some yoghurt pots and cocktail sticks.

Saucepan, string and scissors.

Cut enough string to make a hanging loop, twist it around the cocktail stick and balance the stick across the yoghurt pot so that a length of string dangles to the bottom of the pot.

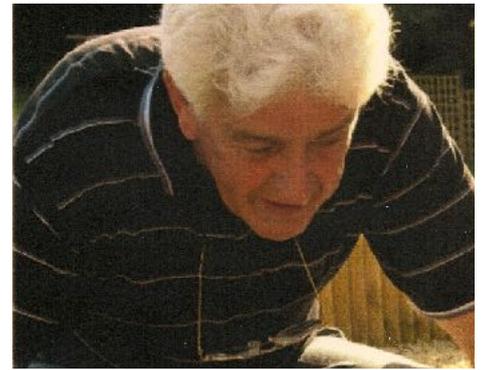
Put the fat into a saucepan and heat it slowly until it has all melted.

Remove from the heat, add the food mixture and stir well. Let it cool a bit but it needs to still be runny. Pour a little into the bottom of the pot so it covers the string and leave it to set. This will stop the string floating to the surface.

Pour the rest of the mix into the pot and leave it to set. Chill in the fridge.

When it's chilled solid get it out of the yoghurt pot and hang it on your bird feeder.

Bob Edginton dies



Very sadly, we must report the death of Bob Edginton of Sheraton, Bell Street, who died on September 29. He was 79.

Originally from Birmingham, Bob made Hornton his home for half a century and ran the Youth Club for some years.

His working life was spent in computers but he retired when his beloved wife Linda developed Alzheimers disease and he became her full-time carer. Linda died two years ago.

A good footballer when young – Bob had a trial with Walsall Football Club – he also loved golf and was a keen gardener.

He is survived by his son Stuart and daughter Caroline. Another son, Christopher, died in infancy.

Evacuee never forgot Hornton

Charles Evans, originally from Bethnal Green in London's East End but evacuated to Hornton during the Second World War, has died aged 89.

Charles always credited Hornton with turning him from a young ruffian from the East End into a respectable young man.

He and his family – parents, eight sons and one daughter – lived in poverty. An unsuccessful evacuee placement for Charles in 1939 was followed by a return to London where the street where he lived was completely destroyed in the Blitz.

Once again he was evacuated, this time to Hornton, where Frank and Lily Price, a middle-aged couple with no children of their own, took him in and looked after him as though he were their son.

He was happy in Hornton. Instead of returning to London with other evacuees after the war, he remained here, working when he left school and being a part of the church and choir.

It was his call-up for National Service that meant leaving the village but he continued to return to it regularly for the rest of his active life.

Somerset wedding

Henry John Horwood Turner, youngest son of John and Angeline Turner of The Yews, Church Lane, was married to Laura Elisabeth Kelly on October 19 at Brympton D'Evercy, Somerset.

Bride and groom are both chartered surveyors working in the City of London.

Christmas fare

Iced Christmas pudding mousse

Serves 6 or so, freezable

It is never too soon to be thinking about Christmas as is shown by Christmas cards being in the shops in September or even earlier! This is a Gary Rhodes recipe which you could make with leftover Christmas pudding or by using shop-bought pudding obtained before or even after Christmas when it is on offer.

For the pudding:

450g (or about 1lb) cooked Christmas pudding, roughly chopped into small pieces. (You can microwave the pudding, particularly if you are just using it for this recipe. This would be a medium-sized one so the standard sort of size you see in supermarkets)

500g carton ready-made custard

142ml carton double cream

25g caster or icing sugar

For the orange sauce:

4-6 tangerines or satsumas, peeled

300ml orange juice

a splash or two of Grand Marnier or Cointreau (optional)

100g caster sugar

To serve:

Holly sprigs, and icing sugar for dusting

To make the pudding, quickly blitz together the chopped pudding and custard in a food processor or break up/crumble the pudding if you want a more lumpy texture. Whip the cream and sugar to soft peaks and stir into the flavoured custard. Pour the mix into a 1.2 litre/2 pint pudding basin, then cover and freeze overnight or for several hours. At this stage the pudding could be frozen for up to 1 month and if you are nervous about turning it out you could line the basin with clingfilm before pouring in the pudding mixture.

For the sauce, bring the orange juice and caster sugar up to a boil, stirring occasionally, until the sugar is dissolved. Then boil hard for 20-25 mins, until reduced by about half to a thick syrupy consistency (like golden syrup). Watch it carefully so it doesn't boil over, lowering the heat if necessary. Leave to cool, finishing with a splash or two of your chosen liqueur, if using. This can be kept chilled for 3-4 days. When you are ready to serve the pudding cut away the pith and peel from the tangerines or satsumas with a sharp knife, then cut either side of the membranes to release the segments - this just looks fancier than including the membranes.

To serve the dessert, transfer it to the fridge 30 mins before serving, then dip the basin into hot water and turn the pudding out onto a chilled plate - be bold! Arrange some of the fruit segments around the base of the pudding, and some on top. Drizzle with some of the syrup and serve the rest separately. Finish with holly leaves and a dusting of icing sugar or with some other decoration of your choice.

Christmas extras: As it is Christmas, here are a couple of extra thoughts. Christmas pudding brownies - try crumbling some cooked Christmas pudding into a brownie recipe, omitting any fruit/nuts that you would normally include. This will give a spicy, fruity brownie which you can serve hot or cold and not just at Christmas.

Christmas pudding ice cream - take 1 litre tub of vanilla ice cream, slightly softened, and 200g cooked and crumbled Christmas pudding. Whizz the ice cream until it is smooth then fold in the pudding. Freeze for at least 2 hours and then scoop into bowls and serve topped with a sauce of your choice, perhaps toffee or amaretto.

Enjoy!

Lynn Corke



Hello Henry

Congratulations to Antoinette Powell and Adrian Hardwick of Sunnyside on the addition to their family of Henry Alexander Yves. Born on August 5 and weighing 6lbs 11oz, Henry is a little brother for a very proud Emily.

The Gossip

The copy deadline for the February issue of *The Gossip* is Thursday 30 January 2020 - submissions please to abbott@hornton.myzen.co.uk. To advertise in the next issue, please contact Cindy Koberl at ckoberl@btinternet.com

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