

# The Gossip

H O R N T O N

ISSUE 116

FEBRUARY 2020

## Hunt hounds raise Hornton hackles

### Out-of-control foxhounds terrify school children

**All hell broke loose in Hornton on the afternoon of January 9 when a group of Warwickshire Hunt foxhounds that had broken away from the main pack ran amok in the village.**

The timing could not have been worse as, in the centre of the village, children were emerging from Hornton Primary School and being picked up by parents. Had the school not recently erected new railings around its perimeter, the hounds would have been into the school grounds where, instead, some children and parents were able to shelter.

Others who had already left the school were not so lucky and were shocked and frightened by the large dogs charging around. One mother was forced to hold a small child above her head when a hound jumped up at her.

Elsewhere in the village, hounds ran through gardens, even scrambling over a car, and four leapt sturdy fences to enter a pasture and harass some sheep.

The furore caused by this Hunt incursion, coming close on the heels of one in Horley in December, was such that it was covered by both national and local newspapers, including The Times.

Parents with children at the school were extremely indignant. Some reported the incident to the police. One who had seen a fox running across Millers Lane pursued by hounds remonstrated with a horse rider and with men in a quad bike who acknowledged that the dogs were out of control. "These men were rude and dismissive," she said.

Abigail O'Driscoll, whose two children attend Peachtree Pre-School, was attempting to leave the village via Millers Lane when she found the road part blocked by off-road vehicles.

"They were attempting to stop cars passing because a fox and two hounds were running around," she said. "The hounds were large and not responding to the men's commands. One appeared to have bloodied flesh in its jaws."

Abigail was also concerned about the driving of two large four-by-four vehicles on Horley Road. "As I turned on to the road, the vehicles did u-turns in the road and began chasing the hounds, driving them into the fields," she said. "These cars were behaving quite dangerously."

Steve Woodcock, a parish councillor who lives on Eastgate and whose sheep were terrorized by the Hunt hounds, was infuriated by the Hunt's loss of control of part of its pack. He carried his complaints directly to the master of foxhounds at Warwickshire Hunt, Barbara Hester.

"Mrs Hester's response is understandably a one-sided view of what happened and, of course, she is entitled to her point of view," he said. "She maintains, for example, that only three or four hounds were detached from the main pack, ran into the village and were there

for only three or four minutes before being re-united with the main pack of hounds and riders in the Ratley valley.

"There are villagers who dispute these facts and because the incident has caused considerable concern, I shall be raising the matter at the next Parish Council meeting."

Mrs Hester has apologised. "I am incredibly sorry that this occurred and caused some distress at a busy time for the village school run," she wrote to Steve Woodcock. "I am sorry for the problems caused and would hope that if there was any damage caused, that you would direct any such issues to me. In the future, we will actively avoid the village, as we would normally do, but also place people on point around the village to endeavour to avoid this happening again."



An image from the film 'There's Only One Hornton' – see overleaf for details

For 'What's On' see centre pages



## There's still only one Hornton

December of 1995 was a cold 'un. Between Christmas and New Year, BBC radio reported that it was minus 20 in Glasgow and it wasn't much warmer round here. The ditches along the lanes around Hornton were littered with cars that had simply slid off the treacherous roads.

Tucked away in our little cottage we kept warm with our solid fuel Rayburn but Lynn was worried about Bill Freeman. Bill lived on his own in a cottage facing the green and was about 80. She suggested I should check on him.

When I went to see Bill, he assured me that he was fine but, since it was Christmas, would I like to pop in for a drop of Port? I walked through his front door and back 50 years.

On the stone floor was an ancient electric heater that should have been condemned decades ago as unsafe. Instead, Bill had turned it on its back and used it to boil a kettle for his tea! And in the corner was a positive spaghetti junction of adaptors plugged into an equally ancient socket which took thick, round-pin plugs.

"Don't you think all those adaptors are just a tiny bit dangerous, Bill?" I asked. "Oh no," he replied. "It's all quite safe. An electrician employed by Mr Miles said so."

I'm not quite sure when Mr Miles stopped employing electricians but it was probably not long after this wiring had been installed – the late 1940s!

Bill told me how he'd been born in his cottage and lived there all his life. Then he came out with a host of memories. The most poignant was how he could still remember the postman coming to the door with mail for his mother. He pointed to a high-backed wooden chair in the corner.

"She sat in that chair and I could sense that she was upset about something." The postman had given her a telegram, telling her that Bill's father had been killed at the front in World War 1.

I came away from Bill's thinking that I needed to record the thoughts or memories of people like him before they died and that's how the Hornton millennium film was born.

I promised myself that I would not let the film dominate my life. But it did, as it did for the person without whom it would never have been possible – my fantastic co-producer, Anne Joyner. Throughout 1999 we filmed everything that happened in Hornton. We also talked to ten Horntonians, each born in a different decade in the 20<sup>th</sup> century - Bill was one of them, of course - and we looked back at the history of Hornton from the New Year of 1900 to New Year's Eve 1999.

The film made the January 1, 2000, edition of *The Times*, with a photo of Liz Jeffs - our "50 year old" - but it was a long time before Hornton could see it. After almost a year of filming, it took another 18 months for Anne and me to edit it. I used up every single favour I had from my contacts in TV so that, by the end, we had a feature-length film of broadcast quality.

Today it looks a bit dated, of course - it was 20 years ago - but I still think it's the best film I have ever made. It's certainly the film of which I'm most proud.

See for yourself. On the evenings of Friday 28 February and Saturday 29 February at 7pm we're going to be showing *There's Only One Hornton* in the pavilion once again. And we're also going to produce a short update to say what's happened to the people we featured.

There will be a bar, plus a traditional Hornton raffle, of course, which will be drawn in the interval. The £5 tickets are now on sale from Isabelle Harris on 670304, with proceeds to village causes.

It should be a fun and nostalgic evening...and be prepared to shed a tear or two.

Roger Corke

## Looking back

Twenty-seven years ago a Hornton New Year beacon was built and lit on the site of the old windmill on Holloway.

Ian Harris and Les England were the organisers and Ian's report on the event featured in the Winter 1993 issue of *The Gossip*. He wrote:

"I thought we would be lucky to see a dozen or so at the lighting of the beacon if it was fine; if it had rained more likely just Les and myself. I was therefore very surprised and pleased to see about fifty people arrive along Holloway.

"A working party, including a number of cubs, spent the morning of New Year's Eve emptying a formidable pile of combustible material from the roof of the Pavilion and carting it up to Holloway to build the beacon. The fire, already over eight feet high, was considerably expanded by the arrival by special delivery of a load of pallets.

"At about 11.45pm the crowd started gathering and final touches (diesel fuel) were made to the beacon. The first beacon was lit in London at midnight and ours was ignited exactly four minutes later. The fire took hold very quickly and we soon had a very impressive blaze lighting up the fields all around and warming the spectators most of whom were now celebrating the New Year with a variety of beverages.

"Over 700 fires were lit throughout the UK and many more across Europe."

## Steve scare intensifies

It seems that a surfeit of Steves is not just a problem for Hornton. There are more Steves than women among FTSE 100 chief executives – and they get paid more!

Anon.



## Alex Birch

**The banker turned personal trainer on the highs and lows of a radical change of direction.**

Alex, 49, was born in Hillingdon, west London. He studied modern languages at Bristol University before embarking on a 23-year career in banking, first with J P Morgan and latterly with an Italian owned German bank where he headed up a team selling equity derivatives into Western Europe. In 2018 he gave up a city salary and the lifestyle that went with it to qualify and work as a personal trainer, fitness instructor and British Triathlon Federation coach. He lives on Eastgate with his wife Kate and daughter Gaia.

“Nowadays I get up between 6am and 6.30am. First I have a hot shower, slowly decreasing the temperature until it’s stone cold. It’s very invigorating and wakes me up. Then I have breakfast, a treat. When I worked in the City I’d be up at 5.15am, make a flask of coffee, jump on my motorbike and be off to Banbury station to catch the 5.59am train.

After breakfast I will sit at my desk and write a list of everything I need to do or would like to achieve that day, including my work itinerary, family commitments and my own training schedule. This is a major difference between my old and new lives. In my banking job much was organised for me. The structure was there. Now I must provide it myself.

Most mornings I take spin or PT sessions at Soho Farmhouse. It’s incredibly valuable experience for me as I’m new to the work and I consider myself very lucky to have walked straight into the job. In a world of email and social media I used the increasingly unfashionable medium of the telephone to pitch myself to the Farmhouse gym manager. The average age of the clientele is late 30s and 40s and I am humbly grateful to the manager for

recognising that what I lacked in experience I made up for by being enthusiastic about fitness and health and very much at ease when conversing with the clients.

After Soho Farmhouse I do some private client training and then go home for lunch with Kate. We sit and talk – which is amazing. I return to Soho Farmhouse two evenings a week and those are now the only two evenings when we don’t have a family supper; before it was five. I do have to work Saturdays though – which I’m still getting used to!

On Monday evenings I coach Team Cherwell at North Oxford Academy in Banbury and on Tuesdays I stand in for Jess Wain, who is on maternity leave, and take the keep fit class in the Pavilion. In all truth I had never seen myself taking a fitness class in a village hall but I was so impressed by the people and their enthusiasm that I was instantly won over and now really enjoy it. I’m glad to be giving something back to the village that I had become a little detached from because of my long working hours outside it.

Kate, Gaia and I moved to Hornton from London in 2010. We had looked at houses in several counties but then saw Hornton and like most of us absolutely loved it.

Despite me being at home more Kate feels she is becoming a sports widow! That’s because when I’m not working, I’m following my own personal training program – on average for around two hours a day. My goal is to qualify for the GB triathlon team in the 50-54 years category. I tried last year and found that those competitors vying for podium finishes were better trained, fitter, faster and stronger. Hence I’ve stepped up the

training and am giving it my best shot! It’s a huge commitment especially when I’m also trying to build up my own company.

Am I happier than when I was a banker? Yes, I am but you can’t underestimate the impact of losing a regular, decent income. In the past I took it for granted. Not having it has been an eye-opener. It genuinely makes you recognise the true value of things.

I certainly don’t regret making the change; I had been thinking about it for quite a while. It was the right time.”

### Sponsors sought

This is the fourth issue of *The Gossip* since it became self-funding and so far we have managed financially, thanks to the generosity of fund raisers in the village who have included us when distributing funds. We are also grateful for income from our regular advertisers and from Pete Joyner and Cath Bellamy who sponsored the May and November issues respectively.

However, we are conscious that we must not rely on donations continuing to flow into our coffers! There are many good causes in Hornton and there will be times when their needs are more pressing than ours. Neither do we want to depend on a significant increase in advertising revenue as that would mean more adverts and an unbalanced newsletter.

Sponsorship seems to us to be the answer so we invite people in the village who have businesses, or others, to consider this way of supporting *The Gossip*. It isn’t expensive; £120 will cover the cost of an issue. In return, a sponsor will be profiled in the newsletter.

If you are interested in helping *The Gossip* in this way please contact Cindy Koberl at [ckoberl@btinternet.com](mailto:ckoberl@btinternet.com).



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## Girls bake to raise money for BARKS



(L-R) Ruby Short, Esther Holt, Ann Collins (BARKS), Emma Tompkins, and Bella Rolls

We decided as a group of friends, Ruby Short, Emma Tompkins, Esther Holt, Bella Rolls and Sophie Gallon to make money for a local charity, BARKS – Banbury Animal Rescue and Kindness Service.

BARKS is always needing money and some of our families over the years have adopted rabbits and cats from them.

After three days baking we ended up with 15 cakes, lots of biscuits, cupcakes, flapjack, rocky road and savoury bits. We sourced and promoted the event ourselves.

On the day we raised £285.01, but through Sunday morning sales around the village managed to increase this to a whopping £329.71. We persuaded Ruby's mum to gift aid this amount so 25p for every £1 raised was claimed on top.

We hope this money helps the animals through the winter months.

### Chance to win £1000 for Pavilion

A chance to win up to £1000 for the Pavilion and £500 for a photographer has been presented by a new *Wonderful Village* photo competition.

Launched by Allied Westminster, the Boston Spa-based supplier of insurance for village halls, villages and rural communities, the competition is open to all community and village halls. It isn't necessary to have insurance with Allied Westminster to enter.

There is no entry fee. Villagers simply send in photographs, nominate their hall – in our case the Pavilion – and await the judges' decision. Last entry date for photos is midnight March 3.

Judges will be looking for photos that encapsulate the sense of community in a village. Landscapes, nature or architectural shots and photos without people doing identifiable things are unlikely to qualify.

There should be only one photo per entrant but a village can have multiple entrants.

So whether you are an amateur with a smartphone or a professional with a Leica, why not have a go. For entry details go to: <https://villagehallsurvey.com/rules-photo-competition-v1.pdf>

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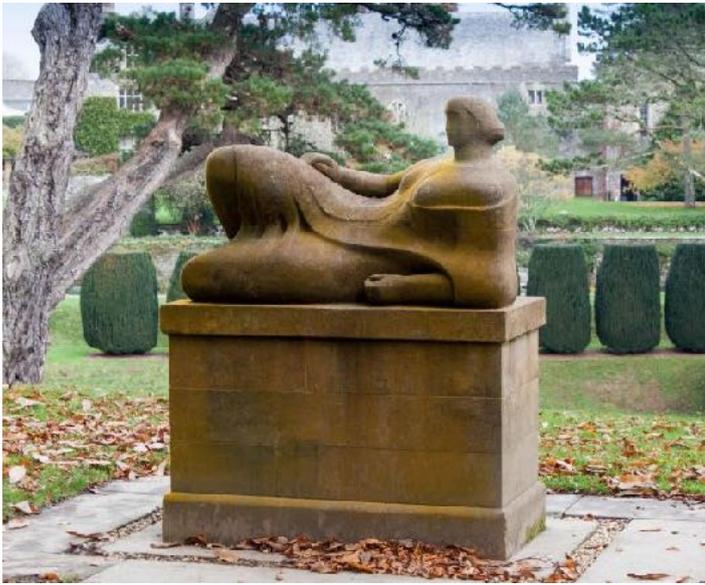
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## Britain's best sculptor chose Hornton stone

Henry Moore, the foremost British sculptor of the 20th century, chose Hornton stone as one of his favourite materials for his large sculptures.

"I made a point of using native materials because I thought that, being English, I should understand our stones," Moore said. But, for a young sculptor starting out, the price had quite a lot to do with it.

"They were cheaper and I could go round to a stonemason and buy random pieces. I tried to use English stones that hadn't been used before for sculpture."

But why Hornton stone? Because Moore thought it was "a warm, friendly stone" and that even when newly carved, its texture was not perfect or pristine, compared with, say, marble or alabaster.

Even when his finances improved and he became known for his outdoor, publicly commissioned work Moore continued to use Hornton stone. He purchased both green and brown Hornton stone from the quarry at Edge Hill.

But he also became aware that Hornton stone was not suited to every outdoor location. On the outbreak of war, one of his large Hornton stone sculptures, *Reclining Figure*, was effectively trapped in the sculpture garden of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. On its return it had suffered from extreme temperatures and the sea air - we know that even in Hornton itself Hornton stone can be subject to wear!

It is not that easy to see Moore's work locally but there is a Madonna and Child in St Matthew's Church in Northampton. You can also visit his studios and sculpture garden at Much Hadham in Hertfordshire. Both locations are only open in the summer months.

After his death at the age of 88 in 1986, Moore's estate was handed over to a charitable trust, the Henry Moore Foundation. Its collection now consists of more than 600 sculptures, 3,000 drawings and 8,000 prints, valued at a total of £130m.

Now you might think it would not be possible to steal a massive sculpture but, in 2005, thieves stole from Much Hadham a cast of Moore's *Reclining Figure*, a 3.6 metre-long, 2.1-tonne bronze sculpture. CCTV showed that the thieves used a crane to lower the piece onto a stolen flatbed truck.

By May 2009, after a thorough investigation, it was acknowledged that the work, once valued at £3m, was probably sold for scrap metal fetching only about £5,000. This maybe explains why it is not that easy to see his work in public places.

Lynn Corke

## Rocky Road

**Councillor Tim Hewlett reports on the progress, or lack of it, in getting our roads repaired.**

It has become harder in recent years to get the poor state of our roads in and around Hornton to be repaired by Oxford County Council. Only a small percentage of all my reports on the OCC *Fix My Street* website has been actioned and the four plus years to get the dips in Quarry Road sorted must be a record.

Response to recently reported defects give little encouragement for progress and although OCC have agreed to action the dreadful state of Bell Street all the way out to the A422 and areas around The Green, the crumbling verge on Eastgate, opposite Cromwells, has been rejected.

There are also no timescales on any repairs we have been promised. If you feel as strongly as I do or see a problem I haven't spotted, I encourage you to make your own report as there is almost certainly strength in numbers. You can remain anonymous or give your name and email address as I do; you can also upload up to three photos for each location you are reporting.

On a slightly brighter note, the remaining street signs should be renewed in the next two months.

## The Romans around Hornton

History Group will be installing an exciting new display in the Chapel this spring.

In 1950 a hoard of 136 Roman coins was found in the earth at Ragnell Bottom, just outside the village. The small bronze coins were minted in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD and came from London, France and Italy. Each one bears the image of a specific Roman Emperor, including the well-known Constantine.

So who was the person burying his life savings in the ground? A Romano-British farmer, an old soldier or a man with his own ironstone business?

We are looking into the intriguing story of the hoard, the strong evidence of Roman occupation in our area and the emperors who controlled the Roman Empire at the time.

Laurie Furneaux



Constantine 1 (as Augustus) A.D. 307-12 London Mint

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# What's On...

## Churches Together Services

First & third Sundays – Chapel, 11am

Second & fourth Sundays – Church, 11am

## Every Tuesday

Yoga – Chapel, 6.30pm

Keep Fit – Pavilion, 7pm

## Every Wednesday

CRIB – Dun Cow, 8pm

## Every Friday

Coffee, Cake & Chat – Chapel, 10.30am-noon

## 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

## Mother & child corner

The Chapel's regular Coffee, Cake and Chat session, held on Fridays from 10.30am – 12 noon, now has a special mother-and-child corner where mums can come along and chat, have a coffee and let their little ones play with the toys provided.

Knit and Natter has been postponed for the time being but hopefully will begin again in the spring.

## Rector retires

Our rector, the Reverend Dr John Reader, affectionately known as JR, retires on February 16 with a celebratory evensong at 3pm in Horley Church attended by Colin, Bishop of Dorchester.

John has been with us for over ten years and will be a hard act to follow. He will not be seeking the traditional pipe and slippers in retirement! A senior research fellow with the William Temple foundation, he has been a prolific theological writer of both books and papers. Anyone who knows him well fully expects his computer to be the first item off the removal van and operational before lunch!

It is as a parish priest that the Ironstone Benefice will remember John: his searching questions during sermons, his passion for the environment, his broad smile and infectious laughter at coffee time and the way he always put people first. Families for whom he has conducted baptisms, weddings or funerals will know him as a man who truly cares, and for this he will be greatly missed.

We all wish both him and Christine every happiness in their new life.

Lindy Bridgeman



**The owners of Upton House bought property in Warwickshire 100 years ago. They are well-known art collectors and philanthropists, but were also prominent campaigners for Jewish causes. The 2nd Viscount Bearsted helped organize the 'Kindertransport' rescue of 10,000 Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Germany in the 1930s.**

**This fascinating talk by Robert Waley-Cohen, married to 3rd Viscount Bearsted's daughter, will relate the history of the family and their life at Upton House.**

**Tickets £5, available from Laurie Furneaux ([lauriefurneaux@gmail.com](mailto:lauriefurneaux@gmail.com) or 01295 670417). Please bring some cash as refreshments will be available. All proceeds to go to The Children's Hospital in Oxford and village causes.**

## Hornton History Group

### Plans for 2020

Another programme of exciting events lies ahead for the growing history group – and it still has room for more members.

This month Robert Waley-Cohen, married to the third Viscount Bearsted's daughter, will give a fascinating talk about the history of the family and life at Upton House. (See poster above).

Apart from the regular meetings held at the Dun Cow on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm several events are planned including visits to Baddesley Clinton and Thenford Arboretum, a day out at Bosworth Battlefield and a guided tour of Chipping Campden with a pub lunch afterwards.

It costs just £15 to join the history group. Members automatically get invited to the annual summer garden party and Christmas dinner. If you would like to join please phone Laurie Furneaux on 01295 670417 or email [lauriefurneaux@gmail.com](mailto:lauriefurneaux@gmail.com)

## Save the date

*Don't forget that this year Hornton's May Day fete will be on the bank holiday Monday at the end of the month. So be sure to put Monday, May 25 in your diaries.*

## Events at the Dun Cow

### **Saturday 8th February**

6 Nations Rugby  
14:15 Ireland v Wales  
16:45 Scotland v England

### **Wednesday 12th February**

#### Quiz

donations going to Jumpa and the Church

### **Saturday 22nd February**

6 Nations Rugby  
14:15 Italy vs Scotland  
16:45 Wales vs France

### **Sunday 23rd February**

6 Nations Rugby  
15:00 England vs Ireland

### **Wednesday 26th February**

Burger night

### **Saturday 7th March**

6 Nations Rugby  
14:15 Ireland vs Italy  
16:45 England vs Wales

### **Sunday 8th March**

6 Nations Rugby  
15:00 Scotland vs France

### **Saturday 14th March**

6 Nations Rugby  
14:15 Scotland vs Wales  
16:45 Italy vs England  
20:00 France vs Ireland

#### **Semi finals**

further details to follow

#### **Finals**

further details to follow

### **Wednesday 18th March**

#### Quiz Night

donations going to the park and the pavilion.

## Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday March 6 at 2.30pm at Ratley Parish Church. The service has been written by women of Zimbabwe. Each year Hornton takes it in turns with Radway, Ratley Shotteswell, and Warmington, to hold this very special service.

## Lost it?

Has anyone lost a lovely scarf? One was left behind at the fashion show staged at the Pavilion before Christmas.

Isabelle Harris has the scarf and is happy to hand it over to anyone who can give an accurate description of it. Contact her on 670304.

## March means *Les Mis*

Hornton's very own Neil Madden, who is the head of drama at Sibford School, has been working with his pupils since last summer on his most ambitious project to date - a production of *Les Misérables* - and he'd like as many as possible of his friends and neighbours in Hornton to see it.

It's happening in the first week of March - the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th - and the tickets, which are just £8 plus booking fee, are on sale now.

This is a must for all *Les Mis* fans and, if you'd like to go, you just need to log on to: <https://www.skiddle.com/whats-on/Banbury/Sibford-School-Oxfordshire/> and you'll find all the details there.

Roger Corke

## Hornton Churches Together Easter services

We are now planning our Easter services, the first being Palm Sunday April 5 at 11am in the Chapel. During the week there will be an evening service, possibly on Tuesday (date and time to be arranged), of Stations of the Cross in the Church. Please look out for details by e-mail or Banbury Guardian.

On Good Friday there will be a 7pm service in the Chapel. There will be no Coffee Morning that day. Easter Sunday service is at 11am in the Church; the Ladies Working Party always make the Church look beautiful with their wonderful flower arrangements.

Hope you will be able to join us at some of these special services. Thank you for your continued support. Happy New Year.

Julie Stanley (Tel: 670507 - e-mail [julieharrystan@aol.com](mailto:julieharrystan@aol.com))

## Chapel news from Julie Stanley

During the Christmas break David Miles installed the new bookcase for the village library in the foyer of the Chapel. It looks really good and books are now neatly on shelves instead of in stacks on the floor of the foyer. Don't forget you can change your books at any time.

Also in the foyer there is a collection box for donations to Banbury food bank. When the basket is full the food is taken to St. Francis where it is distributed on Thursday mornings to those in need. Currently there are 18 families who rely on the bank for their food. If you would like to contribute there is a list of what the food bank would like to receive on the hatch door above the basket. Tins and packets are gratefully received (please check the sell-by date). Toiletries are also very welcome.

Hornton Churches Together support Fairtrade and we have items for sale in the Chapel. There are various cleaning products, toilet rolls, kitchen roll, biscuits, tea, coffee, sugar and Irene Harwood's delicious jams.

## **Banbury Choral Society to perform Bach masterpiece**

Banbury Choral Society will give a concert of JS Bach's masterpiece, St John Passion, at St Mary's Church Banbury on Saturday, April 4 at 7.30pm.

They will be accompanied by chamber orchestra, the Oxford Sinfonia, and conducted by Julian Harris.

Tickets for the concert (£15, £5 for under 16s) are available from [www.banburychoralsociety.co.uk](http://www.banburychoralsociety.co.uk), the box office 07721 204734 or the Banbury Tourist Information Centre.



# The Hintons say goodbye



Thank you to everyone who joined us for farewell drinks at the Dun Cow and to Steve and family for the delicious spread they provided and a welcoming atmosphere.

When we moved to Hornton in 1986 we thought we'd be there for a couple of years while we applied for emigration to Australia. Thirty-four years later we have now travelled all the way to Brailes! Even so it's been a wrench, especially for the girls as their whole lives have been spent at The Berries on West End.

The village school, with only 45 pupils at the time, gave them a good start in life and enduring friendships. They had wonderful walks with Maisy and previous canine companions thanks to the Harts and Nunellys allowing us to roam the fields, which was much appreciated.

The allotments gave us many years of pleasure with the girls and then a great bolt-hole for Steve to gossip with his mates (which he'll find hard to replace). Hornton also provided Steve with work for many years but he could still arrive late!

As for The Berries, we haven't quite moved out yet. How people do it all in one day I've no idea. We'll do some tidying up and then sadly it will go on the market in the spring when hopefully some other family will have many happy years there as we did.

*Steve & Annie Hinton, Rosie, Amy and Jess.*

## Join the Club

Church treasurer Andrew Overton explains how the Church 100 Club contributes to the Church's £13,000 running costs and encourages people to become members.

The Church 100 Club has been running for a number of years and been very successful. Winners this year have shared over £800 in prize money. Draws are made quarterly in the Dun Cow and openly so all can see it is fair and square.

There are first, second and third prizes ranging from over £100 for first prize to just below £40 for third prize.

The charge for club members is just over £1 per share per week which is paid quarterly by standing order. We distribute a third of all money received as prizes.

At present we have around 50 shares taken but would like more people to join. The more involved the larger the prizes will become because we'll continue to pay a third from what will be a bigger pot.

Winners this year have been Tom Gibbs, Clare Fox, Bob Langton, John Offord, John Furneaux, Tristan Koberl, Sheila Hillman, Sarah Walther, Steve Tilling, Isabelle Harris and Sally Tweedsmuir.

It costs over £13,000 a year to run our village Church. The 100 Club is a nice way to contribute to our fundraising efforts. You never know. It might just pay dividends!

## What a load of rubbish!

If you were confused about bin collections in the last two weeks of December you weren't the only one.

Cherwell's cunning plan to leave those last two weeks blank on their rubbish collection calendar had us all foxed. The unexpected appearance of a rubbish truck one day led one villager to chase after it in his pyjamas!

But never fear. A response from Customer Services at Cherwell and South Northamptonshire Council has made everything clear.

"We do not include the last two weeks of the year on our original bin calendars as we often have to make changes due to the bank holidays," they wrote in a response to Lynn Corke's complaint about the confusion.

"If there are any changes to a resident's bin collection day over this period, a tag is attached to their bin weeks in advance to let them know of the change. If you have not been advised of a change to your bin collection, then the collection day remains the same as normal."

Which begs the question, then why leave the calendar blank for the two weeks at the end of the year? If there is a change the tagging system will let everyone know well in advance. It's the blank calendar that confused everyone. But now we know!



## Get your waste to the right place

The Waste Wizard is a new online tool to kill the confusion around recycling and help Oxfordshire defeat General Waste. Type in your postcode and the name of any item to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated or recycled - [oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard).

## Noise app

Concerned about the potential return of nuisance noise from the Wroxton Motocross this spring? Download an app that will allow you to record noise levels and submit them to the local authority.

Although there are clear signs that Wroxton Motocross is taking steps to keep the noise nuisance in check, the use of the app will give reassurance to village residents that evidence can be produced if there are infringements.

If you have an iPhone or an android smartphone download The Noise App, register your name and details and choose for your readings to go to Cherwell local authority. They will automatically be sent to Jim Guest, the CDC environmental protection officer who is handling the Wroxton Motocross case and will be accepted as evidence.

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*Buyers of MOT Failures - for the best prices ring Paul*

## Posts on green to be replaced

*Councillor Steve Woodcock reports*

The PC has been looking for some time to renew the posts protecting the village green as, after sterling service, they are getting very rotten and are both unsightly and potentially unsafe.

The Council looked at various options, including kerb stones, but a like-for-like replacement was selected as the most effective, and cost-effective, means of protecting the green. This is a legal responsibility, as most of the green spaces in the village are registered under the 1965 Commons Registration Act.

Whilst the contractor will try to minimise disruption, there will be some times when the work may mean some delays, but to try to minimise this the plan is to undertake the work in February half-term.

If anyone has any questions please contact the clerk, Cindy Koberl, at [clerk@hornton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hornton.org.uk).

## Dog warden in Hornton

After several complaints to the Parish Council about dog fouling in the village it has been agreed to contact the dog warden, who in the past has made unannounced visits and can instigate action against offenders.

If you allow a dog in your charge to foul any area to which the public has access you are committing an offence. The penalty for not clearing up dog fouling can be up to £1000 if the case is dealt with by the magistrates courts, or £50 if the owner is given a fixed penalty notice.

There are currently three dedicated waste bins, near Jumpa, in West End and on the footpath past The Gables.

Clearly wild animals occasionally are responsible but can we encourage all dog owners please to carry dog bags and to clean up after their poodles.

*Councillor Steve Woodcock*



## More than just a garden centre

### Onsite we offer:

-  A plant centre stocking extensive range of herbplants to delight the chef, intrigue the gardener and fascinate anyone with an interest in herbal remedies or alternative medicine.
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-  Gift shop

The National Herb Centre, Banbury Road, Warmington, OX17 1DF

**T: 01295 690999 E: [info@herbcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@herbcentre.co.uk)**  
[www.herbcentre.co.uk](http://www.herbcentre.co.uk)

# Christmas Past

## Quiz evening great success

The quiz evening organised by Pete Lemon in late November was a great success and raised £465 for the Pavilion.

Pete analysed the quiz results after the event and said: "I think I'll make it a bit easier next time. The food and sports rounds were too hard."

Hard or easy, the quiz evening was certainly a lot of fun.

## Hornton's first bake-off

There were 18 splendid entries for Hornton's debut bake-off event held at the Dun Cow in November, pictured right.

Lorraine Joyner's chocolate cake won first prize in the adult category and Eric Harris was first in the children's class.



## Deck the doors

The pre-Christmas wreath-making workshop run by Sarah Walther raised over £400 for the Pavilion stage fund.



Photo: Jan Hall

## Carol singers brave wind and rain

Despite wind and rain a hardy group of singers and collectors progressed round the village on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December singing Christmas carols and collecting for Cancer Research UK. Many thanks to the singers and collectors for braving the weather conditions and also to the generous hosts who provided drinks, mince pies and other treats to help us on our way. Thanks also to Steve and Rebecca for making us welcome at the Dun Cow where we could warm up and dry out. A cheque for £300 has been sent to Cancer Research so thanks are also due to everyone in Hornton who contributed to the collection.

Isabelle Harris

## Angelic!

Like a little angel, four-year-old Arlo Howards carries his candle at the Christingle service in the Church. Arlo is Linda Cross's great grandson.



## Wow!

The Dun Cow was lit up as never before. There were amazing decorations inside and out. Steve & Rebecca had brought 90% of them from The United States, where Steve had his last British Army posting. In order to fit all their Christmas and Halloween decorations into the containers that the Army shipped back to the UK for them, the Yates had to leave quite a few other belongings behind!

## Girls for grandparents

Congratulations for Ted and Clare Fox on the safe arrival of granddaughter Rosa and to Kevin and Jane Wain on the birth of Lily.

# A special friend

Of all our feathered friends there is one who has a special place in our hearts, the Robin Redbreast. Closely related to the song thrush, this small, plump bird has formed a close attachment with humans. We gardeners all have our own little 'familiar' darting about collecting morsels as we work, watching us from a perch on the handle of the fork or making a nest in some discarded pot.

Named Britain's National Bird in 1961, this little warrior claims an area of around half a hectare and for the rest of his life the male patrols and proclaims it by singing from its boundaries. He is the only bird that sings all year round; if you hear birdsong in winter it will be a robin.

When challenged by a rival the male will attempt to warn him off with a puffed up body and some songs and if that doesn't work he will launch a ferocious attack, to the death if necessary. Indeed, robin battles account for 10% of robin mortality.

He even likes his mate to be a feisty female. He uses his beautiful song to attract the ladies, but then puts them to the test by aggressively driving them away. Only if she is persistent and keeps returning will he succumb to her charms and he will then make amends by bringing her gifts of food, feeding her and building her a nest in which to lay her five or six eggs. These hatch in 14 days, are fed by both parents and are fledged and flying in 12-15 days.

Robins will raise two broods a year on average and three when conditions permit. Males have a short lifespan averaging 1.1 years, possibly due to their aggressive behaviour, although in protective environments they have been known to live for 12 years. As ground feeders, their main predators are sparrow-hawks, owls and of course the domestic cat, which kills 15 times more of them than the others put together.

Both male and female robins have red breast feathers that are brighter and more obvious in winter. These bright red breasts have spawned many folk tales.

Probably the most familiar story is that the robin, filled with sorrow, tried to help Jesus on the Cross by plucking thorns from His brow and staunching the wound in His side, and its breast became stained with blood for ever more.

Because the Robin seems fearless of humans and almost tame many protective beliefs have developed. It is extremely unlucky to kill a robin and if done deliberately the killer's hand will never stop shaking, or he will suffer whatever fate he inflicted on the robin. If a farmer kills one then he can expect a fire in a barn or contamination of his milk. Anyone who destroys a robin's nest can expect their own home to be destroyed by lightning strike or fire. If you break a robin's eggs then something you value is sure to break.

Robins can't use birdfeeders but can be fed on bird tables or on the ground close to cover. They eat seeds, soft fruit, grubs and insects – use dried mealworms in the winter. Keep them safe by never, ever, using slug pellets and keep your cats in during dawn and dusk and make sure they wear a bell on their collar.

## Birdbrain



## Twenty Questions And they're not easy



**Jane Wain has submitted this quiz. Have a go! Answers in the next issue.**

I went supermarket shopping and bought ....

**For example:** Tell me to depart.

**Answer:** sago.

*The answers are not brand names*

1. Mary Berry would do this (5)
  2. It's a mere nothing (6)
  3. Blow up the relations! (7)
  4. A thorn in little Joey (7)
  5. A gardener does this repeatedly (6)
  6. A type of junction - eyes sometimes have these! (3,4)
  7. Costs virtually nothing (7)
  8. Feverish, bad tempered and seasonal! (3,5,4)
  9. A bit of a crush (6)
  10. Unattractive - found in the garden (5,5)
  11. Neutral people in WW2 go over (5,4)
  12. Taxi era (7)
  13. A vehicle which decays (7)
  14. Father let loose with the scissors! (8)
  15. Permission? (7)
  16. A 1960's British rock trio gone berserk (5,8)
  17. A plumber's joy! (5)
  18. This train is made up of particles (5,8)
  19. Dun coloured cheek! (5,5)
  20. A popular game in the 1920's and 30's (8)
- .....

## You're Kidding...

**Q:** Where does a general keep his armies?

**A:** Up his sleeves!

*An Omelette & Quiche joke*



## Chocolate Torte

Hornton webmaster, James Prentice, has submitted this recipe for a chocolate torte. "It can be eaten hot or cold," he says. "I think I prefer cold but can't resist some of it whilst it's hot!"

### Ingredients:

- 200g butter
- 200g milk cooking chocolate
- 4 eggs
- 100g caster sugar
- 30g ground almonds
- 15g self-raising flour

### Method:

- Line a cake tin
- Melt the butter and chocolate in a bowl in the microwave, 30 seconds at a time. Stir then repeat. Usually takes 2-3 minutes.
- Let the mixture cool.
- Add the eggs to the cooled mix one at a time. Sieve the remaining ingredients, add to the mix, stir then tip into the lined cake tin.
- Cook at 170 C on top shelf for about 30 minutes. Once cooked leave for 30 minutes before serving.
- Can be served hot or cold; texture changes completely when cold.

## Keeping warm in the winter months

Over the past 12 months I think I have ordered in the region of 60,000 litres of oil for Hornton residents and probably saved roughly £2,500 for those taking part in the bulk order scheme.

Unfortunately, I couldn't publicise the latest oil delivery in *The Gossip* because it was due just before the newsletter went to press but there will be another delivery towards the end of March. The procedure is for me to email the village list and give you four or five days to respond giving specific information which goes into the spread sheet.

We usually use Ackerman and Niece (a fairly local family firm) who by now know how to find all those unusual locations for your oil tanks. I do a ring round other suppliers to ensure A&N give us the best possible price. If you are new to the village then ensure you are on the village group mailing list held by Roger Corke and you will automatically get a prompt next time round.

Bob Langton, Hornton Oil Co-ordinator. 01295 670359  
[bobslangton@gmail.com](mailto:bobslangton@gmail.com)

## The Gossip

The copy deadline for the May issue of *The Gossip* is Thursday 30 April 2020 - submissions please to [abbott@hornton.myzen.co.uk](mailto:abbott@hornton.myzen.co.uk). To advertise in the next issue, please contact Cindy Koberl at [ckoberl@btinternet.com](mailto:ckoberl@btinternet.com)

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