

The Gossip

H O R N T O N

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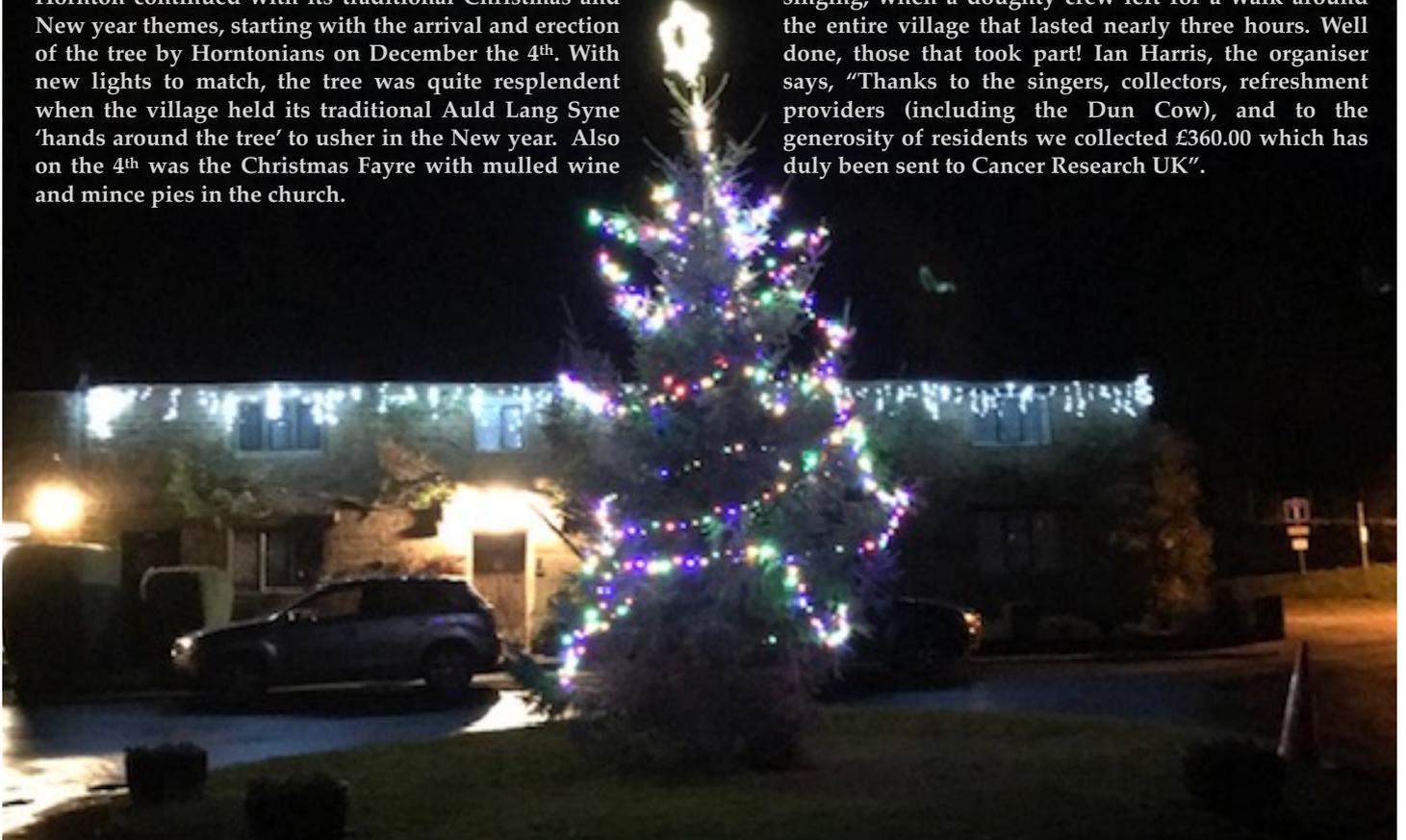
Some Useful Times

The Gossip

Hornton Christmas & New Year

With Covid fast receding in the rear-view mirror, Hornton continued with its traditional Christmas and New year themes, starting with the arrival and erection of the tree by Horntonians on December the 4th. With new lights to match, the tree was quite resplendent when the village held its traditional Auld Lang Syne 'hands around the tree' to usher in the New year. Also on the 4th was the Christmas Fayre with mulled wine and mince pies in the church.

Just before Christmas we then had the village carol singing, when a doughty crew left for a walk around the entire village that lasted nearly three hours. Well done, those that took part! Ian Harris, the organiser says, "Thanks to the singers, collectors, refreshment providers (including the Dun Cow), and to the generosity of residents we collected £360.00 which has duly been sent to Cancer Research UK".



Main image, the Bright Lights of Hornton; above left, the Christmas Church Fayre; above, the traditional carollers on their journey; above right, ushering in the New Year around the tree with Auld Lang Syne.

Hornton Allsorts Present...



The crowd was all a-giggling at the intermission of the Hornton Allsorts play-with-in-a-a play, 'A Shot In The Park' at The Pavillion in November.

Carol Overton from 'School Lane averred, " Very entertaining... well acted, it was a laugh a minute! Really well done." John Furneaux agreed, "Blinking brilliant! Hilarious! The policeman really is a proper copper, it's a proper farce!" It was clearly an object lesson in how a farce becomes a pantomime, to great applause. Well done, Allsorts!

The Return of the Dun Cow Quiz

After an enforced break of nearly two years, the traditional monthly Dun Cow quiz returned with the winning February 2020 team's quiz.

To avoid regular winners, the DC quiz will henceforth be set by the winning team. So it was that the Five D's set a quiz that could be called... different... After all, how many quizzes have a round entitled, 'Political Assassinations?!'

The winners on the night were 'The West Enders' and on February 9th the team successfully delivered its own quiz questions. Congratulations to winning team 'Reunited'; we look forward to your questions at the next Dun Cow Quiz!

Third-Degree Burns



Ian Harris, resplendent in his Harris tartan, had his audience racking their brains for the answers in his quiz that accompanied the lovely Burns Night supper in the Dun Cow tepee.

The food was excellent, especially the braised lamb and the haggis, neaps and tatties. Cath Bellamy from Norland House declared to hostess Rebecca, "I grew up in Scotland, and I've been to a few Burns' Suppers in my time, but that was the best cranachan I've ever tasted! And such generous portions too!"

Once again the Dun Cow has risen to the occasion and we thank Rebecca and her staff for the great service, the piper who accompanied the Haggis, and of course, Ian Harris for both The Address and Quiz.

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Platinum Jubilee Ball

We've all finally put the last two grey years and this dismal grey January behind us.

Now imagine this... it's a warm, balmy June evening and you and your partner are looking glam and glowing. At last we are all free to celebrate - so much to be grateful for; safety, survival, our lovely village and families, our peaceful lives. You are heading out for a magical evening among good friends; popping corks, a beautiful room, gourmet food and sparkling entertainment. Later you will carry your dancing shoes home through the quiet village and you'll sleep in your own bed. The next morning you'll meet up again with all your friends and swop tales of the night before as you enjoy a picnic lunch and the hair of the dog at the Jubilee Street Party in West End.

All you have to do to make this fantasy into a reality is contact hornptonplatinumball22@aol.com and book your tickets to the Jubilee Ball. The price of £115 just covers the costs - marquee, food, wine, entertainment, but you can pay £30 each now and the balance by 31st March which takes the sting out of it. You can also be assured that every penny of the ticket price is being used to treat you to a most memorable evening.

The Church 100 Club

The Church 100 Club has continued to thrive this last year with new members joining and some of those who have left the village still retaining their membership. We have paid out just short of £900 in prize money this year. For those who are not members contributions are £5 per month paid quarterly and we do a draw every 3 months and distribute a third of the money we receive. 1st Prize is currently £109, second is £72 and third is £38.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Andrew Overton, the Church Treasurer at aoverton64@gmail.com. We remain very grateful to all those who do belong and help to keep our wonderful church in good order.'

You Can Bank on This!

The Hornton Community Support Fund

Let me start with the reason for opening this new village account. The finances of the Ball ten years ago were handled by the Parish Council, who initially enthusiastically welcomed the idea of a Platinum Jubilee Ball for 4th June 2022. Eventually it became clear that their financial system had changed and the PC were now unable to be involved.

The Ball Committee, Ni Marot, Sophie Heathcote, Alice Protheroe, Fiona Bridgland and myself, thought long and hard about whether to continue. We recalled how popular the previous Ball had been, and how much everyone would be longing for a celebration by next summer, and decided to bank on Hornton's cheerful good nature and go ahead. It quickly became evident that we would need to open an independent bank account to handle the large amount of money involved.

We opened a community account with Barclays which carries no bank charges, interest or credit facility and we declined a card reader which carries a charge. After donating £1,300 to the Pavilion and £80 to the Gossip, a ring-fenced loan of £656 from the proceeds of the last two big fundraisers together with personal loans from the Ball committee have been used to open the account in order to pay deposits to suppliers. When ticket sales allow, this will all be repaid.

What happens after the Ball?

It is hoped that the Hornton Community Support Fund could be kept going in order to quickly provide funds as and when needed, for instance petrol for the mowers, unexpected repairs to village amenities etc. It is not intended to replace, replicate or overlap with existing organisations, or clubs where bank accounts or club arrangements already exist, although any of them would be able to approach the administrators for funds whenever necessary.

It is envisaged that the account would be 'fed' by fund raising, together with any monies that are not raised with a specific target in mind.

Currently the administrators are: Glen Walther, Julie Stanley, Ni Marot and myself. Graham Hall has volunteered as Auditor. He will ensure that procedures are followed and will review, reconcile and report every six months. He will also update any of the processes suggested by a majority of the administrators.

- Any village club or organisation can make a request for payment on production of an invoice.
- Payments can not be made in advance.
- The account can not make loans.
- Payment would be made quickly after approval by all of the administrators in writing, ideally by e-mail, and by electronic transfer.
- Any cash transactions will be receipted.
- Any cheques will be signed by either Ni Marot or myself after clearance from the administrators

A record will be kept both electronically on a spreadsheet and a simple ledger which will be reconciled with the bank statement every six months. These will be made available for scrutiny by any village resident who so wishes with a suitable period of notice.

If the Account succeeds it could be used to save up for a major project, for instance a new storage shed for the Pavilion, or a dry secure storage facility for the History Archive - even a village mini-bus. Experience has shown us that nothing is impossible!

If the Account fails any remaining monies will be handed over to the Parish Council and the Account will simply be closed.

I will be very happy to answer any questions that anyone may have regarding the account.

Anne Joyner (ajoyner@mac.com)

Planning... Yet Again

Whilst there have been no developments on the proposed site above Bell Street (Executive 'Farmhouse' and outbuildings relocated from the Bungalow site), the Banbury Moto-Cross proposal has returned.

Hornton Parish Council has issued a statement:

"As you may already know, the Wroxton Moto-X track has recently started advertising itself as the venue for several events during 2022. Since the planning application last year there has been no racing, as approval was subject to various conditions being met and questions being satisfactorily answered.

Despite Cherwell District Council (CDC) previously undertaking to keep the Parish Council informed, it was only when we chased the CDC up that we were told the following;

1. CDC understand that there are plans to begin racing as early as March, but provided no details. Our, specific, information is as follows;

- May 21st / 22nd BSMA Apico Nationals
- June 11th / 12th Bridgestone Masters
- June 25th / 26th Acerbis Amateur Nationals
- August 6th / 7th* Corsham SSC Club Championshis
- September 25th* Ringwood MXC Club Championship

What is notable how none of the above can be classed as a local fixture.

2. CDC have suggested that the track's application is reconsidered at the March planning meeting! They have failed to adequately explain why, but we are hoping to have a discussion next week with Sarah Greenhill, who has recently replaced George Smith in the planning department, and is now handling the case. We are also seeking clarification from Alex Chrusciak, CDC's senior planning manager.

Whilst we were amazed that permission was granted at all, in the light of glaring errors in the application and it being contrary to both the Local Plan and CDC's 'Green Agenda', there were several conditions imposed on the operators. These conditions went some small way to mitigate the lasting damage done by the track's operators. We are currently trying to ascertain whether CDC are looking to water these down. Any such retreat from these conditions as set out is wholly unacceptable, and we will be making this abundantly clear to CDC.

We are trying to establish a dialogue with Cherwell and will continue to apply as much pressure as possible, to hold both CDC and the track operators to the stated conditions. We recognise the strength of feeling in the village (and indeed, neighbouring parishes) and will do our best to keep you informed, as and when, things become clearer."

Hornton Parish Council



Sarah Walther

A very creative and helpful person, Sarah has a busy life which she shares with us here.

Sarah (64) was born in Banbury and attended Hornton Primary School and then Broughton Hall School in Banbury. Her early career was in the travel industry when she worked for Lunn Poly, John Walker Travel and Thomas Cook. In 1990 she changed direction and joined Pouliot Designs which specialises in building artificial trees. She left after 16 years and moved to Remploy where she was the IT buyer. Seven years ago she resumed her tree building career, joining Bright Green in Cropredy where she remains today. Sarah and her husband Glen, who married in Hornton in 1977, live on Eastgate. They have two daughters, Jennie and Katie, and four grandsons who all live in Hornton. They also have two 16-year-old cats, Dali and Pedro.

"I don't rely on an alarm clock in the mornings. I don't need to. Instead Glen shouts at me. He says he has to or I'd stay in bed all day and he's right! So I'm up at 6.50am, have a cup of tea – no breakfast –

and leave the house at 7.40am to start work at 8.00am. I work on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays I look after my youngest grandson Rex and Fridays just aren't work days for me.

I'm a tree builder. Trees of all sorts of varieties are built on real wood which comes from coppicing. We use silk leaves on plastic stems which are drilled in and secured with hot glue. We also specialise in high level planting, interior and exterior, live and artificial planting. Our trees go to shopping centres, pub chains, restaurants, offices etc all over the UK and are also exported. I enjoy the work; there's a creative element.

I work with a great team. At 10.30 every morning we turn up the radio and listen to Popmaster then have a cup of coffee. We have another break from 1-2.00pm. Our workshop overlooks the canal in Cropredy so if it's fine we sit outside, otherwise we sit in the kitchen. I take a packed lunch. Then it's back to tree building until 3.30pm when I go home.

I have a lot of interests so when I'm not working I always have plenty to do. I paint pictures, crochet, act in plays and pantos, play dominoes for the Red Lion in Horley, do flower arranging for weddings and funerals and I'm also chairwoman of the Ladies Working Party for St John the Baptist Church. I also look after my four boys, my grandsons, whenever needed. I love it. Family is very important to me. My parents, Harold and Hazel Burden, bought Norland House on Millers Lane the year that I was born. They had six children. My brother Paul lives in the village, Lynne lives in Banbury and Wendy lives in Hook Norton. We grew up here and have remained a very close knit group.

Around 5pm I prepare tea for me and Glen. I'm currently working my way through the Pinch and Nom low calorie recipe book. The other day Glen ate his tea, thought for a moment and said: "That was nice but somehow something was lacking." "Calories", I said!

After tea I tackle domestic chores and do some paperwork for Glen's business. He has his own building company. Then we watch TV – I often fall asleep on the settee – and I go to bed around 11pm and read for a while before I sleep.

Interview by Lorna Abbott





The Methodist Chapel

The magnificent frontage of Hornton Primitive Methodist Chapel. To the left can be seen the previous, smaller building, now Chapel Cottage.



The morning sun highlights the beautiful window carving and the simple but charming chapel interior.

How Our Methodist Church Was Built

Primitive Methodist missionaries were sent from Banbury to Hornton around 1835. The people of Hornton welcomed them into their homes for services and a Society was formed. As the Society grew in numbers they decided to build a place to meet and worship together. John Robbins who lived at Sunnyside gave a piece of land for it to be built and loaned them £145 to build the Chapel at the back of Chapel Cottage. It opened in 1842 and the debt was not repaid until 1867. The Society grew in numbers and a Sunday school was started with John Webb as Superintendent.

By 1870 seven Hornton men had become local preachers – they were J. Walden, E. Cox, J. Prentice, R. Rainbow, J. Webb, T. Gardner and W. Berry. By 1884 the Chapel had become too small for the growing congregation and it was decided that a new Chapel needed to be built.

John Robbins son, Richard who farmed at Home Farm, Bell Street owned five thatched cottages near to the old Chapel. One cottage was unoccupied and he used it to store straw for thatching. One day the cottage caught fire and destroyed all the cottages.

The site faced the road and was a pleasing site for a new Chapel. Richard offered the site as a gift to the congregation and it was readily accepted.

Richard's father-in-law Richard Rainbow was a skilled stonemason and builder, he also owned the bakers shop in Bell Street. He was asked to take charge of the build on a voluntary basis. He had no difficulty getting able and willing men in the village to do likewise. All the stone came from the surrounding local quarries and the build was done on a voluntary basis. Each day the local postman would mix the mortar ready for when the men came from work for them to continue with the build. The woodwork, slating, seating, woodblock floor and glazing was done by Mr. Grant of Banbury under contract for a total cost of £600.

1884 was a year of great activity in Hornton. Plaques bearing the initials of the men who gave their time and skills form a frieze along the frontage of the Chapel. Stonemason William Grimstone and his apprentice William Gardner aged 14 years worked the wheel window and two front windows. Two years later William Grimstone sadly died at the age of 25 of T.B. William Gardner carved the font and his mother paid for the materials. This was a masterpiece of skilled work by a boy of 14 years.

In the 1960's a vestry was added, built by Hornton Quarries with a bequest from the Beesley family.

In 1999/2000 the Chapel congregation had decreased and urgent repairs to the building and roof were needed. The Stewards decided not to close and set about raising money. In 2001 the static pews were removed and replaced with comfortable chairs. The main Chapel was redecorated and a new roof was installed, followed by a heating system installed by John Manley helped by Eric Turner. The windows were replaced. The woodblock floor was sanded and vanished by a working party of Paul Burden, Glen Walther, David Miles and Harry Stanley on a voluntary basis. The crazy paving at the front of the Chapel was taken up and replaced with a new path for wheelchair access, grass and lavender border also by voluntary labour.

In 2013 enough money had been raised by fundraising, donations from the village, bequests and grants to knock down and replace the old vestry. The new building now has toilets, a kitchen and meeting room. The whole building is used regularly for worship, coffee mornings, monthly lunch, the school, W.I. Yoga and the lending library and as it says above the new doors of the foyer 'All are Welcome in this Place.'

Julie Stanley



Above: Close-up showing doorway and wheel or rose window. The inscription above the door reads, "How Amiable Are Thy Tabernacles, O Lord Of Hosts"

Below: Where William Grimstone and apprentice William Gardner carved the windows and door frame. William Grimstone lived in Honey Bee Cottage.



An Interview with Victoria Prentis MP



On Friday the 21st of January, your editor was able to put questions to our M.P., and hear her government's vision for farming in her role as Minister for DEFRA, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The first question asked was from John White, a farmer whose land borders our parish, "Why is the Government so keen to pay me to take land out of production for set aside?"

Victoria responded to this with, "Set-aside is not a term we use anymore, agriculture is undergoing real change and we are starting a system of area-based payments supporting farmers with public money for public goods. We have to get the balance right between producing food and sharing space with Nature... we also don't wish to exacerbate Climate change and indeed, we consider our role to be one third Food, one third Nature, and one third preventing Climate Change"

I then asked her a question from Ed Law of this parish, "Will Drag Hunting be banned or restricted by the new Hunting Act provisions?" The response to this emphasised that there would be no effective change to the current laws, despite concern being raised in some quarters.

Victoria then went on to explain the new government philosophy for the countryside. "There will be a three-tier approach," she said, "...with the top tier being farming as it

currently operates as food production, but with a middle-tier focussing on area-based projects, where farmers are encouraged to join together in cooperatives, for instance to run 'corridor projects' where the focus might be on a particular animal or plant species, bird-life perhaps, we are currently running one near Aynho to encourage bio-diversity there. In the bottom-tier we will be encouraging better soil management, organic food production for instance, improve the soil and that would trigger a grant or payment...."

I then asked a question about the spread of urban development and whilst Victoria agreed that houses ought to be placed close to where the jobs are, and though property planning was not within her direct remit, she did say that whilst Area Planning was trying to direct building towards places such as Bicester, Banbury and Upper Heyford, people do want to live in our ancient villages.

Victoria continued," For many years we had the European Common Agricultural Policy which too often paid farmers to produce crops irrespective of what damage this caused to the environment, so our new policy is to produce a more sympathetic, holistic approach. We are two years into a Seven-Year Plan where we are looking at farmers being part of a Countryside Stewardship with the Government and local authorities..." She broke off here to tell me about to explain the new DEFRA focus for the future.

"We've a new scheme coming in...we're pleased to now be looking at a new emphasis on land use change, using methods to reduce Climate Change, better, more quality food production and also rewilding, though this latter would only be a minor percentage, the exception even..." Victoria emphasised how her department aimed to raise standards. "...We hope that bio-diversity will encourage an increased use of the countryside by the general public, buying locally-sourced goods, getting closer to the land, making public use a greater involvement that was previously the case, high-lighting how farming provides for both food, produce and recreational needs. We are now seeing projects where school-children are being introduced to farming and the countryside from quite an early age and it is striking how they quickly pick up on the problems and opportunities that are part of the countryside after just an hour a week, every week they are in school... that way we can get the next generation understanding that food isn't manufactured in industrial factories..."

I finished the session by mentioning the 'Milky Whey' farm opposite the primary school in Bloxham, and how they've branched out into selling fresh and flavoured milk with an automatic milk dispenser where you can fill your own bottles.

"Yes, that's how I see farming in the future, where it's no longer a remote process, in a countryside seen from a passing car..."

Many thanks to our M.P. for sparing the time for this article. It will be interesting to see how these visions pan out in the future.

Tim Hewlett
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Contact Malcolm Cross (670562) or Isabelle Harris (670304) about membership, or just pay on the evening of one of our events.

**10% discount does not apply to already discounted items or on special offers*

3Hs Gardening Club launches a packed Calendar for 2022!

Open to anyone – regardless of ability – from Hornton, Horley and Hanwell, the gardening club meets once a month at 7.30pm in the Hornton Pavilion for workshops, talks and to swap ideas, advise, commiserations and tips! Annual membership is just £10 for a year or attend an evening meeting for £3.

2022 Calendar

8 th February	Gardening Quiz and Raffle
8 th March	Emma Hamer Talk (Subject TBC)
12 th April	“Colours and Textures in the Garden” Duncan Coombs Talk
7 th May	Plant Sale (10.30am in Hornton Pavilion)
10 th May	Sarah Walther will lead a Gardening Workshop
14 th June	“The Garden, a natural history paradise” Paul Williams’ Talk
25 th June	Club Outing to RHS Wisley
12 th July	Visit to Preston Bissett Nursery
20 th August	Flower, Vegetable and Produce Show
13 th September	AGM
11 th October	“Shrub Pruning and the Aftercare” Duncan Coombs

To join, just pop along on the night with your membership money or contact Malcolm Cross (see contact details, above).



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Roasted parsnip, garlic and haricot bean soup with sage



This is a recipe from *Good Housekeeping* and is a yummy, thick soup suitable for wintry weather and for vegetarians!

Serves 6

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 medium or 2 large parsnips, peeled and cut into rough 2cm chunks
- 1 large onion, also cut into 2cm chunks
- 6 large garlic cloves, unpeeled
- Extra virgin olive oil, 2 tbsp
- 400g tin haricot beans, or cannellini beans - you could use fresh beans if you want to make yourself some work
- 1 litre chicken stock - or for vegetarians, vegetable stock
- Chopped sage, 1 tbsp
- Garnish, 2 tbsp more olive oil and a handful of sage leaves

METHOD:

- Preheat oven to 200 degree C (180 fan). Toss the parsnips, onion, garlic, oil and some salt and ground pepper in a large roasting tin. Spread out in an even layer and roast for 35 - 45 minutes until the vegetables are tender and a little golden around the edges.
- Drain the beans. Reserve a heaped tbsp (for garnish) and add the rest to the roasted vegetables. Return the tin to the oven for 5 minutes more.
- Lift out the garlic cloves and squeeze the garlic into a blender discarding the skins (a stick blender is good for this). Put the vegetable mixture into the blender and add the stock and chopped sage. Blend until smooth and silky. Check the seasoning. Reheat in a saucepan until piping hot. Meanwhile heat the additional oil and fry the sage leaves for 10-15 seconds until they are bit darker and fragrant.
- Serve the soup garnished with the sage-flavoured oil, sage leaves and reserved beans.

Enjoy!

Lynn Corke

Frank Jarrett

1926 – 2022

On the 23rd of January Frank passed away in Lake House, Adderbury, aged 95. He was born in Banbury, the youngest of 5 children and married Gwen, a Hornton girl in 1950.

Together they raised a daughter Sandra (who lives in Perkins Close) and a son, David (who recently moved to Banbury from Bell Street) and in the late 1950's moved into Holloway Cottages where Frank lived until 2016.

Frank worked initially at Alcan (the 'Alli') before moving to Automotive Products at both Leamington and Banbury, retiring in 1992. He lived an active life, spending a lot of his time in his garden and the allotments and was an active member of the gardening club. He also enjoyed the functions in The Pavilion involving The Allsorts, of which his son was part of. He ran the Friday night Draw and collected the monies for the Thrift Club too.

Frank was an active member of Hornton church and was on the PCC committee. He played dominoes for the Dun Cow for more than fifty years, for many of which he was the team captain. He also had a lunchtime job as a playground assistant at Hornton school.

He will be sadly missed by those that knew him, especially by Sandra and her husband Malcolm, David and his wife Ann, and grandsons Andrew and Matthew, also step-grandsons David and Nigel, families and friends.

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When we set up our garden bird feeders for the winter we are mostly hoping to attract charming, colourful small garden birds. Before long, however, we find our less welcome friends the crows crowding everyone else out and smothering the hanging feeders whilst shouting instructions to each other about the best way to break and enter each feeder.

Unlike their cousins the jackdaws in their grey hoodies and magpies in their dinner suits, crows are uniformly black, with straight wings and tails. They lack the lustre of starlings or the golden beak of the blackbird, and the males don't bother to dress to impress the females. Their voices are the bird equivalent of a donkey. We hear a harsh caw caw, but research has shown that they actually use 250 different calls to communicate and play with each other. They can live to about 20, but the average is 7 to 8 years and they are monogamous despite their highly social lifestyle. Their habitat is everywhere except deserts and Antarctica and their natural curiosity means they often live near humans.

Crows are inquisitive and extremely intelligent and are one of the rare species to not only recognise individual humans but to choose to interact with them and form a relationship. They will observe our actions and quickly respond to a quiet, reliable, unthreatening food station by becoming approachable and, if you're really lucky, may begin gifting you with random sparkly presents as a thank you. There's a short BBC documentary on You Tube - gift giving crows, episode 5 of World's Weirdest Events, which shows the extraordinary collection of gifts a young lady has amassed in North America.

Internationally they have a long cultural tradition of association with death. Some of this may be down to the fact that they are carrion eaters. Only rooks and magpies have been observed actively hunting prey, but crows, like vultures, are often around sick, dying animals or unprotected new-borns and we find this repugnant; this has perhaps led to their collective noun being 'a murder of crows'. In fact, they perform a valuable environmental service, processing tons of carrion and rotting vegetative waste every year with their highly efficient digestive systems.

Very social and extremely intelligent, they have been observed performing rituals. They appear to form 'courts' in order to discuss the fate of an offender and banish the wrongdoer from the family. They hold funerals if one of their number dies, circling and interacting with the dead bird in various ways. This behaviour is called 'griefing' and is probably an Intelligent response designed to see if the death poses a threat to the rest of the flock. It was once a common sight in the countryside to see dead crows hung on fences to deter the rest of the flock. They nest and roost in large numbers partly as a

protective measure and definitely in order to exchange information and gossip. They co-operate in order to mob and drive away any predators.

Intelligence is probably the trait most linked to crows. We've all heard the Aesop's fable about the thirsty crow dropping pebbles into a jug of water in order to raise the water level so that it could drink. I myself once watched a crow take a piece of rock-hard French bread and dip it repeatedly into the birdbath until it became soggy and edible. I have also seen a crow lift a small peanut holder from the bird feeder tree and throw it on the ground so that it fell open. In experiments they have been seen to use a stick to poke food out from between bars and to copy each other's behaviour and then 'teach' another bird to do the same thing. Whilst some humans hunt, shoot, trap and generally persecute Corvid we don't eat them. We find that carrion eaters stick in our throats, in the same way that admitting being wrong having insisted being right feels like "eating crow pie".

Universally, humans and crows have formed a symbiotic relationship which has led to a wide range of myths and legends, and a familiar connection to the occult, witchcraft and voodoo. They are believed to be very spiritual creatures and to have psychic abilities, to be able to see the past, present and future and to represent transformation, destiny, adaptability and fearlessness.

Native Americans in particular revered crows who, they believed, carried the gift of sunlight to the world. Several tribes are associated with Crows - the Hopi, Tlingit, Chippewa and Pueblo.

In Greece the princess Arne was bribed with gold by King Minos and punished for avarice by being turned into a crow to spend eternity searching for shiny things. In Scandinavia the god of war, Odin, is pictured accompanied by two crows known as Huginn and Munnin (Thought and Memory) who are his spies and report back on the world of humans. The Welsh believe they are harbingers of death and that witches can transform into crows in order to fly away and escape. Celts know that a group of three crows means that Morrighan the warrior goddess is watching and may appear, whilst to a Swede crows are the souls of murdered people who never had a proper burial. In Germany crows contain the spirit of the damned and a Japanese proverb says that crows demonstrate that "All of us are stronger than one of us." If a crow sings before any other bird in the morning then it will rain all day.

You call very bad luck if you kill a crow and if you do you must dress in black as you bury it.

Birdbrain

Trustees Wanted

Campaign to Protect Rural England - Oxfordshire

Do you care about your local countryside? Want to make a difference?

CPRE Oxfordshire is the voice of the countryside in Oxfordshire. Due to retirement of current members, we are looking for new trustees to join our team.

This is an excellent opportunity to play an influential role in a respected and long-standing environmental charity, applying your experience to make a real difference and to be part of a friendly group that is passionate about the Oxfordshire countryside.

Application deadline is **31 March 2022** in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

For further info, please contact our Branch Secretary Dorian Grier.

E: dorian.cpre@gmail.com

T: 01491 612079

See our website for more information: www.cpreoxon.org.uk

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Some Useful Times

May Day

Monday 2 May 2022

The Dun Cow

*Please note: No food Tuesday 15th February
- Tuesday 1st March inclusive*

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	6pm – 11pm <i>Drinks only, no food</i>
Wednesday	6pm – 11pm <i>Food available until 9pm</i>
Thursday	6pm – 11pm <i>Food available until 9pm</i>
Friday	5pm – 11pm <i>Food available until 9pm</i>
Saturday	12pm – 11pm <i>Food available until 9pm</i>
Sunday	12pm – 10.30pm <i>Food available until 4pm</i>

Christmas, New Year and Special Events may have altered timings.

Alkerton Tip

Monday	8am – 5pm
Tuesday	8am – 5pm
Wednesday	8am – 5pm
Thursday	8am – 5pm
Friday	8am – 5pm
Saturday	8am – 5pm
Sunday	8am – 5pm

Bank Holidays – normal opening hours except for Christmas and New Year

Please note, there is a small charge for non-household waste (DIY).

The Gossip

The copy deadline for the next issue of The Gossip is Friday 28 April 2022.

Please send your ideas or submissions to rogermbellamy@btinternet.com. And to advertise in the next issue, please contact Cindy Koberl at ckoberl@btinternet.com.

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The poster features a purple circular logo at the top with the text 'THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022' and a central emblem. Below the logo is a banner of Union Jack flags. The main text is centered and reads: 'Platinum Jubilee Ball', '4th June 2022', 'Sparkling wine and canapes', 'Champagne to toast The Queen', 'Gala dinner, including wine', 'Full bar', 'Live entertainment', 'Dancing til late', 'The Pavilion, Hornton', 'Ticket price: £115', 'Contact: horntonplatinumball22@aol.com', and 'Black tie'.