

In Celebration of May Day!



May Day photos courtesy of Jan Hall and Anne Joyner



May King 2023
Rohan Singh

May Queen 2023
Bella Blake



The Royal Attendants



Is everybody ready?.....



Tom Gibbs and
Allicia Baker
lead the procession



The Gossip

HORNTON

ISSUE 129

MAY 2023



Stallholders prepped, signs up, dancers danced, sticks and bells polished for the Morris men, cakes made, grass cut, prizes bought... the list is endless.

Preparation has been an ongoing job for weeks. Tuesday 2nd and now to relax until next year! As one of the organisers for this event, we were, last year amazed at how well May Day 2022 went especially having gone through 2 years of lockdown, but we can safely say that 2023 was better than ever - even though the dark clouds in the morning were rather threatening, come the afternoon the sun shone for us all, ice creams were bought, beers knocked back, the BBQ

queue seemed never ending, and chapel teas were selling like hot cakes!

Ducks were bobbing, clothes were selling, tombolas were thriving; the young dancers were fantastic - congratulations to the 2023 May King and Queen, Rohan and Bella; artwork was being appreciated and sold and the White Elephant Emporium was quite literally the place to be to get your quality bargains. The Raffle was exceptional with some wonderful prizes, well done Joss and Andrew.

So word on the street was that it was a resounding success - well done to every single one of you, your hard work was appreciated by us all.

Sally Lemon

Finally a breakdown of our magnificent total of £7,466.43:

White Elephant	860.60
New-to-You Clothing	1505.00
Children's Games	132.50
Toys	221.75
Raffle	1080.00
Barbecue	748.58
Cakes	570.00
Lucky Squares & Wine/Water	370.00
Skittles	125.00
History Group Games	217.00
Books & Bric-a-Brac	157.00
Chapel Teas	602.00
Hornton School Stalls	570.00
WI Tombola	117.00
Stall Fees & Donations	190.00

Letter from the EDITOR

- WANTED - A Dramatic Revival

Welcome to 'my' first issue of The Gossip having taken over as Editor from Roger Bellamy after his final edition last February. Ni Marot has taken over as financial kingpin and Jane Martin continues, thankfully, to oversee production and distribution.

Together we hope to maintain the high standards of our predecessors. The Gossip is *your* village newspaper and I welcome your comments, contributions and any ideas that you may have; articles that you have written or suggestions on subjects that you would find interesting, as well as your letters. I hope you enjoy this issue.

Anne Joyner

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What's going on...

If you know of a local event or a club that others might be interested in, or you need help with something that you're planning, you can always let Roger Corke know on: 01295 670673 or mobile: 07721 988977 or e-mail: horntoncolumn@outlook.com. He will be happy to include it in his weekly Village Column in the Banbury Guardian and add it to his large e-mail circulation list.

Quiz Night

Unfortunately the pub is unable to continue hosting the quiz nights due to pressure of space and so the quiz will be relocating to the Pavilion for the summer. There will be a quiz on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion. Teams are of six people with a fee of £2 a head to cover hire costs and everyone is welcome. Please bring your own drinks and refreshments. The winning team then sets the questions for the following quiz and provides prizes. Hope to see you there and good luck!



Hornton has built up a solid local reputation for The Allsort's dramatic offerings. In the past we have produced a Play, a Pantomime and a couple of theme nights every year, selling out every night. For a few years there was even a Junior Drama club called 'The Young 'Uns' who put on shows and are immortalised on the Village Tapestry in the Church. The experience of treading the boards in a safe and friendly environment is invaluable for confidence building as well as fostering a hidden agenda of discipline and punctuality. Time and time again I saw how apparently shy, quiet and retiring children (and some adults) were transformed by a costume and some greasepaint into confident out-going characters loving their well-earned applause.

After more years than I care to admit I am stepping away from the footlights to hand over the Director's Chair to someone new with fresh ideas.

Hornton badly needs a Pantomime next year to finally see off the Covid

ghosts with gales of laughter, and at this time of the year I would normally be updating one of the traditional scripts ready for the casting meeting at the end of the summer holidays. I am more than willing to provide a script and hand it over if needed, or share my advice and experience if asked, but I'm sure there is someone out there ready and able to take over the reins. As Kevin says:

We have a brand new stage waiting to be filled, a village full of talent, and people longing to be entertained - so what are we waiting for? Someone to make the first move - don't be shy! You know if you take the first step there will be a stampede of willing actors, costume makers, lighting and sound engineers, make-up artists, stage hands, musicians, jugglers, clowns and villains and that ever faithful audience laughing, clapping, singing along and coming back for MORE MORE MORE!!

A Theme Night Revival that is under way will be happening on **Saturday 17th June** in the Pavilion –
Une Soiree Francais avec un delieieux diner, beaucoup de vin et de fabuleux divertissements.



If it's anything like as much fun as the original about 30 years ago, and I'm sure it will be, people will still be talking about it in 2053!

Be sure to snap up your billets as soon as they go on sale!

Anne Joyner

3H Gardening Club



The '3H' refers to the fact that members come from Hornton, Horley and Hanwell, and we meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month in Hornton Pavilion at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome and can pay either £10 for a year's membership or £3 per visit. There are regular speakers, interesting outings and popular annual events.

Tuesday 9 May sees the welcome return of a popular speaker, the aptly named David Pollard. Last year he gave us advice and tips on future proofing our gardens by improving soil quality and on this visit he will be continuing the theme by telling us how altering our crop choices and methods can help to adapt our gardens to climate change.

Saturday 20 May in Hornton Pavilion we will be holding the annual **Plant Sale** from 10.30 to 12.00 noon. As well as coffee, tea and cake there will be a raffle, and the opportunity to buy surplus plants grown by the members and bedding plants from a local nursery.

Tuesday 13 June At this meeting the speaker will be Stuart Phillips who will be teaching us the very useful skill of pruning.

Saturday 24 June This is the date of the **Annual Outing** which is open to non-members. We will be visiting The Savill Gardens in Windsor Great Park.

The Savill Gardens has earned its reputation as one of the finest woodland gardens in the country, not because it's the biggest or that it has the largest collection of plants, but for the combination of all of these elements. Its ability to keep adapting to its landscape environment provides a great balance of design, colour and texture. Throughout

the season there is always something new to discover.

We hope to combine our visit in June with an optional two hour afternoon river boat cruise with cream tea from Runnymede Boathouse. The price including coach fare to be announced at a later date.

11th July Another outing, but this time for members only. We will be visiting a private garden in Wardington.

12th August Members are invited to enter their best specimens in the **Annual 3H's Flower and Vegetable Show** in the Pavilion. There will also be other classes to be announced which will include a childrens section open to all children of 12 and under whether members or not. The Show will open to the public at 2.30.

And finally - Last year's **Giant Pumpkin Competition** held in October was so popular that it will be held again this year. The chair - Mike Patching, says "members will need to plant their special seed now so that the plants have plenty of time to develop. The best variety is Atlantic Giant, but any variety will qualify. Please let me know if you would like a couple of seeds or plants. Graham and Catherine Vint are using seed from their winning entry and hope to have seedlings they can pass on to members. Let's make it a fun evening in October!"

Isabelle Harris



HORNTON Open Gardens 2023

At least eight gardens - and the village allotments - will be open to visitors on **Sunday 4 June between 2 and 6pm.**



Proceeds will be shared between Katharine House Hospice and Hornton village causes. Tickets are £6 per adult, children free. You can book online on the Hospice website or just turn up and pay cash on the day - tickets will be sold on The Green outside the school, where there will also be a plant stall. This being Hornton, there will be a raffle, of course!

It's not too late to join in by opening your garden. Helpers are also needed to 'garden sit' during the afternoon or to help with the teas, which will be in the garden at The Cottage in Church Lane - get in touch with me if you can spare some time. Cakes are a very important part of events like this, so please do make a cake if you can - you can drop it at The Cottage on Saturday, 3 June, or in the morning of 4 June. If you need to make a cake in advance, I can make room in my freezer.

Please do encourage your friends and relatives to come along, whether from near or far. Fingers crossed for good weather - the last time when the weather was good, we made well over £2000 - but remember there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing!

Lynn Corke
670673

A Busy Summer for Hornton History Group

Now would be a good time for you to join the Hornton History Group as there is an attractive programme of events coming up over the next few months, with much to enjoy.

The Spring season kicks off with us running three games on May Day. On 12th May members will enjoy a trip to the National Trust property of Baddesley Clinton with lunch beforehand at a local pub. On June 16th there will be a guided walking tour of Woodstock - to be followed by lunch in a local pub, and on 12th August members and their partners will be holding their summer garden party at Hornton Grounds Farm by kind invitation of Catherine and Graham Vint.

Members will also be visiting the open weekend at Hanwell Castle on 9th and 10th September, where a number of special events will be taking place.

New members are always welcome; we meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month in the Pavilion. There is an annual subscription of £15. For further information please contact Laurie Furneaux on 01295 670896 or lauriefurneaux@gmail.com.

Historical Hornton PROJECT

Hornton History Group are hoping to capture, collate, categorise, and organise as many images of the village as they can and make them accessible online for anyone to view and use.

"We're interested in any images, photographs, paintings, sketches... anything!" says the group's Pete Lemon.

"We will look after your property carefully, scan or photograph it and return it to you. We will store the digital image with any reference information you have about it.

"History starts today, so anything before now is worthy of adding to the collection - perhaps significant events such as May Day, jubilee or school, church, chapel and pub celebrations. Images which show significant changes in the village are always interesting where new or renovated buildings have changed an area or view. People are of interest too, please.

"It will take some while to gather and collate and, in the future, I hope that we can produce a book to capture how our village has evolved... so far."

You can contact Pete at pete.lemon@gmail.com

An invitation to all the ladies of Hornton and District

Have you ever considered joining an organisation, for women of all ages, to share experiences, learn new skills, contribute to campaigns, or simply enjoy a conversation over a cup of tea and slice of cake?

We did, and we would love to meet you too! The Hornton & District Womens' Institute (WI) members meet in the Methodist Chapel, Hornton, at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month; we're a very friendly bunch, do come and join us - the WI will be just what you make of it.



Who'd be a Councillor?

Probably the most thankless community service task anyone could volunteer for has to be becoming a Parish Councillor. Here in Hornton we are particularly lucky to have a PC who are easily approachable, listen to what we say and have our best interests at heart. Sadly, the next rung of the government ladder, Cherwell District Council, have bigger fish to fry and often appear not to care about our small village as much as we would like.

As well as all of their normal responsibilities our Parish Councillors have, over the last few years, fought tooth and nail to protect our community from the severe threat posed by Sandra Kerwood's proposed expansion of her MotorCross Track venture. She would like to escalate this piece of her farmland from the small local facility that her late father set up (which no-one ever objected to) into a massive international venue. We at *The Gossip* would like to thank all of our Parish Councillors on your behalf for the time and effort that they have invested in this ongoing situation.

Parish council news and updates are always available on the Hornton Village website: hornton-pc.co.uk where you can sign up for Parish Council e-mails, or you can e-mail the clerk@hornton-pc.co.uk

Your local councillors and their responsibilities are:

John Offord - Chair: planning, finance, the Pavilion, Jumpa and Parish liaison.

Kirsty Buttle - Regional Finance Officer

Fiona Donaldson - Parish Clerk

Paul Burden - playground rep, allotment, John Fox charity, planning, finance, roads and highways.

Steve Woodcock - planning, roads and highways, Jumpa rep.

Andrew Overton - planning, finance, John Fox charity, school liaison, pavilion rep.

Calum Harris - planning, John Fox charity, school liaison.

Martin Jones - roads and highways

Holly Busby - newly appointed

The Parish Council has erected 'Private Property' signs at either entrance to the football field. This has been done in an effort to discourage recent inappropriate and disrespectful use of the facilities by strangers. Hornton families - please do use everything as per normal!

HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Hornton Parish Council is seeking a highly motivated, proactive individual for the role of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). This is an exciting opportunity and would suit a community-minded individual who has the relevant experience to undertake an interesting and varied post within an active Parish Council.

The role requires someone with the confidence and interpersonal skills to deal with a wide range of individuals from the local and wider communities. The ideal candidate will have good verbal and written communication skills, be computer literate and also have the ability to work on their own initiative. Strong financial management and organisational skills are required, together with a positive outlook.

There will be a comprehensive handover and training available.

Home based | 8 hours per week (5 hours Clerk / 3 hours RFO) | £16.64 per hour | £26.00 per month working from home allowance | Laptop provided

**** If you are only interested in the Clerk position (5 hours per week) please contact the Clerk to discuss****

If this sounds of interest to you, please contact the Clerk by email clerk@hornton-pc.org.uk or mobile 07766 700 515 for a job description and application form.

Closing date: 19 May 2023

Motorcross Update

The Story So Far...

As a reminder: a decision to grant planning permission, subject to conditions being agreed, was passed at a chaotic planning meeting in June 2021. Quite why remains a mystery given the contradiction with Cherwell District Council (CDC) stated policies, virtually unanimous business and resident opposition, and serious concerns from CDC's own ecologist, the local Wildlife Trust etc.

What was meant to happen as a result of that meeting was that a set of conditions would be agreed through consultation with the Ward Councillor, Phil Chapman, and thereby Hornton Parish Council (HPC).

Almost two years later sadly consultation has been very limited and the process has been littered with CDC errors, changes of planning personnel and back tracking. The latest fiasco was HPC being told that they had been consulted on a new set of conditions (they were not) five days before the conditions were due to be put before the March planning meeting. HPC were then told that five minutes would be allowed to speak on the matter. Then they were told they couldn't speak. When HPC complained they were told eventually that they could speak, but by this time it was too late to have prepared for the meeting, so the invitation was declined. The planning department then withdrew the application without any explanation.



This is NOT Wroxtton MX track now - but it could be in the future!

The legality of this gagging is currently being considered by CDC who have already admitted that their website is misleading and will need changing.

The current status is complicated by the May Local Elections. Currently Cherwell is the only Oxfordshire District Council with a Tory majority, albeit a slim one. If the control is lost then things like the chair and composition of committees will change. Potentially the application could appear on the 18 May planning agenda, but this is only a day after the full Council meets for the first time. If not May then it may reappear in June.

Where is HPC in all this? They continue to fight and, given CDC's lack of ability to get sensible conditions agreed after nearly two years (let alone actually enforce them) the view is that the decision should be to refuse the application. Cherwell District Council are still at liberty to refuse the planning application, and HPC strongly believe that this is justified and reasonable. So, despite what may be said planning has **not** been granted and the world has moved on. For example, since the June 2021 meeting a brand new motocross park has opened last year in Abingdon, Oxfordshire County Council has produced a new transport plan (which this application is completely out of step with) and clearly the need to **act** on climate change (rather than produce more CDC greenwash) has become ever more urgent.

HPC is fortunate in having the ability to employ some first rate consultants thanks to the generosity of parishioners, so are looking at what can be done both within the planning process and more widely from a legal perspective.

*Steve Woodcock
17th April 2023*

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www.thelogdog.co.uk

Est. 1956

Taking care of

Nowadays we need to be as proactive as possible when it comes to our own health and emergency care and we're lucky to live in a supportive community where there are already several things in place.

Shenington & Fenny Compton Surgery

The majority of Hornton families are registered with Shenington Surgery and the Practice Manager, Lisa Yates, has been kind enough to answer some of your questions:

Which trust do Fenny and Shenington surgeries belong to?

The Surgery comes under the direction of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board and is part of the East Primary Care Network of practices which comprises Southam, Harbury, St Wulfstan and Kineton surgeries.

Who are the permanent doctors and are they available at Shenington every day?

The permanent Doctors are: Dr Jan Marshall, Dr Tom Sharples, Dr David Havard and Dr Jessica Smith. Dr Smith is on maternity leave until 13 July and her sessions are being covered by Dr Carl Evans. At least one of these Doctors is always on duty at Shenington every day and are often accompanied by a GP registrar. Our registrars are in their final year of training and currently they are Dr Tom Beirne and Dr Olivia Cooper (also on maternity leave until 24th May)

Is Shenington surgery going to be closed?

There are rumours circulating that the surgery is going to be closed. Lisa responded to this emphatically and confirmed the surgery is not going to be closed. She said "We are aware of the rumours, which we assume came after the need to reduce reception services at Shenington. This was due to staffing issues which are now resolved. Our reception issues were partly due to staff becoming increasingly downhearted with the behaviour of some patients, who can sometimes be rude and demanding. We are aware however that the vast majority of patients are lovely and very appreciative of the service we provide. Since COVID, the practice workload has almost doubled and it may be that the NHS never returns to pre-COVID levels of service. This has led to frustration on both sides: for patients, who have to wait longer to be seen and then can't discuss all of their issues in one ten minute appointment. For doctors it's difficult, as they are already dealing with considerably more patients with multiple issues which have sometimes been saved up. All of us are trying to do our very best under

The Defibrillator

There is a defibrillator installed on the right hand side wall of the Methodist Chapel extension in Millers Lane.

Two Guardians are appointed to check it every month and ensure that it is always in working order. Your Parish Council are currently in negotiation to have a second Defibrillator installed at the Pavilion.

Be reassured that it is impossible to use this incorrectly as sensors ensure that it can only deliver a shock if necessary. It comes with a resuscitation pack containing scissors to swiftly remove clothing and a pocket rescue breath mask to help carry out CPR. You need a mobile phone.

How to use the Defibrillator:

In the event of a suspected heart attack/chest pains :-

1. Call 999 and ask for the Ambulance Service
2. Give the location of the cabinet: Cabinet No 1124; Hornton Methodist Chapel, Millers Lane, OX156BS
3. Answer the operator's questions. This will not delay the ambulance.
4. The operator will give you the access code.
5. Remove the defibrillator and the resuscitation pack and go to the patient. The operator will remain on the line to give assistance.
6. Switch on the Defibrillator and it will then provide you with verbal instructions for use.

If you would like a laminated copy of these instructions please contact: clerk@hornton-pc.org.uk



extremely challenging circumstances across the whole NHS and sadly we simply cannot give everyone what they want."

Why do receptionists ask for a reason for the appointment and if a reason isn't given, do we go to the back of the queue?

Lisa replied "The team know that some patients can feel this seems inappropriate or 'nosey' being asked by the receptionists what the problem is. Please be reassured that all of the staff have to sign an enhanced confidentiality agreement and discretion is assured. Providing a short reason for the appointment means that the Doctors can review the patient's notes and be familiarised with that particular

problem if it has occurred previously. This means that they will be immediately prepared to deal with the case during the telephone consultation, which in turn helps with the ever present time constraints. If a patient is uncomfortable with explaining the reason, they can simply say politely that the problem is private. Stating this does not put the patient at the back of the queue for help and an appointment will be given if one is available."

Are patients allowed to choose which hospital they go to for x-rays, scans & blood tests?

"Patients can be referred to whichever hospital they chose for x-rays, scans and

Ourselves...

bloods. One reason patients may be referred to Warwick is if the patient's potential follow up would have to be performed in Warwickshire due to services available closer there and prevent results on different hospital systems delaying care. Your GP should discuss this with you at the time of referral and explain the reasons."

Are there any plans to hold private clinics for some services, such as ear wax removal?

"Due to constraints on NHS budgets, and changes to core contractual work, we can no longer offer some services at the practice and are unable to offer them privately either. Some of the services, such as ear wax removal, have been contracted to outside providers such as Specsavers and are available on the NHS if they meet certain criteria. Patients may be referred to other services, such as menopause clinic & chiropody, but a private referral may be required."

What can patients do to help?

When asked whether we patients could make things any easier for the hard pressed surgery to deal with Lisa replied yes, there are several things that patients can do to help, and these are :-

1. Firstly, and most importantly, please be a patient patient. We are doing our best to try and help you, especially the reception team.
2. We have a telephone triage system in place every morning to support patients and anyone can request a call back, it does not have to be an urgent issue. Once these appointment slots are full, patients are dealt with on a case by case basis dependent on the urgency. Patients can still pre-book face to face appointments but the wait can be around 2-3 weeks currently.
3. It really helps the reception team if you have your diary to hand when you call to make an appointment, especially at busy times when there are patients in the queue.
4. Please ensure you check in when attending the surgery with a receptionist for your appointment. There have been a cases recently of patients taking a seat and not reporting to reception – so sadly no-one knew they had arrived.
5. Finally, Covid hasn't gone away, so please don't attend if you suspect that you might be COVID positive as you put other patients and the practice at risk.

Are appointments offered after normal closing hours? Will they be at Shenington?
The government did change the requirement for GPs to offer appointments

after its main opening hours last October. As a single practice, this is very difficult to provide, so the Primary Care Network offer appointments across its sites. As a larger group, the PCN can offer the stipulated number of appointments that NHS England demands. It does mean you could be offered a weekend appointment at another location locally.

There is a website for the Surgery: fennycomptonandsheningtonsurgery.nhs.uk. If you visit the website you will find all of the information you need there, including contact details and a feedback page. This is regularly monitored and comments are filtered and sorted into their various categories to be dealt with. Lisa made a point of mentioning that the practice has a Patient Participation Group. You will find an area on the website explaining all about the Patient Participation Group. The purpose of the group is to work collaboratively towards better communication and understanding and we think of the PPG as our critical friends. The website has recently updated its information about opening hours, as the dispensary has slightly different hours to the main surgery.

Helpful hints

If you downloaded the NHS App in order to update your Covid passes are you aware that you can now use this to order your **repeat prescription online?**

The Lions Club, banburylions.co.uk, will issue a medicine container marked with a green cross to keep in the fridge and a green cross sticker which you put on your front door. In an emergency the paramedics would see the sticker and be able to easily find all of your prescription medicines.

There is a small, collapsible, old but serviceable **wheelchair** stored in the disabled toilet in the Pavilion which is free to borrow for anyone temporarily in need of a wheelchair. Contact Isabel Harris on 670304 for access.

Tesco are selling **self testing kits** for nine different conditions, among them bowel and thyroid function at £10 each, online or in store.

Emergency, emergency...

Panic is the enemy of practical help. Everyone finds the thought of a choking child or their partner having a heart attack terrifying and probably the best way to ensure that you would cope in that situation is to be a competent first aider.

Sadly, the Red Cross, hit by a lack of funds and fewer resources, can no longer provide First Aid Training. St John's Ambulance however, can provide certificated training courses designed for assisting both children and adults, but these courses are very expensive at well over £1,000. The Parish Council have been approached to see if they would be able to subsidise the cost of a one day certificated course, which would cover heart attacks and choking as well as general accidents and burns. They would need to know if there was sufficient interest among the village before considering this. If you would be interested please contact thehorntongossip@aol.com to register interest. The Parish Council, meanwhile, have suggested that perhaps one of the registered First Aiders or medically trained people in the village might be willing to pass on their expertise. If that is you please get in touch.

More and more research points to **exercise** being a key ingredient of good health at any age, so why not join one or all of the following:

Alex Birch – Keep Fit on Tuesdays, 6.30pm, *Hornton Pavilion*


Pilates – Pavilion, Mondays, 5.00pm.

Tap Dancing – Old School, Horley, contact Denise Cook on 01295 688382

Aqua Aerobics – Spiceball Leisure Centre, Mon, Wed, Thursday and Friday at various times. Book online at leisurecentre.com or 01295257522

And finally – summer is well on its way, so soak up that vitamin D, eat all that delicious summer fruit, breathe in our fresh country air and take all of the fun outdoor exercise you can.

Stay Healthy, Hornton!



Oxfordshire School Aged Immunisation Service

The School Aged Immunisation Service offer the following vaccines to eligible school aged children aged 5 to 16:

- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)
- Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio (TDP)
- Meningitis (ACWY)
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)
- Flu (seasonal)

If your child is educated at home:





- They can attend a local Community Based Clinic
- Please contact us (details below) to book into a clinic and to provide consent

If your child is in school:

- They will be offered their vaccinations at School
- The School will contact you directly with details

Contact us through our web address, by scanning the QR code or by calling 07920 254400

Or visit www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imm
To translate our webpages to other languages please click:



Comings & GOINGS

Rob Freeman on the Green very sadly lost his beloved wife Janet earlier this year. We send our condolences to him and to their family.

Hornton has waved adieu to Tim and Paula Hewlett, whose departure to Devon has been slightly delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, but that has given them time to enjoy several farewell parties - a fitting exit for such a sociable couple!

A warm Hornton welcome to several new residents:

Laura, Chris and George Peabody in Eastgate

James, Jen and young daughter Thea, plus Morpheus the black lab, in Holloway Cottages

Brodie and Chloe also in Holloway Cottages.

We hope they will all be very happy in their new homes.

Calum and Evie's youngest son, Robert, will be Baptised in the Church on 25th June.

And last, tiniest but not least - we celebrate the arrival of Louie Goddard to Charlie and Jacob, a second grandson for Dan and Lorraine Joyner.

- Remembering Wendy -

It is with great sadness that the Burden family lost their sister, Wendy, on 16th February. She had been ill for many months and had been brave and strong throughout that time.

She was born and brought up in Hornton and lived at Cromwells and Norland House on Millers Lane. She spent her happy early years playing in and around this lovely village. Wendy attended Hornton Primary School before moving on to Easington Girls and later Banbury Technical College. Her career started at Alcan in the factory offices in Banbury before moving into ARB, Bloxham College and lastly Homeserve on the Southam Road.

In January 1976 Wendy married Mick Cronin from Wroxton. They started married life at Vicarage Flats in Cropredy and then moved to Banbury where Rachel and Daniel were born. It was at this time the family enjoyed many holidays in Croyd Bay, Devon, and Aberdovey in Wales. Finally the family moved to Hook Norton.

Wendy had many hobbies, and like her mother was renowned for her cooking and sewing skills, the latter being put to good use at the Saturday afternoon meet-ups at Mum and Dads. Antique showrooms, carboot sales and flower gardens were among her many interests, plus many books passed on when she'd finished them. She was a kind, devoted wife, mother and sister, with an infectious sense of humour and a lovely smile.

Wendy will be remembered and greatly missed by us all.

Paul Burden, on behalf of the family



À Bientôt Hornton

'The voice of the sea speaks to the soul'

As the voice of the sea grows ever louder in our ears, the decision to leave our much-loved barn and garden, the village, and our friends, has not been an easy one. When we found Hornton and viewed Copse Cap Barn in the Spring of 2010, we found our dream home. A house with a party barn on the side?? We were made for each other! Eleanor and Freddie Campbell kindly invited us to the Neighbourhood Watch BBQ on the green, ahead of our move, so that we could meet Hornton folk and we never looked back. We said to ourselves "We could grow young here" and we've given it our best shot!

With the enthusiastic support of Hornton, and the hard work of friends, the barn has been a venue for many varied events from flower arranging workshops to pop-up retail arts events, wine tasting evenings, and pop-up suppers to name but a few. After a rousing performance in the barn, our saxophonist friend the late Frank Abrams, was so popular that we held the next event at the Pavilion for an evening of supper and sax for fear that his outstanding signature performance of Gerry Rafferty's "Baker Street" would blow the roof off.

We have had some of the best times, not least of which has been to welcome our 9 grandchildren into the world whilst living in Hornton, and like so many, we've had some challenges too. We have been so fortunate to feel the love and support of many of you through those times.

We have had the privilege of being custodians for Copse Cap Barn for 13 years and as we pass the baton to Laura, Chris and 2 year old George Peabody, we know you will make them as welcome as you made us 13 years ago.

À bientôt Hornton, not goodbye, as we shall be visiting Paula's family in Churchill, and Hornton, at every opportunity. Whilst we await completion on our house in Ringmore in the South Hams, 15 minutes' walk from the National Trust's Ayrmer Cove, and 50 yards from the 13th century Pub, The Journey's End, we shall be living temporarily in Wimbledon and enjoying all that London has to offer. Let's meet again soon and we'll see you on the water. So, bring the paddleboards ...the party's not over, it's just moving to the beach!

With our very best wishes,

Paula and Tim Hewlett



Edgehill Gliding Centre (EGC)

- Hornton's new neighbour -

Shenington airfield lies just over 2 miles away – as a glider flies - from Hornton. As a result we regularly see aircraft thermalling silently over our heads, some of which are setting off on cross-country flights of several hundred miles into Wales and the far reaches of England. Occasionally, you may also spot an EGC tug towing a glider to its launch height. Despite this, the airfield's activities remain a mystery to most people in the village. Hopefully, this article will help to rectify that, and tempt some of you to explore further.

I'll start with a warning. Gliding can become addictive. I've been gliding in various guises for over 40 years (firstly hang gliding, then paragliding and now flying sailplanes for the past 15 years). Our family's school holidays consisted mainly of visits to gliding sites. Our long-suffering children became acquainted with alpine landing fields throughout Europe during their holidays whilst their friends returned with exciting tales of visits to theme parks and beaches. Also...the main reason Lesley

and I ended up in Hornton was because it provided the perfect combination of proximity to a gliding club and a rail station with good commuting links to London. However, we have been fortunate because Hornton also turned out to be a perfect place to settle and meet some very dear new friends. And the village still has a great pub.

Some major changes been under way at the airfield over the past two years. A brand-new gliding venture – Edgehill Gliding Centre (EGC) – has replaced the previous club. As before, EGC continues to operate at weekends all year, and on selected weekdays during the spring and summer. Unusually for clubs in southern England, Shenington's facilities enable gliders to be launched either by *winching* or by *aerotowing* behind a tug (most clubs offer only one option). EGC will also continue to run the 'Shenington Regionals' – a major annual competition which attracts 35 pilots and gliders from all over the UK. The next competition takes place in the first week in July 2023 and you may

notice a spike in airborne activity. Some B&Bs in the village and nearby may be hosting pilots who are taking part.

But not all has remained the same. The biggest transformation is that the club is now led entirely by volunteers. Many of its 100+ members are drawn from surrounding communities. The local emphasis is important. The new club has been set up as a community amateur sports club (CASC), with a strong focus on strengthening links with neighbouring towns and villages. This ambition has been helped by the launch last year of the 'Runway Bar' with hosts Joe and Liz Gibbs - the owners of the airfield. The bar has introduced many first-time visitors both to the location and also the range of flying activities that take place there. These changes are already paying dividends. A far greater number of people taking advantage of our introductory *Welcome to Gliding* flights (see below) are local, often taking the opportunity to see their houses from a very different angle! We are also welcoming more juniors, attracted by the fact that you can fly a glider solo at 14yrs old.

We really do want to see more of our neighbours so please come up and see what it is all about. If you want to try flying, we may be able to get you in the air on the same day if we are not too busy. Who knows, you may have an opportunity to see Hornton from a very different perspective! By the time you read this, one lucky Hornton May Day raffle winner will already have visited us to claim their winch launch prize.

To find out more, visit www.edgehillgliding.com, or contact us via enquiries@edgehillgliding.com.

Or just knock on my door.

Steve Tilling



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Our Roman Hoard

Unearthing our past - a chance discovery

Around 1500 years ago, at the time of Roman rule, someone buried a hoard of 136 coins in a field just outside Hornton village. There it lay, undiscovered, until 1950 when the Ironstone Company's mechanical diggers unearthed the Roman coins lying in a pocket of earth. They are now in Oxford's Ashmolean Museum.

So who was the person who buried this modest hoard and why? It is thought that the coins were buried around 317-318AD and collected over several years. Perhaps it was a local farmer hiding his savings, or making a votive offering to the gods, an old soldier or a man with his own ironstone business. Scatterings of pottery were found at the site, so perhaps there was a settlement nearby.



The coins were found together in a field at Ragnell Bottom

Boom and bust

It was a time of unrest in Britain and the coinage and monetary system were reformed to boost the economy, which had been ravaged by inflation. The coins



These coins depict portraits of Emperors Severus III and Maximian



Emperor Constantine I

are 'folles' – small bronze coins with a silver wash, minted in the early 4th century AD in London, France and Italy.

The age of emperors

The coins cover a 10-year period and show portraits of eight Emperors. The reverse sides of the coins show symbols that the Emperors wanted to portray to impress. Roman coins were made from gold, silver, bronze and copper, and used throughout the Empire for trade, made in mints in London and throughout Europe. Constantine had a major impact on European history because of his decision to embrace and legalise Christianity in AD313.

Romans all around us

By the time this hoard was buried the Romans had been governing Britain for 300 years. In Oxfordshire alone 1200 Roman sites have been discovered, some very local to us. At Broughton Castle an impressive villa has been revealed, a Roman cemetery was found in Wroxton, a vineyard at Horley and the ancient Nadbury Camp at Edgehill. Major roads and trackways criss-cross our region – the Fosse Way was, and still is, an important route joining Lincoln to the south.

The population was known as 'Romano-British', descended from Iron Age forebears, but becoming 'Romanised', the better-off enjoying all the trappings of a Roman lifestyle. In the second and third centuries the economy flourished. Towns grew under Roman

rule, but most people lived in the countryside.

A thriving trade - with Europe and beyond

Britain suffered the ups and downs of the Roman economy. Wealth came initially from the goods and services supplying the huge army of 40,000 legionaries. Ships were going to and from Europe and entrepreneurs benefitted from this. Wine, fish paste, oil, fine pottery and glassware were imported into the country, while we were exporting grain, iron, copper tin, silver and gold, as well as prized oysters, and the popular *Birrus Britannicus*, a wool duffle-coat. However, the economy took a dip in the 3rd century when the army was pulled back to Rome and British markets created around the army supply shrank.

The cash economy

The reign of Constantine coincided with a renewed period of prosperity in the Romanised parts of rural Britain. A new economy arose focussed on local trade and industry, and many local pottery workshops started up, each specialising in its own style. Among the most notable were the Nene Valley, Forest of Dean and Oxfordshire potteries.



Oxfordshire Ware mortarium (bowl for grinding food) from Headington Pottery

By the beginning of the 4th AD large-scale production of well-made tableware and more everyday lower-value pottery was in full swing, mostly traded within Britain. Low value bronze coins, like those of the Hornton hoard, became everyday currency. Each of the Hornton coins would probably have paid for a loaf of bread.

Laurie Stewart-Furneaux

BRIDGE THAT GAP



Cake and Conversation

I had the pleasure of organising a very special tea party on Friday 28th April in the Chapel, with the aim of bridging the generation gap. Hornton School Headteacher, Wendy Whitehouse, put together a group of years 4 and 5 pupils to enjoy a slap up tea and with Julie Stanley's help we invited members of the older generation of Hornton residents to come and meet them. They talked with the children about their interests, families, how things had changed over the years; anything and everything. Guests brought photographs, games and memorabilia and compared school days over the years. I arranged for a team of students from Bloxham School who are working on their Hospitality qualification to host, provide the refreshments and clear up. They did a splendid job and were a credit to their Master, Peter Harvey. It was a pleasure to introduce the youngest guest, Holly, to our oldest resident, Eileen Lewis, who said that she'd had a lovely time and the tea was delicious. The tea party was a huge success.

Sophie Heathcote



Sophie with the Hospitality team from Bloxham School

Today we were invited to a tea party at the Methodist chapel. We had a lovely time and spoke to a group of people who lived in Hornton. It was interesting finding out about school along time ago and we enjoyed playing games. The cakes were delicious and the whole class enjoyed the afternoon.

Children of Years 3 and 4



Holly, the youngest, meets Eileen, the oldest



We were at the tea party at The Chapel and just want to say what a lovely event it was. We had a tea worthy of a posh hotel - finger sandwiches with the crusts cut off, as well as lovely cakes - but best of all was the engagement between the children and the more mature attendees. The children were a credit to



the school and their parents. They brought handwritten sheets about their families and their interests and they gave us thank you cards. They were confident and chatty, although one or two admitted to feeling a bit 'scared' but as one little girl said to us 'Once you start talking it is hard to stop'.

We learned a lot about the children - most of them seemed, like the rest of Hornton - to have at least one dog and it turns out that "bff" means best friend for ever! One girl told us her big interest was 'eating cake'. She proved this by eating four pieces of the delicious chocolate brownies, cooked by the catering students of Bloxham School. We showed the children some pictures of Hornton in olden times - the early 1900's - and they were very interested in a 1960's *View Master*: if you are a younger person you may need to Google this!

Many thanks to all involved.

Lynn and Roger Corke



Photos courtesy of Jan Hall

TRAFFIC NEWS

Of increasing concern to residents are dangerously speeding vehicles and the dreadful number of potholes in our 'third world' roads. Former Councillor Tim Hewlett did a fantastic job setting up the Hornton Speedwatch group and establishing a great relationship with the Oxfordshire County Council Area Operations Officer to tackle Highways & Drainage issues and encouraging the residents of Hornton to use the <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> App. I have agreed to continue his work on these two great projects.

Speedwatch

Hornton has teamed up with the villages of Broughton, Tadmarton and Swalcliffe to form a group under the Thames Valley Police road safety group, to be known as the Banbury BTHS. This initiative is run by local volunteers under the guidance of the Thames Valley Police; all volunteers are registered and trained to be operators, once qualified the volunteer can operate in any of the villages in our BTHS Group. I am now a Group training officer so training will be carried out in the village.

Listening to concerned residents I have identified five suitable sites for operating the radar equipment. These are located in Millers Lane, The Green and Bell Street and they have to be approved by the Police for both legal and Health & Safety reasons. It is planned that we will operate these sites at key traffic volume times and the typical afternoon delivery times. People who are caught speeding will receive a letter from the Police and be entered onto the system, if this person becomes a habitual offender they will receive further action from the Police.

If any resident would like to join the Group, it's simple enough, go to <https://communityspeedwatch.org> click in the register box, click on join existing group - Banbury BTHS (Broughton, Tadmarton, Hornton, Swalcliffe) and register. I will

be arranging a training evening shortly in the snug at the Dun Cow.

In the meantime I think it would really help the villages if, when ordering goods online, you include a "please drive slowly" message in the delivery instructions box.

FixMyStreets

This is a great, user friendly site, and I would strongly urge everyone to use this site as a report is forwarded immediately to the Oxfordshire County Council Area Operations Officer. The more reports there are the more it helps me build a case to get increased resources deployed in our North Oxfordshire Village.

You will have noticed the early results of this campaign with repairs that have already been carried out to the road surfaces on the link Road to Pages Lane and the West End. White paint means 'scheduled for repair in 28 days', Red means 'within 7 days', and Yellow means don't hold your breath but it's been actioned. Go to <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> or please contact me and I'll deal with it.

Drive carefully!

Martin A. Jones

M. 07804 734424 / O. 01295 678301

F A R T

Ten years ago a group of us Hornton chaps set up the Fast Action Response Team to deal with issues from trees down, adverse weather conditions, missing pets/children or any other unexpected events that, due to our remote location, may take time for help to arrive. If you need us at any time just ring 07804734424. You're not alone, we will be there for you.

Martin Jones



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What's On...

Share your fun and experience! This is a new page - the idea is that you post a review of anything/ anywhere you go, either locally or a little further afield.

- Vin X Wine Bar -

The Wroxton House Hotel has been under new management for eight months now, and is fast establishing itself as a Boutique Hotel and a welcome addition to the excellent restaurants in the area. We recently enjoyed a lively evening in the new wine bar on one of their regular Jazz Nights, where, as well as the excellent selection of wines, we tucked in to a fabulous array of charcuterie and cheese. Vin X is only open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday but the rest of the facilities are open all week. It's only up the road, and well worth a visit!



- Eddie and the Goldtops -

This bunch of talented travelling troupadors from the Badapple Theatre Company brought their original and hilarious musical all the way from North Yorkshire to the Pavilion. Hornton was no 4 of a 40 venue tour that they were embarking on. They arrived complete with stage, sound, lights and scenery and treated us all to a lighthearted evening of fun, music and laughter. They said afterwards that the Hornton audience was one of the best they'd ever had, which hopefully means that they will come again. Thanks to Pete Lemon who booked them and organised the evening, which also raised £350 for the Pavilion funds.



- Banbury Museum -








Banbury Museum is hosting an exhibition of sculpture until the 2nd July. The Gallery is showing a number of extremely prestigious works including some by Henry Moore and an Anthony Gormley figure. Sourced from the Arts Council and private collections this is a rare, not to be missed opportunity to see work of quality here on our doorstep.

Anne Joyner



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The Cuckoo

Once upon a time in Hornton Spring was welcomed by the calls of several cuckoos; one somewhere in Holloway and one up by the allotments, with others coming and going. Sadly, they have all gone missing for the last few years and it's no surprise to find that they are classified as 'Red' on the UK conservation lists and globally as 'Vulnerable' on the Red List of Threatened Species.

The cuckoo is an African migrant, arriving here in late March and early April and leaving in late August. They are grey with a distinctive barred chest, are slightly larger than a blackbird and smaller than a pigeon and have a life expectancy of four years. They feed on all kinds of insects, particularly hairy caterpillars. They are solitary, coming together simply to mate, and neither parent plays any part in bringing up the family.

Apart from their distinctive cry they are most famous for 'Brood Parasitism', the fact that females only lay eggs in the nests of other birds, leaving their young to be reared by usually much smaller foster parents. Each female cuckoo has a preferred host, for instance a dunnock, and the cuckoo will hand on to her daughters the genetic fingerprint of this preferred host's egg colouring in order to closely mimic any eggs already in the

nest. If the host bird recognises the new egg as an intruder it will abandon the nest, but more often it will incubate and raise the cuckoo chick.

The cuckoo hatchling has a unique depression at the back of its neck specifically designed to lever any of the host's eggs over the edge of the nest to their doom. It also emits a foul smell which deters predators. It grows at a much faster rate than the host's chicks and can physically overwhelm them when the parent brings food, so any other chicks soon die of starvation. There is one species of cuckoo which hatches with a tiny, hard, sharp protrusion at the end of its beak so that it can hack any other chicks to death. The cuckoo chick's prodigious appetite and rapid growth mean that within weeks of hatching it will be vastly bigger than the host birds, who have been known to die of exhaustion trying to keep up with the demands of their foster child.

The term 'cloud cuckoo land' comes from Greek mythology, where cuckoos attempted to build a place where they could live and act as mediators between man and the gods. In Celtic mythology the Cuckoo is a traveller who calls between the lands of the living and of

the dead. Depending on the direction from which the call comes it can foretell good luck

(West), consolation (East), sorrow (North) and death (South). Pliny the Elder wrote that the call of the cuckoo would safeguard an area from pestilence, and weirdly no cuckoos called here during the Covid years! Seeing a cuckoo in your dreams means that you are feeling lonely, whilst hearing one in a dream means you need to speak up for yourself.

And, given the way they are programmed to behave, the term 'having a cuckoo in the nest' needs no explanation!

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HORNTON SCHOOL - Out & About -

My First Car



On Wednesday 29th April Hornton Primary School enjoyed a whole school visit to Hadsham Farm to see the lambs. The Taylor family kindly gave the school a reduced rate of £3 per child and the PTA generously donated the cost of the coach.

A fun-packed morning was had by all. We enjoyed lots of lamb cuddles, exploring the sensory walk, playing in the playground and seeing the other animals, including goats, piglets and chicks.

Martha James



I've always been interested in cars. My father had a 1958 Vauxhall Velox which I learnt to drive in when I was 14.

Once a month we would go to Romford where there was a company called Caradrome with pretend roundabouts and working traffic lights, where I learnt to drive.

When I was 15 a great uncle became too old to drive and my friend Rod and I bought his car off him for £15, £7 10/- each. It was a 1948 Ford Prefect, black of course, with that particular smell of oily mustiness that all old cars have, and black leatherette upholstery. We kept it on a patch of waste ground between the River Roding and a dual carriageway. One day the local policeman came when we were tinkering about with it and said you can't leave that there, so my dad towed it home, up the back alley and into the back garden and parked it next to the air raid shelter.

It always started first time and would run for a while, but then it would cut out and we could never find out why. I would spend hours in it, 'driving' it, polishing the chrome and I re-covered the dashboard with tan leatherette which I thought looked really smart.

Most of my friends had motorbikes by now, but whenever I asked for one my dad would say why? You've got a

car and you can pass your test next year. Now I realise getting that old car was probably a cunning ploy to keep me away from motorbikes!

I applied for my licence when I was 16 and booked well ahead of my birthday for two lessons with the British School of Motoring mainly so that I could find out what they looked for during the test. I took and passed my driving test four weeks after my 17th birthday. I vividly remember the feeling going home on the bus with the precious pink slip.

We sold the car to a gentleman for £20 and Rod and I watched with our fingers crossed waiting for it to cut out as he drove away up the dual carriageway, but it didn't and we never heard from him again, so it must have been OK.

Pete Joyner

* Share the story of your first car in the next issue of the Gossip.

Spring Recipe

The asparagus season is upon us so what about trying this easy pasta dish. English asparagus is a rather different thing from the imported stuff and you could use any type of pasta unless you are a bit Italian and fussy about exactly what pasta goes with what sauce.

Serves 2 - but you can increase the quantities

INGREDIENTS:

- 200g farfalle
- 2 tbsp olive oil, plus extra to serve
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 red chilli (or less to taste), finely chopped
- 250g asparagus, woody ends trimmed, cut into small (but not tiny) pieces
- 1 lemon, zested and juiced
- handful basil leaves
- 30g pine nuts, toasted
- 50g feta (or more), crumbled

METHOD:

1. Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Tip in the pasta and cook for 1 min less than pack instructions.
2. Meanwhile, heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Stir in the garlic, chilli and a pinch of salt, and fry for 1 min until fragrant. Add the asparagus and lemon zest, and cook for 4-5 mins until the asparagus is just tender.
3. Drain the pasta and tip into the asparagus pan. Add the lemon juice, stir through the basil, grind over some black pepper, then divide between bowls.
4. Top with the pine nuts, feta and a drizzle of oil to serve.

Enjoy!

Lynn Corke

SAVE THE DATE!

Knockout Croquet Tournament

The Football Field on 27th August

Harvest Supper

Hornton Pavilion on 6th October

Progressive Dinner 2023

7th October

Play

Hornton Pavilion on 23rd November

Look out for full details in the next edition of *The Gossip*.

The Gossip

The copy deadline for the next issue of *The Gossip* is Friday 4 August 2023. Please send your ideas or submissions to Anne Joyner at thehorntongossip@aol.com. To advertise in the next issue, please contact Ni Marot.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in this newsletter, the editorial team cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any errors that might occur, particularly in respect of advertisers not meeting customer expectations. The opinions published in this paper are not necessarily those of the team.

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*Please contact the Editor, Anne Joyner, if you would like a copy of one of these May Day photographs:
thehorntongossip@aol.com*