

The Gossip

H O R N T O N

ISSUE 130

AUGUST 2023

Motorcross Update

the right decision...

On Thursday 13th July the motorcross planning application was returned to Cherwell's Planning committee. Hornton, as ever, was supportive and more than twenty residents crowded into the room to attend the meeting in person. Many more viewed the live feed from work and holiday.

As you know, your Hornton Parish Councillors and a band of hard working supporters have continued to be active in trying to ensure the decision from the previous July 2021 meeting was overturned. The PC would like to thank everyone who has taken time to send emails and support this campaign. We also need to thank all those who have personally contributed to the costs involved in this fight.

Nat Stock (planning officer) presented the Applicant's case, a key feature of which was that the track had been there for 40 years and should the Council reject the application it was likely the applicant would be able to achieve a Lawful Development Certificate (LDC) to allow 14 days racing with no Council control. Several residents could not help themselves and made their opinions known to the room regarding some of the things he said. Fortunately, nobody was asked to leave. This took no account of the huge development of the track in recent years and that if an LDC were granted all vestiges of the track would have to be removed after

each event, plus the fact that the applicant had previously withdrawn an application for an LDC presumably having been advised it would fail.

Then our Ward councillor, Phil Chapman spoke from Italy where he was attending his daughters wedding. Previously he had believed that planning with conditions was the best route but our efforts, including the village meeting, convinced him that planning should be refused. He spoke with conviction about how he had come to this decision, even saying that he had many sleepless nights. Many there felt this was a pivotal moment.

As objectors Julian Philcox, the PC's planning expert, and I spoke trying to ensure the Committee knew the misery the track can cause to local residents and that it was against existing and new green policies from Cherwell DC, Oxfordshire County Council and the Government.

For the applicant their advisor simply reiterated many of the planning officers' basic comments.

Pleasingly at this meeting many of the members had researched, or at least read, information we had sent to them. They raised concerns over traffic, harm to the environment and wildlife, the local need for this site, and noise. Indeed, one spoke about never having had so many emails re an application. A further point raised was that the LDC seemed to be being used as a threat, should the Committee not approve planning, and this was felt to be distasteful.

The Chair, George Reynolds (another of our ward Councillors) proposed rejection, and this was immediately seconded by two councillors. The vote went 13 to 0 in our favour, with 2 abstentions. A cheer went up from the Hornton contingent.

This was a major victory, which has taken huge efforts to achieve. However, we need to be aware the applicant could appeal or request an LDC. Given the strength of our victory this seems unlikely but we will continue to monitor the situation.

John Offord, Chair, Hornton PC 20/7/23

We may have won a battle, but we don't know if the war is actually over...

The situation is that, after the refusal at the July Planning Meeting, it took CDC three weeks to ratify the 13-0 vote. We have no idea why they delayed. The landowner, Mrs Kerwood, has six months from that ratification in which to make an Appeal, if she so chooses, plus there are other options open to her.

The Hornton team, including our external planning experts, who have worked extremely hard to combat the MX threat for the last four years, are still active in ensuring that we are prepared for any eventuality. As part of this process, there are various new Freedom of Information requests lodged with CDC, plus we have submitted a Maladministration charge against CDC over how the planning process has, in our opinion, been seriously mishandled. This has to go through the Council's own internal processes so may take some time before we know the outcome.

The team would like to thank all those who wrote to CDC opposing MX, provided financial help, attended the village meeting in March and made the trip to Bodicote House for July's Planning Meeting...it clearly made a difference. Depending on what happens in future we may need to call on the village again but, at least at the moment, we can enjoy living in peace.

Cllr Steve Woodcock

Coronation Picnic

On Tuesday 2nd May Hornton School held a Coronation Picnic in the Pavilion

Under the direction of Wendy Whitehouse the event was organised by Alexa Hart, Emma Cockle and Louise Goddard. The school made cheese or jam sandwiches and the parents all donated the rest of the food. Each child had their own carrier bag containing sandwiches, cake, crisps, fruit and a drink, with a little union jack napkin to use as a plate. They all dressed up, some as princesses and queens, some as kings and queens, some in their smartest clothes.

Albert, who was dressed as a king with a gold crown and a cape, said that he thought the picnic and the coronation were 'Good' and his friend Elsie, dressed as Princess Aurora also thought it was 'a good idea'. Florence and Rosy are looking forward to the actual coronation, which they're intending to watch with their families and with the special Coronation Teddy that they've been given.

The children were quite upset when the death of the late Queen was announced. They have studied the Kings and Queens of England during their history lessons, so do understand the significance of the occasion. Morgan Walther-Gaby said that there "hadn't been a king in England for a very long time, so it would be interesting to have one now." Morgan will be joining his family "at Grandma's house, because she makes the best cakes. We will all watch the Coronation on TV with cake." His friend, James Taylor, said "I'm half French, so we aren't really interested in kings and queens. But we will probably watch it anyway because it's so colourful and different."

When the children had finished eating they went outside in the bright sunshine where there were going to be games and races, followed by a crown making session towards the end of the event.



Long Live The King!

Steve and Rebecca in the Dun Cow organised Hornton's only official celebration of the Coronation weekend with a Gala Dinner on May 6th. Isabel Harris was one of the lucky people who attended and has sent us this report.

"After watching the television for most of the day it was great to go out in the evening to the Dun Cow to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles by having a Coronation dinner.

It was fabulous. Martin Jones gave the toast at the start of the evening to a restaurant full of happy people awaiting a supper full of delights. We were not disappointed. What a meal - everything was absolutely wonderful from start to finish. The food was presented beautifully and tasted exquisite. The mood in the room was perfect. We finished the evening singing the National Anthem and again toasting King Charles III. A super time was had by all.

We are so lucky to have such a talented team at the Dun Cow led by Steve and Rebecca, the Chef, Rob, is the best and the waitresses wonderful. If you haven't eaten at the Pub yet give it a go you will not be disappointed."

Isabelle Harris

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Menu :
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.....
Isle of white tomato tart, goats curd, truffle honey
.....
Coronation crab salad, focaccia toast, pickled lemon, salty fingers
.....
Lamb rack, slow cooked shoulder, asparagus, wild garlic,
.....
Baron Bigod cheesecake, white chocolate & hazelnut, shortbread
.....
Mixed summer berry gratin, rapeseed oil sponge, dessert wine sabayon, vanilla ice cream
£35.00 pp

Happy Birthday, Eileen!

Friday 7th July 2023 was a very special day for Eileen Lewis who celebrated her 90th birthday.

Eileen was born here in Hornton, and throughout her life has been a part of our village community. Friends helped her celebrate by holding a tea party at the Chapel.

The sun shone brightly, and the flag was raised on the round green to announce Eileen's birthday. Tables had been laid and sandwiches made by Isabelle, Liz, Cindy and Julie in the morning. The party began at 2.30 and Roger was on hand to take photos of Eileen under the flagpole before she returned to the Chapel to welcome her friends and family, including her three great grandsons.

The party began. Homemade cakes and sandwiches were served on the new cake stands made by Richard Miles. (They will be used again for the MacMillan Tea Party in the Pavilion at the end of September). It was a very hot day and Julie and Cindy were kept busy all afternoon pouring tea for the guests. The children played happily with the toys in the play area, and everyone had a lovely time chattering and enjoying the delicious tea.

Roger took photos of the event throughout the afternoon. He disappeared for a while and then returned with a special gift for Eileen. She opened the present, and to her amazement was a framed photo of her standing under the flagpole taken earlier in the afternoon.

Julie Stanley

N.B. If you would like someone's birthday celebration to include flying their name on the flag, simply put the details on a piece of paper and pop it together with £5 for Village funds through Mr Ian Harris's door - Bellvue, Bell Street.



The Three H's Garden Club



The Gardening Club has had a very good six months, with lots of new members joining - there is still room for more! If you would like to become a member it is £10 for the year or you can drop in to any talk for £3 per session.

On 11th July members enjoyed an evening visit to private Pettifer's Garden in Wardington. Chair Mike Patching said "Members, having completed sowing, hoeing and growing, relax and enjoy the fruits of their labours, or even better the fruits of someone else's labour, by enjoying a trip to a nationally acclaimed garden or park.

This year circumstances conspired so that a planned trip to the gardens at Windsor Castle was cancelled and we had to look closer to home, so Pettifer's was chosen. Personally I had never heard of them as was the case with several others, but this only added to the sense of anticipation. This little gem of a garden on our doorstep held many surprises.

The weather, as has been the case for most of July this year, could have been kinder and the gardens were wet under foot and looking like most gardens after rain. But the weather gods smiled on us and for about an hour we enjoyed a still, sunny meander round this lovely garden. Helped by the gardener, Polly, we were treated to a very

informative and pleasant stroll round this gem, which although relatively small was surrounded by open countryside and beautiful views which gave the impression of it being much more spacious. The garden has a huge variety of perennials, shrubs and trees and I'm sure many of their type will in future add to the enjoyment of members gardens. Afterwards we enjoyed another very pleasant hour or two in garden of The Falcon Inn!

If you've not been to Pettifer's, treat yourself to an evening stroll in this little corner of England in your backyard."

On 12th August the club will hold its annual Flower and Vegetable Show in Hornton Pavilion. Members only can enter this hotly contested competition, and the show will be open to the public in the afternoon. Results will be in the next Gossip edition.

On 12th September the talk will be No Dig Gardening with Russell Attwood, and on 10th October Howard Dun will give a talk, the title yet to be announced. Finally on November 14th Harriet Ryecroft will give a talk on container plants - Potty Talk.

The School went to Church...

On Sunday 9th July, children from Hornton School enhanced our Village Church Service. They had been learning about the Parable of the Good Samaritan, thinking about it not only set in ancient times but also how it may be played out in 2023. In Rowan Class they wrote possible letters of thanks sent by the injured traveller during biblical times and speculated about the kind of letter or e mail that may be sent in such a situation today.

Children also produced pictures of mountain scenery on which they superimposed scenes of rescue by individuals echoing the care and concern of a modern day 'Good Samaritans'

At the Service children sang two lovely songs. They read the parable, read some of the possible letters and led us in prayers for 'Peace' and for 'Families and Friends'

We ended the Service with a shared blessing and a rousing rendering of: 'He's got the whole word in his hands' ! A huge 'Thank you' to children and staff.

Lindy Bridgeman

Letter from the EDITOR

A couple of people have asked me why *The Gossip's* called "The Gossip". Back in the day when Julie Stanley and Ann Hemmings started it, printing it laboriously on an old Roneo (there will be some folk who remember our prehistoric word processor!) in the kitchen, they decided on the name because it had Hornton history.

In the early 1900's the philanthropic Gaskell family who owned Hornton Grounds had two cottages purchased and adapted and furnished with a small library as a 'Reading Room' in an attempt to provide a little further education for the young men of the village. This was a time when boys rarely went to school past the age of thirteen and even then would disappear for harvest time or lambing when things got busy and they were needed elsewhere. Membership was open to all men and boys for a small fee. Needless to say after a little time it became more of a social meeting place where the lads could meet and let off some high spirits, and so became known as "The Gossip".

The Gossip stood on Bell Street, probably on the site of Tourney House's garage, as there were several cottages along there which were demolished and replaced with the bungalows.

With thanks to Julie Stanley, from Arthur Miles's book.

Anne Joyner

07785 613168

thehorntongossip@aol.com

PATH WARDENS

Andrew and I are the Parish Path Wardens for Hornton.

If you have any footpath issues in the Hornton Parish - which is, actually, very small! - please feel free to contact us directly so we can sort them out!

Our contact details are as follows: mobile 07770 751219, or e-mail maggiehiggins10@gmail.com.

Happy walking!

Maggie & Andrew Higgins

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

With immediate effect, Martin Jones is taking on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

Sally Lemon is handing over the reins in order to give her time to other village groups. She will, however, continue to be the eyes and ears for Bell Street.

Martin can be contacted on 07804 734424.

Progressive Dinner - 2023 -

This year's Progressive Dinner will be on Saturday 7th October.

We have quite a few new people in the village, for anyone who has moved here recently this is a terrific way to get to know some of your neighbours. It's a relaxed and very informal evening that sees more and more participants of all ages each time. Don't worry if you're a singleton as you'll be made to feel just as welcome, and if you have any dietary needs or dislikes the Hosts will kindly accommodate them.

All of the money raised is used for the upkeep of the various village facilities and causes all of which are dependant upon volunteers and the various village fundraisers that are held throughout the year.

Here is how it works. Enclosed with your copy of *The Gossip* is a form. When you've made up your mind whether you'd prefer to be a Host or a Guest simply fill this in and post it in the Village Post Box, which is the wooden one attached to the Manor House's wall. Please don't post it in the normal postbox! If you mislay the form then just write your details on a piece of paper and post that instead. The deadline for the entries is Friday 29th September.

If you are a Host : Your donation is to provide a three course meal with drinks for six people (including yourselves). Please don't feel daunted by this, the food can be as simple or as elaborate as you want and the venue can be anything from a carpet picnic to a formal dining room. The week before the dinner you'll get an

envelope containing all the necessary timings together with the instructions to give to your guests telling them where to go next. Your first guests of the evening will arrive at 7.00p.m. and will give you a bottle of wine. You may possibly dream up some extra way of adding to the total by charging your guests the entrance fee for a game or by holding a raffle. Finally you'll collect £30 a head from your pudding course guests.

If you are a Guest: Your donation is the price of your dinner with drinks - £30 per head. You will make your way around the village to different houses all within walking distance of each other. You will enjoy a three-course dinner plus drinks at three different homes for £30 a head. You will receive a letter the week before telling you where to go for your starter and you'll need to get there promptly at 7.00p.m. and give your first hosts of the evening one bottle of wine. Later you'll be directed to another host's home for your main course and from there to a third for pudding; at the end of the evening you'll pay this final host. Bear in mind your Hosts may have dreamt up some other ways of extracting a few extra donations!

I do hope that you will join in; if you are unsure and have any questions just send me a message on Whatsapp 07736 449383 or by email to justina.marot@gmail.com.

I do hope we see you on the night!

Ni Marot



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A Bloomin' Good Afternoon!

Sunday the 4th June dawned a completely perfect summer day without a cloud in the sky, and even before 2 o'clock the village was packed with 250 visitors. Eleven very varied gardens were open spread throughout the village, some of them for the first time, as well as the Allotments. This year's Open Gardens proceeded to be the most successful ever, breaking records for the money raised, a grand total of £2,604. Half of this went to Katherine House Hospice and the rest was split evenly between Hornton's Pavilion fund and Hornton Methodist Church.

Lynn Corke had worked extremely hard for weeks organising the event and was delighted with the efforts of the many volunteers who helped to make the event such a success.

Lynn told the Gossip "We had teas with delicious home made cakes, a large plant stall and, of course, a raffle. Thanks go to all those who contributed in various ways - the garden owners and allotment holders, the bakers and the helpers as well as those who donated plants and raffle prizes. The first prize in the raffle - which was an enormous hanging basket donated by Phillip Gilbert of Quarry Nurseries - was won by our own Rachel Blake of Bell Street. Phillip also donated a large number of plants, in addition to those given by other gardeners. Any plants that remained unsold went on to Caroline's plant stall in Horley, raising money for Horley Church. The teas alone raised £740 and I have to thank everyone who helped us host the Teas in The Cottage Garden - we were all run off our feet. We received many compliments from the visitors on the range and the quality of the cakes and I must say a huge thankyou to all of the bakers!"

Malcolm 'Greenfingers' Cross was to be found, pint in hand, sitting in the shade of a walnut tree in the immaculate Vegetable Garden in Bell Street. The perfect rows of asparagus and

vegetables look already table ready, when most of us ordinary gardeners are still struggling with this year's strange weather. Asked what his secret was he said, "Well," - long pause - "Luck." asked "What fertiliser do you use, what plant food?" he replied "I used to get some sheep's dags when they were shearing the sheep, and tie 'em in a hessian sack, and put 'em in the water butt. You have to take care though because after a few weeks it get very, very strong, and then must be diluted. I remember one of the kids getting splashed with it - he stank to high heaven!"

He went on to describe a scenario straight out of Beatrice Potter. "One year I came out here, and all me beans were gone. That's funny, I thought and replanted them. Next day I came out, and they was gone agin. That evening I looked, and there's this fat three quarters grown rabbit going up the path. So I asked a pal, you still got that gun? Never seen a rabbit since."

There will be no open gardens next year because the village only holds the event every two years. Lynn said "Until next time - when I continue to hope that someone else will take over the reins. This is a lovely fundraising event and everyone really enjoyed it."



What's On...

Time for Croquet



The Croquet Tournament will take place on Sunday 27th August at the Pavilion, starting at 2pm.

There will be a bar and everyone is welcome, whether as a spectator or to take part. Don't worry if you haven't got a partner as organiser Andrew Overton will pair you up with someone, and don't worry if you've never played before as he'll arrange some tuition and give you a rulesheet.

Andrew and his helpers will have set out five lawns for the knockout, plus a practice lawn where you can perfect your stance and your swing before entering the friendly fray. The entry fee is £7 a head for adults and £5 for under 18's with the money going towards the upkeep of the Pavilion and the field.

Do have a go if you've never played before - it's a surprising game playable by all ages and fitness levels, and a lot of fun! We look forward to seeing you there and fingers crossed for another lovely sunny afternoon this year.

Coffee, Cake & Chat

Julie Stanley and her team will be re-starting Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Chapel on Friday 1st September from 10.30 until noon. The first one will include a bring and buy stall and raffle with all proceeds going to Katherine House Hospice.

Quiz Night

The next quiz will be on Wednesday 6 September at 7.30 pm in the Dun Cow. Teams are of six people with a few fee of £2 per head, and everyone is welcome!

Keep Fit with Alex Birch

Alex's Keep Fit sessions in the Pavilion start again on 12th September at 6.30p.m. followed by 12 weekly sessions finishing on 28th November. The friendly class is available to all regardless of age or fitness level and you can just turn up in suitable clothes and footwear. The cost is £60 for all sessions, £35 for 6 sessions or £8 pay as you go. And there's a delicious glass of wine at the end of each series!

Stratford Food Festival

Saturday 16th September - High Street, Stratford; use park and ride.

Macmillan Tea Party

Sunday 24th September the Annual MacMillan Tea Party will be held in the Pavilion with all proceeds going to MacMillan for their invaluable help and support for people and families affected by cancer, starting at 2.30p.m. A delicious Afternoon Tea including a glass of prosecco will be available at £15 per person, and no doubt there will be raffle!

Pub News...

Rebecca and Steve together with their chef, Rob, are planning a new regular venture called "Around The World." Once a month, beginning on the 28th September, Rob will be putting together a tasting menu featuring dishes from a particular country.

Seats will be limited due to space, and demand is expected to be high, so watch

out for the Notice Board on the Bar of the Dun Cow for all of the dates and details, and book across the bar.

Progressive Dinner

Saturday 7th October, see details on page 4 and application form enclosed.

Music in the Chapel

The popular Banbury Strings are coming to perform on Sunday 8th October in the Chapel at 7.30p.m. Tickets are £10 and are available from Julie Stanley at julieharrystan@aol.com or on the door. Refreshments will be available.

Harvest Supper

Hornton Pavilion - date to be advised.

Hornton Halloween Hooley

Saturday 4th November. Tickets will be available from Clare Fox on 01295 678718 or 07812916650. There will be a prize for the best costume. Watch out for Roger's e-mail, the Hornton FB page and the notice board for further details.

Badapple Theatre Company

After 'Eddie and the Gold Tops', the company is bringing *Farmer Scrooge* to Hornton on 22nd December. Look out for details in the next edition of *The Gossip!*

The Runway

Looking for a new place for a golden hour drink? Look no further than The Runway.

Just a stones throw away at Shenington Airfield, we've found The Runway, the perfect spot to enjoy a sundowner. Open Friday evenings, Saturday and Sunday throughout summer, this charming little alfresco setting is equipped with rustic benches, blankets for the cold, open fire pits and gorgeous views. When the sun goes down drinkers are encouraged to migrate thorough to The Hanger, where they can find a converted barn style bar with an easy-going vibe, swings, and fur covered comfy seats.

Kids and dogs are welcome in all outdoor areas, with The Hanger being kept purely for 'late night drinks' vibes with music.

Two large bars; one indoor, one outdoor with an array of bottled beers, cocktails and softs - there's certainly something for everyone! We'd recommend the pornstar martinis which are a reasonable £11.

And to top it all off they have a visiting food van every Friday and Saturday evening bringing all the best foodie options from Lock 29 to the airfield - think Pequeno Gringo, Big Lee BBQ and Nori Shed. Highly recommend!

Alice Heathcote

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PANDAS Challenge

On Friday 21st July, Jo Madden took up the PANDA's Challenge and abseiled down the side of the Millennium Skyscraper in Birmingham. Jo is an ambassador for the PANS/PANDAS Charity, who work to support children and young adults affected by this condition and of course their parents and carers.

To Jo's surprise her whole family, who had come along to support her, agreed to do the challenge as well, and all four of them then lowered themselves over the side and walked down this enormous building!

The Maddens all said that the worst moment was when they were hanging over the edge trying to find a footing on

the slippery surface, but they all reached the bottom safely, feeling exhilarated and, rightly, proud of themselves.

Jo has raised £2,400 so far on her Just Giving page and it's not too late to donate, just go to the Just Giving website, type in Jo Joyner, and you will see her PANDA's Challenge site.

WHAT ARE PANS AND PANDAS?



PANS PANDAS UK
awareness support education

PANS (Paediatric Acute Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome)
PANDAS (Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder associated with Streptococcal Infections)

PANS and PANDAS are immune mediated neuropsychiatric conditions

A diagnosis of PANS or PANDAS means that a child has usually developed a sudden and severe personality change and is displaying symptoms of obsessive compulsive disorder, tics or eating disorders alongside a variety of other symptoms listed overleaf, usually following a bacterial or viral infection. These symptoms can be extremely severe and in many cases children are incorrectly diagnosed with mental health disorders.

The key to an effective and lasting cure is early detection, and if treated promptly with simple medicines, many of these children can be completely cured, but a survey showed that 95% of GP's had never even heard of the conditions. (PANS PANDAS UK, 2020)

PANS PANDAS UK is the only UK charity supporting children and families living with the neuropsychiatric conditions PANS and PANDAS.

Please support us in our work to educate medical professionals as well as the general public in recognising these conditions and helping these children get their lives back.

Scan the QR code to meet Helen and Jessica and hear their story



Jo Joyner's
JustGiving
Page



Only Joking...

- Q What shouldn't you do when it's raining cats and dogs?
A Step in a poodle.

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Comings & Goings

On 17th May the Village sadly lost Sandra Parker. Lindy Bridgeman has kindly sent the following:

Sandra Mary Parker, nee Jarrett, 17th March 1954 - 17th May 2023

The church was packed to say goodbye to Sandra who was a true Horntonian, born and brought up in the village with her brother David.

She went to Hornton school and worshipped in St John the Baptist Church from childhood. She met Malcolm when they were both working at Automotive Products in Banbury, and they were married in 1986, later welcoming their sons Andrew and Matthew.

Sandra served her village in many ways. She belonged to several clubs and particularly enjoyed outings organised by the Gardening Club. She was a member of the Ladies Working Party, where her cheese straws became legendary! It was always good to have Sandra on the team for an event. She got on with the job with common sense and many a laugh! Her giggle was something her friends will always remember.

She was, for years, one of the Sunday School Teachers and later worked at Peachtree, which she loved. That love of her job, was reflected in the children's love for her. The little play area rang with calls of 'Mrs Parker Mrs Parker' and Sandra was there with her caring but firm approach and her famous smile.

Sandra lived with Cancer for many years with fortitude and a determination to overcome it. Her treatment undoubtedly lengthened her life and, until last year when her condition became an impossible burden, she used that life to concentrate on others rather than herself.

Sandra did not push herself forward and made light of the things she was good at. The huge attendance at her funeral was richly deserved. Characteristically, the choices she herself made for her last Service mirrored the legacy she wanted to leave. 'The Millenium Prayer' was a gift of her faith, 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' was a reminder of the wonders of creation all about her beloved village, and 'Give me Sunshine' was what she wanted to bequeath to us all.

Sandra's collection for Cancer Research and MacMillan Cancer Care raised £700.

.....
Welcome back to Hornton Paul and Julie Richards of Crosby Cottage in Millers Lane.

Many of you will recall the disastrous fire which destroyed their home a few years ago. The total re-build has finally been completed and after what Julie describes as "three years of ups and downs" they can now put their lives back together.

.....
Farewell to Linda and Ian Paul, who have moved to Derby to be nearer to their son. They had become popular and supportive friends to the village, and they will be missed.

The Gossip

The copy deadline for the next issue of *The Gossip* is Friday 3 October 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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Fête Fantastique!



Theme Nights returned to Hornton - or Le Cafe Pav - with an explosion of laughter on Saturday 17th June. Sarah Walther, Pete Lemon, Sarah Knight, Al Mills, and Kevin Wain were joined by a talented troupe of players to put on a fabulous evening's entertainment that left the audience wiping away tears of laughter.

The evening was launched by an energetic 'Can Can' routine performed by dancing girls the like of which you wouldn't want to meet at the stage door. The wine flowed, garlic bread, delicious coq au vin and profiteroles were consumed and then the never-seen-before pilot show of 'Allo 'Allo, courtesy of talented writer/musician Al Mills, was performed to gales of laughter. Edith Pias'edd performed, the Magic Roundabout celebrated its French debut (who knew!?) and the evening finished with a sing song of popular French classics.

It was a great evening, hopefully the first of many to come, and a huge Hornton thank you to everyone who put so much time and hard work into the evening. They also managed to raise £1,330 which enabled the purchase of a new amplifier for use by the Pavilion and village events, such as May Day.

Merci Beaucoup!



A Grand Day out at Woodstock

Who knew that Woodstock once had extensive glove-making workshops in the middle ages, an industry that grew from the availability of skins of deer hunted by the aristocracy in the grounds of Blenheim. Hornton History Group enjoyed this fascinating walk around the town, led by our knowledgeable and amusing guide Sean.

We learned about the growth of the town and its wide variety of building styles, including the church with its Norman door. Both Chaucer and Oliver Cromwell had stayed in the town and many a ne're-do-well ended up in the stocks, which are still in good working order (Lisa can confirm).

Our morning ended with a superb lunch at The Feathers, one of the many hostelries to be found in Woodstock.

The next outing to look forward to will be a whole day visit to Chedworth Roman Villa and the Cirencester Museum on 30 September.

Laurie Stewart-Furneaux
Hornton History Group



A Perfect Hornton Wedding

Congratulations to Jess and James Woodward



After a week of rain, rain, rain, we were so lucky to have a dry day on Friday to celebrate the wedding of Jess and James.

Jess was accompanied down the aisle of the Church by three pretty flower girls and a special ring bearer/petal boy; their son Jude, daughter Lily, and her two nieces Edie and Joss. A truly Hornton wedding, it was followed by a party in the Pavilion, where there were visiting owls, games on the field, a pizza van, toasting marshmallows over a fire pit and much dancing!

A very happy day - wishing you both much happiness in your married life.

Jane & Kevin Wain



Congratulations to Dr Phoebe Marot BVSc MRCVS on completing her long journey to become a Vet!

A MESSAGE FROM HADSHAM FARM

Hello to our neighbours!

It's been a great start to the 2023 wedding season at Hadsham – the weather was a bit cold and wet in April, but May and June have been a real treat for our customers.

As we come into the peak summer months, we thought we'd just update you all on when we do and don't have events on at the farm – essentially so you know if it's us if you hear any music!

Event days at Hadsham are Wednesdays and Saturdays from the beginning of April through to the end of October and we're pretty much fully booked – good news for any of you with Airbnb accommodation!

Our customers have a set-up day the day before the event and a clear-down day the day after. Amplified music is only allowed on the day of the event itself and gets turned off at midnight. And we also make our customers play their music through our in-house sound system which is computer controlled to limit the overall volume and bass levels.

As such, you really shouldn't be able to hear us much, but it will depend on which way the wind is blowing! And any music you can hear that's not on a Wednesday or Saturday is not us - most likely it'll be Horley Scout camp or one of your rowdy neighbours!

Any issues, please call either Charlie Taylor (07920 587 406) or Rob Taylor (07796175199)

All the best, Hadsham Farm Weddings.

<https://www.hadshamfarmweddings.co.uk/>

H O R N T O N

by "Royal" appointment

Now, you might think that Hornton is a quiet little backwater that doesn't attract A-list celebrities very often, but think again.

If you do a bit of digging on the Internet, you'll soon discover that our village seems to have developed a growing reputation among the international jet set as *the* place to visit - and they've all been talking about it online.

Take Harry and Meghan, for instance. You may have missed them when they dropped by before jetting off to escape his family, but they love it here.

"As we explored the quaint village of Hornton in Oxfordshire, we were struck by its timeless beauty and charm," they wrote in a positive paean of praise. Needless to say, they couldn't depart for California without adding a *woke* word or two. "What truly touched us about Hornton was its commitment to sustainability and preserving the environment," they added. "The village has implemented a number of initiatives aimed at reducing its carbon footprint, from community-wide recycling programs to a car share scheme that encourages residents to share rides and reduce their use of cars."

A car share scheme? That's passed me by, but never mind. That's Harry and Meghan's 'truth' for you and, if you live in southern California, your truth doesn't have to beer... true, does it? At least there's one thing Harry and his Dad agree on - how wonderful Hornton is!

"My loyal subjects, I wish to draw your attention to a quaint village nestled in the heart of Oxfordshire, the village of Hornton," wrote King Charles. "This village, with its picturesque cottages and serene surroundings, is a true gem of our kingdom. "Therefore it is with great

pleasure that I declare Hornton as a place of cultural and historical significance. Let it be known that Hornton is a village that deserves our admiration and respect. I urge all my loyal subjects to visit Hornton and experience its beauty and warmth for themselves."

And the uncrowned queen of Australia couldn't have been more effusive, either. "Now, I know what you're thinking, darling, what on earth do you know about Hornton," penned the late Dame Edna Everidge. "Well, let me tell you, possums, I may be a glamorous international superstar, but I'm also a woman of the world, and I've done my research. I guarantee you'll fall in love with it, just like I did. And who knows, you might even spot me pottering around the village green - I've been known to pop in for a scone from time to time!"

With A-list fans like that, you won't be surprised that Patsy, from Absolutely Fabulous, has been knocking back the Stolly and the Bolly in the tipi of our favourite local.

"The best thing about Hornton, darling, has to be the pub," she writes. "It's called the Dun Cow, and its everything you could ever want in a pub. And the people at the Dun Cow are simply fabulous. They're all so friendly and welcoming, and they're all so passionate about their little village."

In fact, the Sex Pistols' Johnny Rotten was the only celeb who didn't like Hornton. "Ah, Hornton in Oxfordshire, what a bleedin' dump!" He says in an exclusive interview. "This little village is as boring as they come, with nothing but a few old cottages and a pub that's barely worth spittin' on. I mean, what's

the point of living in a place like this? It's like everyone's stuck in the past, clinging to some idea of *traditional English life* that probably never existed. And don't even get me started on the bloody sheep."

Miserable so and so. It's a good job we've got Ozzy Osbourne to weigh in on our side.

"Let me tell ya 'bout this little place called Hornton in Oxfordshire," writes Ozzy in a rare lucid moment. "It's a small village with a big heart, and let me tell ya, it's got some stories to tell. And if you ever find yourselves wanderin' through those crooked old streets, take a moment to appreciate the beauty of it all. Because Hornton is a special place, man. A real hidden gem."

We'd go along with that - and we're all delighted that these A-listers love Hornton so much they couldn't resist putting pen to paper.

Except.....it wasn't the Harry and Meghan, Patsy, Dame Edna, King Charles, Johnny Rotten and Ozzy that we know and love. It was the new Artificial Intelligence app ChatGPT, which is taking the internet by storm.

Just type in.... *Write a 500 word essay, describing the village of Hornton in Oxfordshire in the style of.....*, add your favourite character's name and the world's your lobster, as Arthur Daly used to say in Minder. Within thirty seconds, out spills 500 - mostly accurate - words about our wonderful village - including a few from Arthur himself.

"Let me tell you, this place is a proper little beauty."

We couldn't agree more.

Roger Corke



And here they all are!... Hornton's A-list fans couldn't wait to come together at their favourite local for a drink and a group photograph that's...every bit as real as their remarks about the village.

My First Car



I have very fond memories of my first car. It was a brown Hillman Imp, first registered in May 1974 – number plate PRH 728M. It had an 875cc all aluminium in line 4 cylinder engine. Developed by Coventry Climax the engine has a strong motorsport heritage because it offered a fun driving experience at reasonable cost. Since the engine was smooth you could confidently push it to 7000rpm without any worries.

Someone must have told my grandmother that, because my first recollection of the car was when she used to drive over for Sunday lunch. You could hear her coming all the way down the main street. I don't think she'd worked out it had 4 gears, so by the time she got to the end of Westgate still in 2nd, the car was making a heck of a noise!

I inherited it because one day Granny and Aunt Joy (known affectionately to us all as Hinge and Bracket) managed to drive the wrong way down the slip road to the M62 motorway on their way to the hairdresser! Dad promptly suggested it was time for Granny to hang up her keys, so suddenly at the age of 17 – fresh from passing my driving test – I was the proud custodian of a Hillman Imp.

At the time I was in my final year at boarding school at Felsted in Essex. I lived in East Yorkshire, so it proved ideal to drive between home and school at the beginning & end of each term – at a steady motorway cruising speed of 68mph. To me the car represented freedom and independence. Nothing really happened at home in the holidays & all my mates were 'down south'; so at the end of term I used to pack a case & a sleeping bag and 'couch surf' - going from one friend's house to the next for as long as possible before Mum demanded that I make an appearance at home. Happy Days!

One night over the winter I was travelling to party with a pal. It was pitch black and there was a torrential downpour. We might also have accidentally had a couple of pre-drinks. I managed to aqua plane coming round a sharp corner and ended up hitting a tree. The front of the car was a mess, so we had to get out in the pouring rain to heave the front bumper clear of the tyres before jumping back in and heading off to our friend's house - the venue for the party while his parents were away.

I didn't realise at the time, but I had suffered delayed concussion because I'd hit the windscreen since the old-fashioned seat belts were set too loose, so I was in a bit of a state in the morning. There was a knock on the door and my mate dragged me out of bed to talk to a policeman. "Are you the owner of a Hillman Imp registration PRH 728M?". "Yes sir". "Did you have a crash last night?" "Yes sir – but how did you find out?" "Well, you know that tree you hit. It was on someone's private property and you managed to leave the number plate on their front lawn!"

The car was declared a write off in February 1984 & sent to a scrap yard near Braintree somewhere. Hillman Imp PRH 728M – rest in peace!

Guy Heathcote



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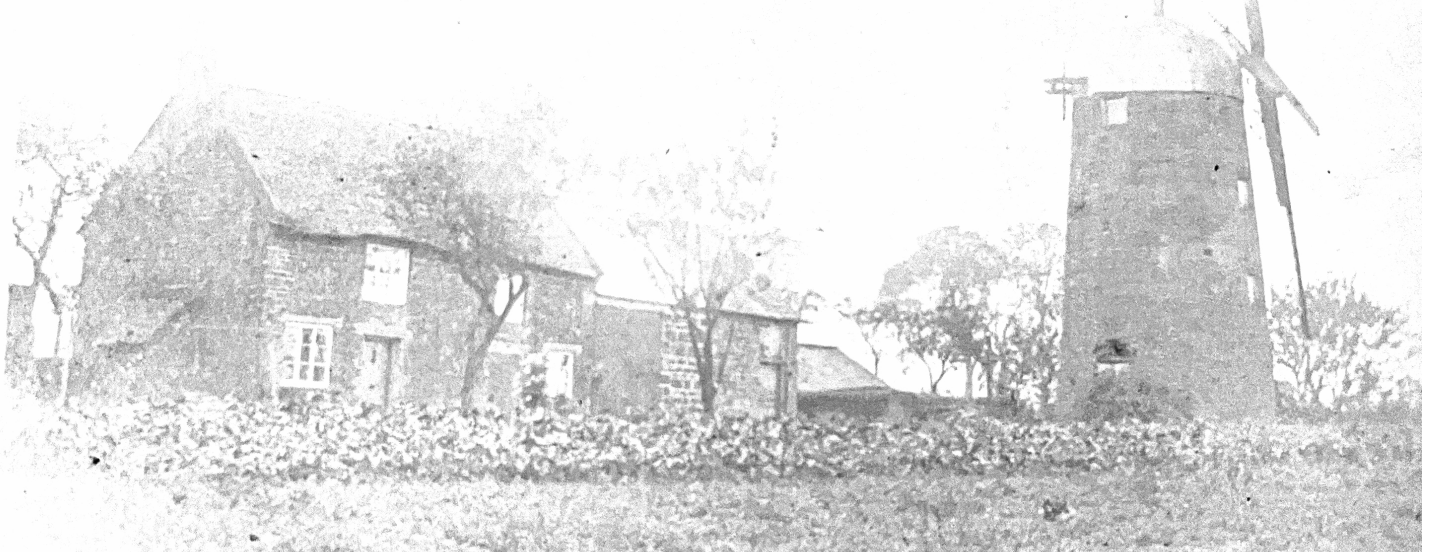
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Hornton's Missing Buildings



Up the sunken road from Hornton to Hornton Grounds Farm called Holloway, on the skyline overlooking the village stood a Windmill and Miller's cottage. The old Mill fell into disuse just before the beginning of the first world war. All stone built, it towered from high ground, 600ft above sea level.

When the Mill was last in full time work it was manned by Daniel Styles. Three Styles brothers, Benjamin, Thomas and Daniel, all from Tysoe, operated Mills. Benjamin at Compton Wynyates, Thomas the wooden Mill at Burton Dassett Hills and Daniel at Hornton. The family were Millers as far back as 1688. The Compton Wynyates Windmill has been extensively restored and is the only one remaining. Burton Dassett was destroyed by a gale. Hornton's Mill remained until the early 1970's, by this time having lost its sails, doors

and windows. It had been used by various farmers for farm storage and finally as a silo pit.

Carts were pulled by up to six Oxen loaded with grain. They made their way up Holloway from the village to the mill. Because the carts could not be turned around they made their way home down the field called Bush Hill back into the village. The sloping track can still be clearly seen at the far end of West End.

Sadly the Mill and Miller's Cottage have long gone. According to an article in the Banbury Guardian - "The residents of Best Kept Village winners, Hornton, are up in arms over the demolition of one of their most prized landmarks. The village Windmill for years stood overlooking the village. Now it has been reduced to a pile of rubble overnight by Oxfordshire Ironworks Company Ltd in the interests of safety."

Memories of the Hornton Mill are kept alive by the one third scale, working replica built by Eric Turner at the top of Mr and Mrs Harris's garden. This has been fitted with lights and is switched on every Christmas, visible from the top road and all over the village. Some of the stone from the mill was used to build the kitchen extension on the back of The Gables.

Liz Jeffs



Hornton Mill
W.R. Miles, 1970



De rerum valore

Oramus ne res per operculum iudicantur¹

by Dr Ivan Ghio

This year's WECC² will herald a new phase in the 25 years since the foundation of the White Elephant, to be known as Horntonian Renaissance. The theoretical and aesthetic catalyst of this new phase coincides with, first, a critical analysis of, and, after, a reaction against the use of the word tat and its related symbolic representation. From a linguistic perspective, a cursory investigation of the word tat in the English Web 2020, British National and the Spoken British National corpora confirms the rather negative values associated with tat, captured by the commonly used, dismissive comment 'it's just tat'. Statistically significant words collocating with tat, like 'overpriced', 'tired', 'old', 'gaudy', 'stall', 'unwanted', 'tourist', contribute to building this negative semantic prosody.

This linguistic analysis also serves as an entry point into the exploration of the very origin of 'value', i.e., how value comes to be perceived as such in our modern Horntonian society. The stance held by the WECC is that language is one of the factors involved in shaping and reinforcing the fact that 'value' is, inter alia, a social construction. As Debord (1967) puts it, the extent to which something is valuable ultimately comes down to the way such thing is positioned within society, as there is nothing intrinsically valuable about any object. In other words, an object is designed to perform a particular utilitarian function, but the actual value of it is the product of a social agreement that, explicitly and/or implicitly, ascribes to that object a symbolic representation of 'desirable', 'attractive', 'valuable'.

If this social agreement is also to be carried out via language, the lexical choices featuring in previous WEE Facebook/email announcements should then not come as a surprise (for a reminder, cf. 'quirky', 'flamboyant', 'tasteful', 'fabulous'). In this light, one of the aims of the current WECC is to reclaim the word tat, following in the footsteps of Charlie Porter with 'Tat London' and the esteemed magazine Tatler published by Condé Nast Publications, and, finally, imbue tat with more nuanced meanings other than 'negative', 'unwanted' and 'dismissive'.

In doing so, the WECC is breathing new life into what tat is and means. Hence the reason for announcing a Horntonian Renaissance. Renaissance, here, stands for more than the simple act of rebirthing; it is also a respectful nod to the many Renaissance references in the past and present socio-cultural context. Suffice to see the latest exhibition at the V&A on Donatello, recognised as one of the founders of Italian Renaissance; the many Latinate words in the English language encouraging English speakers to uncover the classical Republican-age Latin spoken by Cicero and Catullus; or Beyoncé's latest homonymous record that earned her this year the all-time record for most Grammy wins.

It is hard to tell whether any of these Renaissance references will stand the test of time. What is sure is the commitment of the current WECC to driving the WEE into a new decade of decadent, flamboyant and, of course, fabulous tat.

**Hornton 2023,
Ivan and the WECC**

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- Bees, bees, bees -



*A swarm in May is worth a load of hay
A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon
A swarm in July isn't worth a fly.*

We had just invited a few friends for a pre Open Gardens drink when one of them sounded the alarm - a swarm of bees had arrived behind us! The friends made a hasty departure and we went into the house and watched as the bees settled under a branch in a Japanese maple just outside the back door, looking like a rugby ball.

A few phone calls later brought Graham Vint in his Beekeepers suit to the garden. Graham said that he had never known so many swarms. He placed a box underneath them and then tapped the branch so that the swarm dropped off into the box. It took a couple of hours for all of the bees to move into the box and then he transferred them to a straw skep and carried them off on a piece of wood. When I checked a few days later he had moved them into a hive and they had settled happily in their new home and were

already out foraging. He remarked that they were particularly docile, happy bees.

So what exactly was happening? Back in their original, over crowded hive the Queen Bee will have laid some royal eggs and nurse bees will have fed the grubs with specially enriched 'royal jelly'. The Old Queen will then leave the hive, taking half of the flying worker bees with her to look for new accommodation. When she tires and settles the workers will cluster around her. They send out 'scouts' to seek an ideal site for a new hive, which they must do within 24 hours or the Queen will die. After Graham had taken this swarm away any bees left behind would either find their way back into the original hive, or perish. Meanwhile, back in the original hive, one of the new queen grubs will hatch, and she will sting the other queen grubs to death. The drones will then leave the hive in a group and fly off somewhere and the new queen will fly out to meet

them on a 'mating flight'. This batch of drones will then die. She may make several mating flights before she takes her place in the centre of the hive being fed and groomed by non-flying worker bees and going from cell to cell laying worker bee eggs.

Beekeeping is not without its dangers. Roger Corke has kept bees for several years and has unfortunately developed a severe allergy to bee stings. Recently he was tending to a hive of 'bad tempered' bees and they managed to get into his helmet through a small gap. He was very badly stung about the face and head and luckily was able to plunge his epi-pen into his leg before being rescued.

If you need a swarm collected you can contact:

Graham Vint - 01295 678318

Roger Corke - 07721988977

Andrew Higgins - 01295 670375



No-churn Vanilla ICE-CREAM

This is a quick and easy version - just add a sauce or serve it with anything sweet.

Serves 8 - makes a standard oblong ice cream carton

INGREDIENTS:

600ml whipping cream - that is a large, but not mega, pot
 397g tin condensed milk - that is a standard, large tin
 2tsp vanilla bean paste - or you can use 2tsp vanilla extract, or about 5cm of a vanilla pod

METHOD:

1. Whisk the ingredients together with a pinch of salt. Use an electric hand mixer until soft peaks form - this may take a few minutes.
2. Spoon into a freezer proof container, cover and freeze for at least 5 hours or until set.
3. When ready to serve take the ice cream out of the freezer and leave it to stand for 5 minutes or so to soften slightly.
4. You can increase the amount of vanilla if you wish!



H O M E - M A D E Lemonade

Makes 1 litre

INGREDIENTS:

4 lemons
 100g caster sugar
 600ml boiling water

METHOD:

5. Thinly peel the zest from the lemons and squeeze out the juice. Put the zest, juice and sugar in a heatproof jug.
6. Pour over the water and stir until the sugar has totally dissolved. Cover and leave to cool completely and then strain the mixture into a serving jug, discarding the lemon zest.
7. Dilute with chilled sparkling water and sweeten with extra sugar to taste. Serve over ice - with lemon slices and mint sprigs if you like.

Enjoy! *Lynn Corke*



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