

THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



PUBLISHED FOR THE HORTON AND LITTLE SODBURY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

March 2010

Deadline for articles for the next edition 1st May 2010

SUMMARY OF FUTURE EVENTS

26 th Mar	Quiz Evening
8 th -10 th Apr	Pantomime
18 th Apr	Big Breakfast Sunday
25 th Apr	Spring Bull Run
3 rd May	Village Barbecue
15 th May	Barn Dance
26 th May	Village Hall Committee AGM
9 th Oct	Barn Dance
10 th Oct	Harvest Festival Service
16 th Oct	Harvest Supper
5 th Nov	Firework Display
4 th Dec	Village Christmas Dinner
12 th Dec	Carol Service 6pm

NEWS ROUNDUP

Horton Toddler Group

For those who may be new to the area or new to parenthood you may be interested to know that the Horton Toddler Group is alive and well. It meets every Wednesday morning (in term time) from 10- 11.30am. All parents and carers are welcome to stay and play with their child(ren) aged from birth to 4 years. Should you need further information please call 01454 322656.

Marina Hawker & Charlotte Lowe

Leaving Party for Maureen Allen

I'm still on a high after the marvellous party the Villagers gave me on Sunday. It was better than having a wake, because I could enjoy it all. I always thought it sad at Dave's funeral that he didn't know how much he was loved and respected by so many people, but I know, because of all the people who turned up on Sunday. The food was superb and the presentation was marvellous. Everybody must have worked very hard. I felt embarrassed with Brian's glowing remarks about my work for the Village, because, as we all know, it is Horton Villagers looking out for each other, but thanks. With love and all best wishes to all.

Maureen Allen

The Life of Ivor Robert Dunkerley

Known as Bob to one and all

Bob was born son of Walter and Annie Dunkerley in Chipping Sodbury High St. on January 10th 1923. He lived his early years in the old Caswells shop in Chipping Sodbury which was in those

days the garage premises of Dunkerley & England.

He grew up in Chipping Sodbury and indeed spent his whole life there with his two brothers Harold and Sydney.



Spring Snowdrops near Horton School

At the age of 14, his headmaster called in his father and it was agreed that the school could not teach him anything and he was to be apprenticed to the Garage, which by then was solely owned by his father.

He learned and perfected many skills which made him a brilliant engineer, in the planning, design and manufacturing arenas. So much so that one of his greatest achievements was to design, build and patent one of the first bulk blowing tankers for road transport which the world had ever seen. He later sold that patent to Chipping Sodbury Quarry through whom the patent eventually passed to Carmichaels of Worcester.

After he married Nora Elson on 23rd July 1945 he parted company with his father and the garage, to set up his own business I R Dunkerley Transport Ltd.

Bob worked exceedingly hard, a labour which gave him extreme pleasure. It was a regular occurrence for him to return from a night out, remove his dinner jacket and don a pair of overalls to go back to work. He was joined in the business by his two eldest sons in the early seventies. The company traded for some 54 years in total and was finally dissolved just after the turn of the century.

He and Nora moved to Cox's Hill House, Horton which was purchased from Mark Harford in around 1963 and continued to live there for some 45 years. Many will recall the beauty of their garden which was a source of happiness and pride offering a reflection of their sincere feelings for the village and its inhabitants.

Bob enjoyed a good drink all of his life and was particular in sharing this passion with locals and friends alike.

His love of the old times kept everybody informed and amused. All who listened to the stories he recounted were amazed at the way things were done in a bygone age. Much of this knowledge is now lost due to his passing and that of his peer group.

His only other passion, apart from work, was football which he enjoyed watching on the television.

Bob moved from Horton to Sodbury after Nora's death where he lived on his own for four and a half years before ill health late last year resulted in him moving to Wickwar Nursing Home where he died of a severe stroke.

He leaves 3 sons, Richard, Michael and Robert, 3 daughters-in-laws, 4 grand children and 4 great grandchildren who will miss him greatly.

Richard Dunkerley

Tony's China Trek

From the 8th to 17th of May, Tony Bliss will embark on a journey that will take him to one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Tony, whose three children all



attend Horton School, is going to trek part of the "Great Wall of China" to raise money for the Horton School

Amphitheatre project. The Amphitheatre will complement the existing small outside classroom, enabling the whole school to take part in and enjoy performances and general learning events in the fresh air, so adding a new and exciting dimension to the school.

The Amphitheatre should also benefit the local community. It would be available for use by the local community, through arrangements with the school, for musical, drama or oratory events adding another dimension to the local cultural scene. From this shared use there would

be an even closer bond built between the school and the community which would be of benefit to all.

The trek to raise monies will not be without its challenges and Tony has had a rigorous training programme over the last few months, involving walking over 800 miles. A number of sections of the wall climb quite steeply (the wall is quite mountainous throughout) and this is done by steps; there is a particular section known as the "200 hundred steps to Heaven" or "Heavens Ladder", which reportedly rises by some 85°. In order to prepare for this element, the training regime includes the climbing of the steps to Tyndale's Monument at North Nibley, by the time he leaves for China Tony needs to be able to ascend and descend at least 5 times without stopping!

If you would like to donate to the fund or would like more information about the trek, you can go online at www.tonys-china-trek.org.uk; you can email tony at tony.bliss@thhc.org.uk or you can contact Tony directly on: 01454-329448 or 07958-601695. Any donation, whatever the size, would be greatly appreciated and if you think that you could also help raise funds through friends or family, we would very much like to hear from you. All the monies raised will go directly to the school as all costs for the trek are being met by Tony.

Tony Bliss

News from the Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall website is becoming more well-known. (URL at end of Newsletter) We have already had some bookings as a result of people visiting the website.

You may have noticed a pile of gravel in the car park. This is being used to fill in holes and make the car park less muddy. The gravel was given to us by Hansons, and fetched for us by Brian Jarvis. This turned out to be more of an adventure than he intended as the weight of the gravel was too much for the Second World War wheels on his trailer! We are about to apply for a grant to help us do more permanent work on the field and car park to try to reduce the amount of water that makes both these areas difficult to use.

There is a growing amount of lost property in the village hall. If you think you have left something behind, the person to contact is Emma on 322879.

We have an important date coming up. Our Annual General Meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 26th May 2010 in the Village Hall. We would love you to come along, especially if you have ideas about improving the hall or about events we might organise. Don't think that by coming to the meeting you will be automatically dragged in to do or arrange something – although if you would like to be part of what's going on and actively help this side of village life, you would of course be most welcome.

Peter Llewellyn

FUTURE EVENTS

Quiz Evening at Village Hall

Our final winter Quiz evening takes place on 26th March. Doors open at 7.30 for an 8pm start. Rex Isaac will again be question master, so please come and enjoy the fun.

The Big Breakfast Sunday

This will take place on 18th April from 9.30 to 11.30 in the Village Hall. Full English or continental breakfast is on offer. Come and join us for a leisurely breakfast with the Sunday newspapers. Tickets (£5 for adults, £2.50 under 10s) are available from PCC members. Proceeds will go to Horton Church.

Horton Spring Bull Run

The next run will be held on Sunday 25th April starting at 11am; it will be the usual 4 mile run starting at the School and running around the lanes and back up to the Village Hall. It's great fun for everyone (so I'm told) – walkers are also encouraged! Entries can be made on the day; entry forms can also be accessed via our new web site, <http://www.hortonbullrun.co.uk>.

Linda Morgan

Village BBQ - May Day Bank Holiday

Banish the bank holiday blues - come along to a BYO BBQ on the village hall sports field.

This will take place on Monday 3rd May starting at 12.30pm. The bar will be open. Bring whatever you'd like to eat. Also bring any games you'd like to play, such as rounders, croquet etc. BBQ coals, sauces & pickles will be provided.

Katharine Barnes

Horton Panto - Babes in the Wood

It may be hard to believe, but it's panto season again ... oh yes it is.

The Hortonian Players are proud to present their version of the classic panto "Babes in the Wood" – which should not be confused with the recent story of a great golfer's fall from fame.

Our panto is the everyday story of an evil tyrant plotting to prevent "the babes" from inheriting Nottingham Castle. As with the TV series, Robin Hood and Maid Marion do everything they can to foil the Sheriff with the help of their secret weapon Nemesis. Also, as with the TV series, we have a heart throb playing the part of Guy of Gisbourne.

If you want to find out more, then please come along to the Horton Village Hall on the 8th, 9th or 10th of April. The doors open at 6:30, and tickets cost £8.50 (£5 for children under 13) and are available from Caroline on bannistersfamily@aol.com or on 01454 312277.

Horton Church

Church services will take place at 11am on Sundays as usual. Special events in the next two months are:

14th March - Mothering Sunday Service - 11am

28th March - Palm Sunday Service - 11am

2nd April - Good Friday Service - 7pm

4th April - Easter Sunday Service - 11am

Hawkesbury and Horton WI

Activities planned for the next two months are as follows:

23rd March - Birthday Party

6th April - Talk on local folk songs and tales

4th May - Talk on history of hats

Lynn Edwards

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Contact details for members of the Village Hall Committee are available on the website

hortonandlittlesodburyvillagehall.org.uk.

For Village Hall bookings contact Emma Cordy-Rugman on 322879 or via the email address given on the website.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

All contributions to the newsletter are welcome. The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions as and when necessary. Call 324356 or send your news items to newsletter@hortonandlittlesodburyvillagehall.org.uk

Richard Winsborrow

Note: Unless explicitly indicated the contents of the newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Village Hall Committee, the Editor of the Village Newsletter or anyone else associated with its production