

THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



PUBLISHED FOR THE HORTON AND LITTLE SODBURY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

November 2010

Deadline for articles for the next edition 31st December 2010

SUMMARY OF FUTURE EVENTS

14 th Nov	Remembrance Sunday service at Horton church - starting at 10.50am
17 th Nov	Christmas Shopping Evening at Horton Village Hall organised by Friends of Horton School 6pm-9pm
20 th Nov	Murder Mystery Night *
4 th Dec	Village Christmas Dinner at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club *
8 th Dec	Village carol singing by Horton School pupils - early evening
12 th Dec	Carol Service at Horton Church 5pm
16 th Dec	Christmas Service at Horton Church for Horton School at 6.30pm - everyone is welcome at this service
21 st Dec	Village Carol Singing *
24 th Dec	Christmas Mass at Horton Church 8pm
31 st Dec	New Year's Eve Party at Horton Village Hall
26 th Jan	Pampered Chef Party at Horton Village Hall *
29 th Jan	Burns Night Party at Horton Village Hall

* More information elsewhere in Newsletter

NEWS ROUNDUP

News from the Village Hall Committee

We have recently installed two dishwashers, one in the kitchen and the other in the bar, with the help of a generous grant from the Parish Council. These machines give a very hot rinse so that the plates, etc, quickly dry by themselves. We are still learning how to use them efficiently; in due course we will put up instructions for their use.

We are concerned by the way local residents or their friends sometimes use the car park. Much of the time the car park is empty but problems arise now and again when someone has hired the hall for an event and people turn up only to find the car park already in use. So please don't assume that just because the car park is empty that the hall hasn't been hired out later in the day. People hiring the hall expect to have sole use of the car park as well. Shortly people hiring the hall will have available a notice that they can put out saying 'No parking - private function.' If in doubt, ask beforehand.

Peter Llewellyn (Secretary)

Harvest Supper

The PCC would like to thank everyone who supported our Harvest Supper this year,

including Brian Hildick-Smith who did a sterling job behind the bar, Will Gray a champion washer-upper, Lyn Edwards for the lovely flower arrangements - but mostly you for buying tickets and being such lovely guests. We made over £1100 which will go towards a few urgent tasks - a new flat roof on the boilerhouse, tree felling in the churchyard extension and new robes for the lady members of the choir to replace those that nurtured the church mice.

Pat Tiley

Horton Church Bells Project

On Friday 29th October, a small party from the congregation visited the workshops of bell engineers Matthew Higby and Company in Radstock to look at the bells and bell frame before the installation in the Church. This is planned to take place a little later this month.



Horton Treble bell with tuner's mark

Four out of the five original Horton bells have been supplemented by a replacement tenor bell cast in 1917 and an additional No.1 bell cast in 1873. Compared to the original Horton bells, these are relatively newcomers - the Horton bells date back to the 15th Century and were cast in Bristol. All the bells have been re-tuned at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.



Details of Bell Frame

There was some surprise at the size of the new cast iron bell frame and on being confronted by the blue painted structure; some of the Horton party had trouble believing it would fit in the tower. The bell frame will be taken

apart, hoisted into the tower and re-assembled to sit on a new reinforced concrete ring beam in the belfry. New bell wheels made from oak, ash and elm have also been completed by a local craftsman.

The party were also treated to a display of bell-rope making using a hand winding device and a pattern block for the bell sallies which are wool sections where the hands grab the ropes. The rainbow colour of some sallies have been eschewed in favour of a more tasteful racing green which will also match the carpet in the Church. When the bells have been installed, a glass balustrade will be fixed across the open end of the new ringing stage and the base of the tower will be decorated.

George Hammersley

Xmas Tree Volunteers Wanted

We plan to have a tall Christmas tree at Horton Church again this year. John Smith has been kind enough to supply us with the tree. However we need volunteers to assist with its erection. This is a low-tech exercise with bags of gravel and a dustbin! The task needs to be completed in early December (ideally 7th or 8th). Please contact Jackie Isaac or Pat Tiley if you can help.

Pat Tiley

Local History Group News

Our events programme this year has included some very enjoyable trips, notably a visit to the Groves' new home territory in Oxfordshire. Geoff & Jean organised a superb day for us, centring on the village of Swinbrook. We visited the small, simple 12thC church of St.Oswald, which has escaped defacement by subsequent reforms, and retained its original wall paintings. Its only access was through meadows along a broad valley. The later, larger church in the village proper revealed some quirky sculptures of its original benefactors, and some "gripping" choir stalls!



LHG in Action

In October Gail & Neil kindly arranged a guided tour of the excellent restoration of Horton Hall. The building relates properly to its decoration and fittings once again, doing justice to the original craftsmanship and design.

Our visit to Westons Cider in Much Marcle, near Hereford, was in the spell of bright but icy weather in October. This is a family business that has grown, but stayed on its original site, its owners still living in the same house.



Hi-Tech Cider Making

We followed the process from the apple delivery tanks, through chopping and pressing, filtering and maturing. We finally entered the vast dimly-lit structure that houses the monstrous 60,000 gallon oak casks, Dolly, Squeak, Queen Elizabeth et al, in which the cider matures over 6-18 months according to the strength required. All varieties on offer were sampled before lunch, which some of us reached by a slightly meandering path....Another good day!

Some members of the history group have been researching how WW1 affected Little Sodbury and Horton, part of a local history project initiated by the Heritage Centre in Yate. It tells of the experiences of those who fought, some of whom returned, but some sadly not. Memorabilia, carefully stored over decades, has been loaned by their families, making more tangible their life at war. With the help of over 100 vintage photographs, it shows the impact the war effort had on both town and country; Sodbury used for mobilising troops, the High St lined with military vehicles; how women had a vital role, and how large houses like Horton Court became hospitals. Even if you are not Horton born and bred, there is plenty of interest here.

The exhibition runs at the Heritage Centre until December 2nd, with an evening of WW1 poetry, stories – (and wartime food!) on Monday 8th November at 7.30pm. If you do visit be sure to find the folder labelled 'Horton & Little Sodbury', for stories about 'our' boys and their families, and the exciting discovery of a past vicar of Horton's 'double life'.

Maggie White

Horton Parish Council

Horton Parish Council usually hold a meeting every two months at Horton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm, which the public are all welcome to attend. An agenda is placed on the noticeboard outside the village hall at least 5 days before the meeting to notify you of the date and agenda items. The following meeting dates have been provisionally booked (but are subject to change): 24 November; 15 December; 2 February.

Minutes of the previous meeting will be available for public viewing at the next meeting (although a copy of the draft notes, which can be subject to changes, can be requested and sent out either by email or post

free of charge). If you have any queries in the first instance please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Members of Horton Parish Council are:

Chairman: Rex Isaac
Vice chairman: Jim Fannon
Cllr: Maureen Allen
Cllr: David Morgan
Cllr: Paul Denton
Clerk: Ruth Sterling – 07811 507555
ruth.sterling@btinternet.com

Ruth Sterling

Apple Day - In The Rain

This event at the Village Hall last month was successful and lots of fun in spite of the rain. Can you imagine getting 130cm of unbroken peel off one cooking apple? (That's about 4 feet!) Someone managed this feat of patience and dexterity.

We raised over £600 which will go significantly further in Uganda than it can in the UK. Thank you very much to all who helped, donated apples (and an apple cake) and came in for a coffee and were able to find out more about the apples grown here.

Jenny Llewellyn

New Arrivals

We extend a warm welcome to Mary and Gordon who have just moved into Chestnut House on Horton Hill.

FUTURE EVENTS

Murder Mystery Night

This event will take place at the Village Hall on 20th November. It's an opportunity to have some fun and exercise those brain cells as well. The price is £15 to include: aperitif, three course dinner and an amazing mystery to solve. Please contact Caroline for tickets on 312277.

Ian Brodie.

Pampered Chef Party

This event will take place at the Village Hall on 26th January. It will be an ideal opportunity to meet fellow villagers for tea, coffee or a glass of wine. There is no obligation to spend any money. Any proceeds raised will be in aid of church funds. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Pat Tiley.

Village Christmas Events

There are a few places still available for the Village Christmas Dinner which is being held at Chipping Sodbury Golf Club. The four course dinner will be £22.95, and if you are interested please phone or email me on bannistersfamily@aol.com.

The traditional 'Village Carol Singing' will take place on Tuesday 21 December, starting from the Village Hall at 7:00pm, and ending there for mulled wine and mince pies.

Should you wish to send a greeting to all your village friends via the *Village Christmas Card* then email bjarvis@eatec.co.uk with your greeting and make a donation which will be added to the charity chosen for the Carol Singing.

Caroline Bannister (312277)

CHURCH SERVICES

Services take place as usual at Horton Church during November and December at the new starting time of 11.15 am to accommodate the scheduling of services across the Benefice. Services take place as usual at Little Sodbury Church at 6pm.

The summary of future events in this Newsletter lists special services at Horton church in the next two months. Please note that the Remembrance Sunday service starts at the earlier time of 10.50am.

FOR SALE

Turkeys for Christmas

Little Sodbury reared turkey orders now being taken for Christmas. All dressed ready for the oven priced at just £3.40 per lb, a small price to pay for a quality product. Breeds include the Norfolk Black, bronze and commercial white. Limited stock so please do not delay your order - call now on 07866 910447.

Phillip Dolman

Surplus Double Glazing

We have a quantity of A4-sized double-glazed panels (bound in black insulation tape) which are on their way to the tip, unless anyone wants them for any reason. They are free to a good home!

Caroline Bannister

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In recent times Vinney Lane has become a playground for 4x4, motorbikes, quad-bikes, etc. I recently had a "near-miss" in the lane when a 4x4 with bull bar and large wheels was driven at about 40-50mph around a blind bend. I took the registration number and reported the incident to the police. I believe more actions of this kind are necessary to bring matters under control and safeguard the lives of walkers, riders and drivers.

John Mastrangelo

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER

If you would like email delivery of the newsletter please contact the newsletter editor.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions. News items should be sent to: newsletter@hortonandlittlesodburyvillagehall.org.uk or call 324356.

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.