

THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



PUBLISHED FOR THE HORTON AND LITTLE SODBURY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

May 2010

Deadline for articles for the next edition 1st July 2010

SUMMARY OF FUTURE EVENTS

15 th May	Barn Dance
15 th May	Jumble Sale in aid of school
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

News from the Village Hall Committee

If you have visited the Village Hall recently, you will have noticed a couple of developments. We have had some new windows in to replace ones that had rotting frames. Also Barry Cordy has been putting in a new storage area behind the bar, which will be a great improvement.

Horton Village Hall AGM
26th May 2010 at 1930
In the Village Hall
All are welcome to attend

What you can't see is that a long process of getting the appropriate agreements with the builder of the new houses next to the hall has nearly reached a conclusion. The main issues were to do with the boundary between the new houses and the village hall land and also concerns about rainwater drainage. These things turn out to be surprisingly complicated!

Peter Llewellyn

Local History Group News

The Local History Group celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a meal at the Beaufort Arms, although our numbers were somewhat depleted by sickness and injury! It was enlivened by a superb talk by landlord Mark Steed on 'Bristol pirates and privateers and their literary connections'. 'Treasure Island' is more or less Mark's special subject, and he does charitable work with children in Bristol, taking them on 'pirate tours'. His knowledge of the subject is thorough and also covered the development of Bristol

as a settlement and relatively late use as a port.



LHG 10th Anniversary Celebrations

We continue in our usual programme of history visits and talks. The next few events are shown following.

26 th May	Ashton Mill	Wedmore
23 rd Jun	Castle, Art Gallery & Museum	Cardiff
21 st Jul	Widford Mill & Church	Oxfordshire

If you would like to join us on any of these as a guest, contact Maggie White: tel.314436, or to become a member: Betty Iles :317408.

Maggie White

Horton Church Bells & Improvements

I am pleased to report that good progress has been made of late with the bells and improvement project. The critical path at the moment is the tuning slot at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry where all six bells will be tuned. Our bell engineer, Matthew Higby, is on standby to transport the bells to the Foundry and our expectation is that this will be during May. Otherwise, all the other components for the bells are progressing, including the bell frame castings, wheels, headstocks and ropes. The church tower structural works together with a ringing stage are all complete and have been executed to a high standard by J. A. Baxter and Sons with their subcontractors, C.D.L. Stone Masonry.

The major work in the tower was a concrete ring beam tied in to the tower stonework with stainless steel pins. To allow a hose through into the belfry, a mullion was removed and the concrete was pumped through the hose up in to the tower. The stonework has since been reinstated, including new stone louvers. The improvement works will provide a

screen to the base of the tower behind which new toilet and kitchen facilities will be provided. The drainage for these has been laid and we expect to bring in a water supply this month. The water connection point is opposite the gates to Horton Court. This will involve digging a trench across the road and it is possible that temporary traffic lights will be installed. It is hoped that any villagers caught up in long tail backs to Hawkesbury Upton will be patient.

It will be good to see a conclusion to this project and it is hoped that people will support the Church in all its works. Special mention must be given to the Gordon Edwards Trust without which it would not have been possible to complete this project.

George Hammersley

Horton Spring Barn

Dance

Caller Peter Hendy

and "The Down Fielders"

15th May in the Village Hall

Doors open 7.30pm for 8-11.30

Tickets Available From Emma

322879

Safer Stronger Community Groups

South Gloucestershire's 20 Safer Stronger Community Groups are all about working together to improve your local community. The groups also enable you to have your say about the services that your community needs and receives.



These groups have been set up as part of the South Gloucestershire Council's Community Engagement initiative and Neighbourhood Policing Model. Their members include people who live and work in the area and representatives from South Gloucestershire Council, the local

police, Avon Fire & Rescue, Primary Care Trust, the Town & Parish Council and other local organisations. The aim is to:

work together to ensure that local communities are safe and pleasant places to live, work and play;

give local people a greater voice and influence over local decisions and the priorities of the service providers;

support actions and initiatives that meet local needs.

Want to find out more?

The Chipping Sodbury and Cotswold Edge Safer Stronger Community Group will be holding a drop in event on Saturday 26th June 10am – Noon Chipping Sodbury Old School Rooms

Come and meet us for some coffee, cake and a chat. Representatives from the group will be there along with South Gloucestershire Council, local Parish Councils, Police, Fire & Rescue, Merlin, local societies and other agencies from the area.

Next Meeting

Thursday 22nd July at 7.30pm Chipping Sodbury Old School Rooms

If you would like to find out more, but are unable to attend the event or meeting, please visit your group's webpage at <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk>. Here, you will be able to become a member of your local group, view agendas and minutes from meetings and gain access to more information about issues and projects in your area. Alternatively, you can contact your Safer Stronger Communities Officer on 01454 864625.

Horton School News

Here we are in May and all of the snow that started our 2010 year off seems a long way away! Thank you to those villagers who helped to clear the snow away from the school paths and road outside, and to the ones who gave me some of their salt/grit too, very welcome. Although we closed on the first real snow day, we could have opened on the second day due to the snow clearing efforts...but all schools were closed by South Gloucestershire. On the third heavy snow day we were one of the very few schools in South Gloucestershire to open, with staff parking their cars at the bottom of the hill and wading up through the deep snow before the snow plough arrived. We had nine children who attended school that day, so well done to them and to the staff who came in!

In the last village news letter you read about one of the parents at the school, Tony Bliss, who is trekking part of the Great Wall of China to raise money for developing a wooden tiered seating area in the playground. In school time this will be great for collective worship, lessons and performances and will be well used at playtimes for imaginative play or a place to read or chat. It would be lovely for the village to use it too, maybe for musical performances or dramas in the summer months. If you think you can help in any way at all with this project or by sponsoring Tony then please visit his website at <http://www.tonys-china-trek.org.uk/>

Jumble Sale
In Aid of Horton School
Tony's China Trek
Sat 15th May 2-4pm
Chipping Sodbury Scout Hut
The Ridings, St Johns Way
Admission 50p
Children Free

After that interrupted start, the term seemed to rush by, with the Juniors enjoying singing lessons with an Advanced Skills Teacher and continuing their fife lessons, which began in September. The skills that the singing teacher taught them were put to good effect when, later on in the term, they performed, alongside choirs from other schools around Yate and Chipping Sodbury, at the Colston Hall in Bristol. In the weeks leading up to the concert the juniors travelled to other local schools to join with them for rehearsals. At one of these Max Calderan, one of our pupils, was selected to sing a solo part for one of the songs for the concert. We were all extremely proud of him as he sang the opening to I'm a Small Part of the World – there was not a dry eye in the house! A small performance group have continued to perform once a term for the senior citizens who meet in the Baptist Church in Chipping Sodbury – I'm told that it ends up with lovely communal singing.

We ended the first term of 2010 with a science week in school. The week began with a whole school trip to Technquest in Cardiff where the children could explore and experiment with all sorts of different science based activities followed by a 'trip into space' in the Planetarium. Did you hear explosions coming from the direction of the school in early February?

If so that will have been the day that we had a visit from a team of chemists from the University of Bristol. The highlight of an exciting morning's visit where the children made polymers and tested acids was demonstrations of the effects of liquid nitrogen ('fried' dry iced eggs; rubber gloves that grew and grew; and bananas that smashed to pieces when hit with a hammer) and the differences between exploding helium and exploding hydrogen...yes hydrogen...inside the junior classroom! When the forensic scientists came a couple of days later the children found themselves dressed as forensic scientists, investigating crime scenes and taking fingerprints. Throughout the week the children also tasted lots of unusual (and very healthy) foods; found out about how diseases are transmitted and used digital microscopes to investigate their world.

Sport has again featured heavily this term. The infants competed in a Boccia festival early in the year and did extremely well; swimmers took part in the South Gloucestershire swimming gala and, whilst we cannot rival larger schools for the team events, we swam well and showed good sportsmanship and we were lucky enough to be given basketball coaching by two professional players from the Bristol Flyers basketball team. Some of the children who took part in that training went on to compete against other South Gloucestershire Schools and came third in the tournament – a huge achievement after only 5 weeks of coaching.

At Horton, as well as focusing on the basics of learning, we try to offer a broad curriculum and range of after-school opportunities. Last term saw the launch of our Let's Get Cooking Club, with a big Cookathon event where as many people as possible made pizzas decorated to look like a celebrity or cartoon character – the two winning entries in school were Dora The Explorer by Olivia Littlechild and Mickey Mouse by Tom Meaden. Thank you to those villagers who took part too – we are still waiting to hear if we won any prizes in the national event for the number of people who took part. If you couldn't join us this year, then you will have another opportunity when we enter next year's competition. This after-school club is now up and running – we do get some funding to run this but if you would like to help by donating produce then please contact the school.

Talking of produce, our gardening club has been working wonders in our garden;

thanks to Ms Renton and Mr Barstow plus their band of volunteers we now have a polytunnel and seedlings have been planted.

Other clubs at the school include: an art and design club, which learned about photo manipulation and then created an advertising project for a new drink they designed; outdoor living (you may see them after school around Horton) where the children practise survival skills such as map reading, fire making, den building and lots of walking!; a drama club which builds the children's confidence and ability to communicate well; basketball and netball – following on from the success of the basketball events; an art club for younger children, which is a chance to try out different sorts of art and to get messy, and a Multiskills club which looks at general fitness and sports skills.

All the building work that I told you about in my last report is now complete and we have a lovely airy entrance and a much bigger third classroom. The next building work, internally, is due to commence in the summer and will be a replacement of the toilets which was greeted with much excitement by the children! One of the children recently described the school as being old on the outside but new on the inside; that is exactly what we want to achieve – to keep the character of the school but make it a modern place in which to learn. In the playground we are still working on developing the space to make sure we make the most use of it.

I have now been at Horton for a whole year – sometimes it seems like only yesterday that I came to join the Horton school family; at others it feels like we have achieved so much that it must be a lot longer than that! Please feel free to come and visit the school or join us at any events that are coming up – see our school website, on the newsletter pages

www.hortonprimary.ik.org/p_Newsletters.ikml Maybe you feel that you have a skill that you would like to share with us or you have some time you would like to spend helping us create opportunities for the children here at Horton (thank you to those of you that are going to put up our new school signs with Ian Cross, your gift of time is much appreciated); maybe you would like to involve the children in a project you are working on or maybe you have some plants you would like to donate to our garden.....the school is your village school and it's part of what makes Horton village a special place.

Jane Leo, Head of School

OBITUARY

Michael John Pinker

The shooting world has suffered a great loss in the passing of Michael John Pinker on 4th March 2010 aged 65. About 400 mourners attended the funeral service at St James the Elder in the village of Horton where Michael had resided for 40 years creating Lady's Wood Shooting School in the process.

In his early years, Michael was a successful plumbing and heating engineer which funded his clay pigeon shooting hobby. From 1975, his natural ability saw him shooting regularly in the England and Great Britain teams and then later forming the aforementioned Lady's Wood Shooting School which went on to require his full time commitment. Lady's Wood has grown from humble beginnings to a much acclaimed ground in a beautiful woodland setting making it a natural habitat for a variety of bird and wildlife and fauna. Michael was a keen naturalist and his love of the countryside became an integral part of his shooting lessons.

His widow, Karen Pinker will continue running Lady's Wood with Michael's blessing.



Michael with Mabel

I would like to thank Canon Jane Kenchington for taking the service and for being so accommodating for the family's wishes. Could you please also pass on my grateful thanks to Brian & Tina Hildick-Smith for taking me under their wing during the daunting task of preparing for the funeral and to Peter Issac for allowing us the use of his field for parking.

Karen Pinker

BIRTHS

Jasmine Lola Bendon was born in March to Adam and Sarah. Congratulations!

FUTURE EVENTS

Horton Church

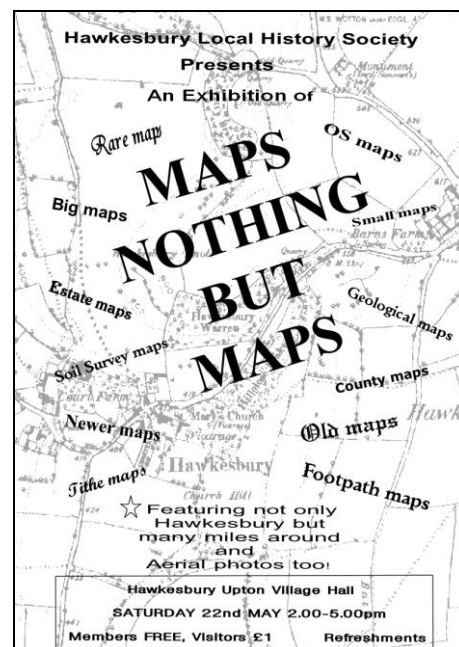
Church services will take place at 11am on Sundays as usual. Exceptionally there will be no morning service on 30th May. On that date a Benefice morning service will be held at Little Sodbury Church.

Hawkesbury and Horton WI

Activities planned for the next two months are: a talk on the Tristan de Cunha islands on 1st June; and a Garden Party on 6th July. As usual the June meeting is at Hawkesbury Village Hall, but the July event will be at Hillesley Village Hall.

Lynn Edwards

Hawkesbury Local History Society



Charity Quiz Night

Yate Rotary Club are staging a charity quiz night at Chipping Sodbury Town Hall on Friday 4th June 2010 at 7.30pm. The entry cost for a team of four players is £24. There is a prize for the winning team and a prestigious trophy. There will be a bar to rejuvenate flagging teams. All proceeds will go to Rotary charities. For further information contact Ron Nelson on 01454 313044 or John Black via email: john.black@thornburyassoc.co.uk.

Village Christmas Dinner

Following the success of our most recent Christmas Dinner some serious forward planning has been going on! Yes, I know it's *madness* to even think about Christmas in February but the Village Christmas Dinner is to be at a larger venue this year, and so had to be booked

to assure the preferred date. So I have a date for your diaries:

Saturday 4th December 2010 @ Chipping Sodbury Golf Club @ 7:30pm.

Everyone is welcome! More details are to follow nearer the time.

Caroline Bannister 312277

Who says we don't plan ahead! Ed.

FOR SALE

Wedding Hats

One careful lady owner! One coffee/cream (worn three times) and one turquoise (worn once). £10 each. Also a pair of satin peep-toe turquoise shoes (matching hat) worn half an hour £5! Photos available on request. Call Caroline on 312277 or email bannistersfamily@aol.com.

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