

# THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



PUBLISHED FOR THE HORTON AND LITTLE SODBURY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

January 2011

Deadline for articles for the next edition 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011

## SUMMARY OF FUTURE EVENTS

20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Safer, Stronger Communities Group Meeting *
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Horton Quiz Night *
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Pampered Chef Party at Horton Village Hall *
29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Burns Night Party at Horton Village Hall
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Horton Quiz Night *
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Local History Group: Local Examples of the Arts & Crafts Movement -An illustrated talk by Jenny Bailey. Horton Village Hall 7.30pm, £2 entrance
18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Horton Quiz Night *

\* More information elsewhere in Newsletter

## VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

If you have a computer you can now go to the Village Hall website by putting in [www.halsvh.org.uk](http://www.halsvh.org.uk). 'halsvh' of course stands for Horton and Little Sodbury Village Hall. The long form of the website URL can still be used, so there is no need to edit the "favourites" list in your browser, should you have set up an entry for the Village Hall.

We've all had to change the way we fill our wheelie bins and the changes apply to the Village Hall bins just as with the rest of us. If you are using the hall, please put rubbish in the black bins. The green bins are now just for garden material and not for the mixture of garden material and cardboard as before.

We're planning to have the hall ceiling redecorated. It is panelled with wood and the work will involve getting off the old varnish and then recoating with what now has to be a fire-resistant varnish. This work will be dovetailed between bookings in due course, so look out for newly glowing ceiling – one day!

Peter Llewellyn (Secretary)

## CONTACTS

Contact details for members of the Village Hall Committee are available on the website [hortonandlittlesodburyvillagehall.org.uk](http://hortonandlittlesodburyvillagehall.org.uk).

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

## NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

The village hall was transformed on 31<sup>st</sup> December with glitter balls, twinkling lights and candlelit tables for the popular New Year's Eve party which once again was a sell-out. This is a major opportunity to raise funds for the upkeep of the hall and to have a great time in doing so. A big "thank you" goes to everyone who came along and we hope that everyone will make the effort to come next year. Especially welcome this year were ex-Hortonian and now Sydneysider Fay Ford and son Jamie who are visiting friends here.



The party took the form of a BYO supper and an undercover Newsletter reporter visited different tables on the pretence of socialising whilst surreptitiously sampling the different dishes conjured up by each table. He (or she – we are keeping the identity secret to protect our source) does report that the Village boasts a wealth of culinary talent and clearly all those Jamie Oliver Christmas presents have not gone unread.

Before the curse of Wickwar Bob and the Rhone Valley took hold, a quiz of the year was given by Rex Isaac who named a person from each month and tables had to write down why that person was in the news. The quiz was won resoundingly by table B, (they know who they are) and they had enough accolades on the evening without further boosts to their ego via the pages of the Newsletter. At future parties, perhaps the seating plan could engineer a more equitable distribution of brain power around the room to compensate those tables where it was clearly lacking.

The annual showcasing of local talent this year exceeded all expectations although, having said that, they were not high to start with. The cabaret opened with a number from rising star Rosie Wake accompanied on electric guitar by her exceptionally gifted father Tony. A performance of "I remember it well" brought together the experience of debonair Paul Denton with the debut of a major new talent to the Horton stage, Caroline Bannister. The mercifully short piece was a masterclass in sartorial detail, evoking nostalgia for a gentler time and for a re-run of "Downton Abbey" on ITV. Ian Brodie made a quick change from his MC duties to deliver a sermon as a befuddled vicar trying to make sense of the text "My brother Esau is a hairy man but I am a smooth man". A further stunning musical interlude followed with a moving recital of a feline operetta performed in full feline costume by Alison and Keith Barlow. This piece could only be delivered by singers with a real talent for handling complex lyrics. From the high art of Keith and Alison, the cabaret plunged to cultural depths with the arrival of Dave Morgan and Richard Febry who were clearly afflicted with the aforementioned beverage of Wickwar. Perhaps they needed to be in order to perform an Egyptian sand dance in full traditional costume. However, for a few precious minutes in the midst of a dreary English winter we were all transported to a hot, dusky Cairo souk through the medium of creative dance. The cabaret finale featured the welcome return of Adrian Erskine to reprise the song "Don't cry for me window cleaner" which he originally performed as Dandini in the 2007 Horton production of "Cinderella". When Adrian burst into song, perhaps it was the memory of that production which brought tears to the eyes of so many in the audience.

On New Year's Eve, an award is given to the Horton Man and Woman of the Year. This year, by special request from the Deputy Prime Minister, the result was reached via the Single Transferable Vote system. Last year's winner, Mr. Barry Cordy proudly stepped up to

## CHURCH BELLS RING AGAIN

It was nearly five years ago that the ambition of having bells ring again in Horton Church was mooted. You could say that it started with the wish of Tina Hildick-Smith's mother to have the bells reinstated after a gap of more than 100 years and to that end the project was started in earnest. Initially, it was the late Rev. Gordon Edwards who got the bells rolling that soon involved many villagers with fund raising, etc.

I'm sure up to and over the Christmas period, you have all heard the bells ringing at some point and I'm sure you'll agree they sound wonderful. I would like to thank everyone involved in the project on behalf of the bell-ringers but special thanks must go to George Hammersley who has seen this project through despite the many frustrations and hiccoughs along the way. He does have a very demanding job which makes this achievement even more noteworthy, so thanks again to everyone involved for all their hard work.

Bert Gough

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

The Christmas Dinner in the Sodbury Golf Club was a major success of the season. The ambience, cuisine and the company were enjoyed by 51 Hortonians, and such was the enjoyment that the consensus is that the Golf Club be booked again for Christmas 2011 (which will be here in about three months!) I hope that Hortonians 'old and new' will be able to join us on the first Saturday in December!

The Carol Singing took place on 21 December 'In the Bleak Midwinter', but was very seasonal! Thanks to all those who came along to sing, and to those who stayed at home to listen!! The proceeds from that event and the Horton Christmas Card will be given to the nominated charity.

Caroline Bannister

## 2011 CENSUS

South Gloucestershire Council has written to remind us that the next Census for England and Wales will take place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Census population counts underpin the planning and funding of public services, therefore ensuring that our count here in South Gloucestershire is as accurate as possible is very important. All collected Census information is strictly confidential and personal information is protected by law.

Recruitment for some 35,000 temporary jobs across England and Wales is now underway, please see the poster I have displayed on the village hall notice board for more information.

Katherine Standerwick – Clerk to Horton Parish Council

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(tel: 07866 981084)

announce that Rex Isaac was Man of the Year in recognition of his overcoming the worst that a footloose Holstein cow can inflict. Barry could not deliver his speech in full as he was feeling too emotional but he did manage to hand to Rex the prize of some specially decorated walking aids which we hope will make useful firewood at Horton Farm. When the applause finally died down, Ms. Emma Cordy-Rugman announced to a hushed hall, that the Woman of the Year was Jackie Isaac for carrying on her tireless work in the Church whilst having Rex immobile for so long. Her reward was a gift which reflected her love of certain aspects of Irish cultural history and their ingenuity with the humble hop.

The new village hall sound system was pressed into service and the dance floor rapidly filled up before midnight. Towards midnight itself, party-goers Brian Hildick-Smith, Rex Isaac, Bert Gough, Georgina Daniell, Keith Barlow and Kate Wake "peeled off" to ring the Horton Church Bells at midnight. This was the first New Year ringing in over a hundred years at Horton. Brian was charged with ringing the tenor bell 12 times at midnight but owing to a minor "technicality", the bell sounded 14 times. Thus are new traditions born – to recognise the fact that actual Horton time is a little behind GMT, future new years will be brought in by 14 strikes on the tenor bell.

Credits for the event to: The Cabaret Performers and Bell Ringers, Caroline Bannister (ticketing), David Bannister + team (bar), Brian Jarvis, The day after Clean-Up crew (incl. Linda Morgan on vacuum cleaning) and Organisers Barbera Denton, Tony Wake, Pat and Bert Gough, Lynne and George Hammersley.

(From our undercover reporter)

## NEWS FROM HORTON SCHOOL

I should begin this newsletter with "Salve!" as the Romans have been a big feature of our learning this term. From our first day back in September our study of the Romans has been in full swing. Thanks to contacts made through the village newsletter we have had visits to school from Jill Martin and from the Education officer at Yate Heritage Centre. On the first of these Jill and her colleagues brought in many examples of archaeological finds from the Lower Woods dig. The children listened intently and asked endless questions about the dig itself but also about what the 'diggers' had learnt from the things they found – their questioning skills were commented on very positively, even compared to being more thoughtful than first year undergraduates! At the end of the visit the children were each given a tessera to take home – they felt very lucky!



*Mosaic-making in the Roman Workshop*

The second visit allowed the children an even more hands on approach when they ground their own corn using a quern, made a hypocaust and mosaics. One of the exciting things about being a small school is the ability to take the whole school out on a trip and we went to Caerleon for a day of discovering what it was like to be a Roman Soldier. The children gain different things from a trip of this kind, such as acting out daily lives of soldiers and deciding to find out more about herbal medicines as part of a wider study. The interesting aspect of using a skills-based curriculum is how children take different routes through their studies and how they select very different ways to present their findings at the end: Celtic villages, scrapbooks, letters written as if they were Romans, annotated freeze-frame photos, posters and even films.

We have been lucky enough to be selected to take part in various writing projects this year and are focusing on improving writing skills across the school through exciting writing opportunities, developing speaking and listening skills, and honing the children's ability to spot what makes a 'good' piece of writing. You may have seen a crashed alien spaceship in the playground at the beginning of November – that was the launch of a Writing Week – the children interviewed eyewitnesses (played by staff, governors and parents) and assisted the police in trying to work out what may have happened. They then wrote and filmed news reports; prepared police statements; designed a "wanted" poster and even wrote a postcard home from the poor alien who had crashed! During the rest of Writing Week the children created poetry; wrote a community play in the style of consequences; took part in group discussions which had to have a written, agreed outcome; and created slogans for what a good friend is like. This linked to our value for the term of Friendship.

## HORTON QUIZ NIGHTS

Question : What is the only fruit to have its seeds on the outside ?

Do you know ? ... well, in that case, why not come along to the Horton Quiz Night on Friday 21st January and try to answer a few more.

Yes, it's that time of year for the famous Horton Quiz Nights - starting again at the Horton Village Hall on Friday 21st January. Quiz Master Rex Isaac and his lovely assistant Jackie will be setting the questions that will test those little grey cells.

Doors will open at 7:15, and the questions will start flying at 7:45.

Entry fee is £6 (for teams of 4) ... and there will be a licensed bar and light refreshments available on the night.

And if you can't make this one, then don't forget that we will be doing it all again on Friday 18th February and Friday 18th March.

Oh, and by the way ... Strawberry.

Hope to see you there.

Tony Wake

## LITTER PICKING

The snow has gone, the nettles have died and now the litter is revealed! Will you join the litter-haters and be another litter-picker?

We sometimes stop on the way back from Yate, like others in the village, and get a plastic bottle or two if it's not on a very muddy bit of the road-side.

The Llewellyns

## PAMPERED CHEF PARTY

This event will take place at the Village Hall on 26<sup>th</sup> January starting at 7.30pm. 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 and there is no charge for entry to the event. Any proceeds raised will be in aid of church funds. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Pat Tiley

## CHURCH SERVICES

Services take place as usual at Horton Church during January and February 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. There will be a single Benefice service on 30<sup>th</sup> January at St John's, Chipping Sodbury; on that day there will be no service at either of our local churches.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE COLD WEATHER

According to a local private weather station on Hawkesbury Common the temperature dipped as low as -8.5 degrees C on 29<sup>th</sup> November. I guess it could have been even lower later in December. It certainly felt pretty chilly.

The children have been involved in creating and giving musical performances – a large group did three performances in the chapel at Dryham Park before Christmas; our Year 5/6 children are all learning to play the oboe (they were selected from all the schools in South Gloucestershire who had five tuition last year because they showed raw talent and were dedicated learners – well done children!); the Y3/4 children have all had extra ukulele lessons; and this coming term the Juniors will all have the opportunity to have singing lessons too.



*Performing at Dyrham Park*



*On the climbing wall at Parkend*

Our Year 5 and 6 children had a challenging but fun three days at Parkend in the Forest of Dean when they took part in a residential outdoor adventure trip. They all had the opportunity to try out canoeing, high ropes course, zip wire, climbing, treasure hunt involving map reading and team problem solving. The staff that went (Mrs Taylor, Miss Peplow and I) all got to try out these things too... though I didn't do the Leap of Death! This adventurous learning experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all who went - the children mixed with the other school that was there really well and it gave them the opportunity to be part of a larger group. The other school was St Mary's VA School, Thornbury and we'll be sharing the centre with them again next year too.

A big thank you to all of those of you who enjoyed our carol singing, came along to the Christmas Service and contributed to our collections or came to the Christmas shopping evening and bought things from the children's business enterprise stalls. The School Council have chosen the British Heart Foundation as the Charity of the Year and all proceeds from all of the events will go to that charity. We have another two events coming up: – Jump Rope for Heart in May – a sponsored skipping event (if you fancy refreshing your skipping skills and you'll be free in May then get in touch!) – and a mufti day in March.

Our area of study for the coming term until Easter is all based around the wetlands and we'll be looking at habitats; fauna and flora; migrations both local and international; conservation; and the impact of our changing world. If you have any expertise in this area and would like to be involved we'd love to hear from you.

Jane Leo, Head Teacher

## HORTON'S SECRET ARTIST

The preparation for the Heritage Centre's recent exhibition on World War 1 involved a lot of research by many people. Inevitably there was some concentration on finding out more about those that fell – mostly but not entirely young men. Often a starting point was the memorial plaques to be found in village churches and public places.

Horton's church plaque had just three names. We found out about two very quickly, since relatives still live locally. One, P A Bourdillon, was unknown. But he did have an intriguing name, didn't he? (Huguenot, we thought, and it is).

Second Lieutenant Paul Aime (PA) Bourdillon fought in WW1 and died, presumably of his wounds, but possibly of illness, in the then Persia, just after the war ended, in 1919. He is commemorated in Tehran cemetery. He was just 20 years old.

The war grave details said that his father and mother were the Reverend F W and Kathleen Bourdillon, of Clifton Bristol. So we tried to find out who these were. As usual, nowadays, we started with Google – and that's where the detective story took interesting turns, complete with some false leads and wrong information.

Very quickly we came upon the Victorian poet Francis W Bourdillon – whose main claim to fame now is a poem with the first line: *'The night has a thousand eyes'* – those of certain generation will immediately think: 'Bobby Vee' – and a song of that name. So was our 'FW' the inspiration for a legendary pop performance? Well, perhaps this line was indeed the inspiration for the title, but there the similarity ends – the poem continues 'And the day but one'.

## SAFER, STRONGER COMMUNITIES

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 the 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, Health Authority, 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.

The next meeting for the Chipping Sodbury and the Cotswold Edge Group is:  
Thursday 20th January 2011, 7.30pm – 9.30pm at Chipping Sodbury Old School Rooms, High Street, Chipping Sodbury.

For meetings in other areas please visit, <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk> to find out the dates. Here, you will be able to become a member of your local e-group, view agendas and minutes from meetings and gain access to more information about the issues and projects in your area. Alternatively, you can contact your Safer Stronger Communities Officer on 01454 868760. Sarah Milne, SGC

## 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](mailto: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.

Then we discovered two things at once: 'our FW' was Francis Wright Bourdillon (the poet was Francis William) and he was vicar of Horton throughout WW1 and beyond (1914-1923). So that was a bit disappointing – but poignant to think he might have conducted a memorial service for his own son.

The disappointment was short lived, however. We soon discovered a Frank Wright Bourdillon, and he was very interesting indeed. His dates were 1851-1924, so that was about right. This 'FW' was, in his younger days, a very accomplished artist, and one of the more influential members of the Newlyn School in Cornwall – a friend of the founder, Stanhope Forbes. (One of Stanhope Forbes' paintings is in Bristol City Museum). Could he also be 'our' FW? His biographic details start to bring things together.

Frank Wright Bourdillon had been born in India and had studied at the Slade School of Art, and had a year in Paris, moving to Newlyn in 1887, and remaining there until 1892. He had inherited a strong religious outlook (the Huguenot connections probably played a part). Suddenly, in early 1892, his religious feelings deepened. As Stanhope Forbes said: 'When [he] first arrived, he was keen on his art and on sport and fishing but gradually the more serious matters of life absorbed him and claimed all his mental activity and he left to go as a missionary to India'. In India he met and married a fellow missionary.

The biographies have him returning from India because of ill-health in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and then there is a normally a short reference just saying that he 'spent the rest of his life as a curate in Ramsgate'.

However, there are a couple of clinching points. All sources have him dying in Little Sodbury in 1924, and only one FW died in that year. Subsidiary points are: Paul Aime was born in India, but is back in England in the 1901 census; Horton's baptismal records show FW signing himself as Frank (not Francis) Wright Bourdillon. So Horton's vicar was in fact the very well known (but not, we suspect to his parishioners since he was known to be a shy man) Newlyn artist.



*Across  
The Beach*

He did not find it easy as a painter, first rejected by the RA for their summer exhibition, although they did accept works for 1886 and 1887. Some of his works are clearly recognised now as of high quality, although the whereabouts of many remain unknown. Perhaps his most famous, and most valuable (probably over 6 figures according to one estimate) is 'On Bideford Sands', depicting a scene from Kingsley's 'Westward Ho!'. This dates from 1889 and was bought almost immediately by a gallery in Sydney, Australia, who still have it. Also considered of high quality are landscapes such as 'Across the Beach' thought to be comparable to the 'superb' smaller works of his Newlyn friend, Norman Garstin. 'The Jubilee Hat' now on loan to the Penlee Art Gallery in Cornwall makes a lot of use of the light entering the window.

After 1892, as far as any authority knows, he gave up painting, with one exception, in India - 'The Snows of Darjeeling'.

Frank Wright Bourdillon was very well liked by his friends in the Newlyn school, and particularly by Stanhope Forbes, who perhaps should have the last word: 'The finest that I have heard was once paid to him by a friend of mine, Henry Detmold. There had been a boating accident in Mount's Bay and at a re-union of painters in one of our lodgings, the talk turned upon drowning and someone observed "Oh, you know of course no one ever sinks until all the sins he has committed pass through his mind." "What a ghastly idea," said Detmold, "I shall be bobbing about in Mount's Bay for a week! But," he added, "Dilla will go down like a stone!"'

[Thanks are due to the Penlee Art Gallery, The Sydney Art Gallery, Lynne Edwards, George Bednar and others; *Artists in Newlyn and West Cornwall*. Melissa Hardie (Ed) Art Dictionaries Ltd. Bristol 2009; *Artists of the Newlyn School 1880-1900*. Caroline Fox and Francis Greenacre (catalogue to the exhibition by Newlyn Orion Galleries 1979)]

Alan Singleton