

THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



PUBLISHED FOR THE HORTON AND LITTLE SODBURY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

January 2012

Deadline for articles for the next edition 1st March 2012

SUMMARY OF FUTURE EVENTS

17 th Jan	Wine & Nibbles sponsorship event for Kilimanjaro ascent *
19 th Jan	Safer Stronger Communities Meeting *
20 th Jan	Village Hall Quiz Night *
28 th Jan	Burns Night Supper
7 th Feb	WI meeting *
14 th Feb	Visit to BBC Bristol *
24 th Feb	Village Hall Quiz Night *
6 th Mar	WI meeting *
23 rd Mar	Village Hall Quiz Night *
31 st Mar	Village Hall Wine Tasting
27-29 Apr	Horton Walking Festival *

* More information elsewhere in Newsletter

Note: See the Village Hall web site www.halsvh.org.uk for a full list of future events.

PLANS FOR VISIT TO BBC BRISTOL

Come and find out what goes on inside BBC Bristol, the regional television centre for the West of England. You'll learn how television and radio programmes are made and have the chance to visit our interactive studio where you can have a go at presenting the weather and star in your very own radio drama, complete with sound effects!

Anyone interested in going on a tour at the BBC Bristol studios on 14th February please contact Barbera before the 22nd January, on 319889 or by email on barbera.denton@btinternet.com.

Your tour guides will give you an insight into the many programmes originating from BBC Bristol and tell you what happens behind the scenes to get them from script to screen. They are also on hand to answer any burning questions relating to technical wizardry and the famous faces who have visited the building. Visitors will have the chance to see the Points West studio, pop into Radio Bristol studios and hear how programmes such as Antiques Roadshow and the Natural History Unit's Springwatch are produced. Many Radio 4 programmes, such as Poetry Please, are made at BBC Bristol and your guides will tell you about these and many more.

Please remember that BBC Bristol is a working building so no two tours are the same, but they will always be informative, interesting and fun.

Tours take approximately one hour and 45 minutes and involve a certain amount of walking and standing.

LOCAL TEAM AIM TO CONQUER KILIMANJARO

Rowe Veterinary Group in the guise of Brian Hildick-Smith and Kate James are undertaking the challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro for two worthy charities – Macmillan Cancer Support and Pet Blood Bank. They have set themselves a target to raise £5895 – the height of Kilimanjaro in metres. The climb is self-funded so all the money that is raised will go towards the two charities.



If you would like to support them in achieving their fund raising target you can donate via their just giving web sites:

Macmillan – www.justgiving.com/brian-and-kate/

Pet Blood Bank www.justgiving.com/kate-and-brian

or via a sponsorship form available from Brian on 01454 320380

There is also a Wine and Nibbles sponsorship-raising evening at the Rowe Veterinary Surgery on Station Rd Yate on 17th January at 8pm to which all are warmly invited.

Their climb starts in late January and should take seven days in total. The main problem that they will face is the extreme altitude of the mountain and the potential of developing altitude sickness for which there is only one cure – to descend rapidly.



Their training has involved many (!) visits to the gym – a somewhat alien place for Brian – and spending most weekends trekking. They have climbed the Three Peaks – Ben Nevis (see photo below), Snowdon and Scafell Pike – all completed in very poor weather conditions –

Prices are: Adult £6.15; Concession £5.75; Student £5.15; Children (between 10 and 15 years) £5.15.

Note: This tour is not open for children under 10.

HORTON QUIZ SPRING TRILOGY

These quizzes take place on Fridays: 20th January, 24th February and 23rd March. Doors (and bar) open from 7.30 pm for prompt 8.00 pm start.

This is a nice little fundraiser for the Hall, but is also a 'fun evening' and relaxing way to start the weekend. Please make every effort to come. Our heroic regular quizmaster and his very lovely assistant are taking a well-earned break, having officiated for many seasons. Our thanks go to them both.

Most of us take the quizzes very lightly. There are, however, a couple of teams who do appear to take them not nearly lightly enough. Rumours abound that they took no time off over Christmas or New Year, preferring instead to go into a preparatory huddle. So it's up to the rest of us to knock them off their pedestal, thus demonstrating that our village is, essentially a place where joy and frivolity abound – at least on Friday evenings.

The cost of the evening is £6 for a team of four. Don't worry if you don't have a team, as a few of us are so 'challenging' that we can't find a regular foursome, so simply adhere ourselves to an unsuspecting pair or duo. **DO JOIN US FOR SOME FUN!**

WI PROGRAMME FOR 2012

The next two events are on 7th February (Nia Dancing – Christine Davis) and 6th March (Birthday Party & The History of Punch & Judy – Sue and Pete Milsom).

For more information contact Lynn Edwards on 07973 166692.

CAROL SINGING AND HORTON CHRISTMAS CARD 2011

The children's charity Foundation for Children was recently presented with a donation of £227.28 which was raised by Horton village residents and friends during the 2011 Carol Singing and Horton Christmas card distribution.

Foundation for Children is a new charity founded in 2011 by Kay Turner, a Horton resident, when she retired and handed the ownership and management of her nationwide network of social enterprise nurseries to a Cooperative society. The Trustees wish to thank Horton village very much for this donation. The charity will start to distribute funds this year to provide support to disadvantaged children and their families, and the Trustees will report in a future newsletter how the funding from Horton village was used.

Kay Turner, Chair of Trustees
Foundation for Children

so no views from the summits at all. In addition many of the Brecon Beacon routes have been climbed – Pen-y-Fan, Fan-y-Big, Sugar Loaf and Table Mountain among others. The Cotswold Way from Bath Abbey to Chipping Campden is also being walked to add more miles to the legs.

Apart from the weather the biggest problem in preparing for this trip has been the lack of daylight hours. With hindsight it might have been better to plan to climb Kili in Aug/Sept for kinder training weather! However we have warmer weather to look forward to in Africa.

Brian Hildick-Smith

NEWS FROM HORTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school year for us started as a woodland festival! The children and staff all arrived back from the summer holidays dressed as something that you would find in a woodland - we had leaves to ladybirds, birds to bugs, fairies and fantastic woodland monsters. At our woodland festival the children designed totem poles (an amalgamation of these designs will be carved in our very own totem pole soon!); made natural art using berries and soils; enjoyed making and eating blackberry smoothies and hedgehog cakes and toasted marshmallows around a fire. It was a lovely start to what has been an outdoor-orientated term.

Our Y5/6 children were challenged to try new things on their residential trip to the Dean Field Centre in Parkend. Most of them even tried the Leap of Faith (needless to say not me!) which involves climbing a very tall telegraph post, standing on a small wooden square on top of the pole and then leaping to catch a trapeze bar ... Obviously safely harnessed but very scary - we were proud of all that they achieved and even prouder of the way they looked after each other and supported and encouraged each other.



Our school-wide study of woodlands gave more opportunities for supporting and encouraging each other's learning with the children enjoying numerous visits to Lower Woods and a wonderful visit to Westonbirt. We were lucky enough to meet some local people at Westonbirt who joined us to share their knowledge of the woods themselves and the flora and fauna of the woodland. Involvement like this really brings learning alive for the children - see below for this term's study topic and how you could get involved if you would like to. If you are a regular walker in Lower Woods you may have seen some of the natural art that the children made in the form of free-standing structures and Andy Goldsworthy imitations. At Westonbirt, a trip partly funded by our wonderful Friends of Horton School, the children investigated the autumnal changes through their senses and enjoyed finding leaves of as many different colours as possible!

Exploring topics through the senses carried over into our Christmas celebrations too. Our Christmas service this year was about the taste of excitement: the smells that reminded the wise men of their journey; the feelings of the main characters involved in the Christmas story, both physical feelings of rough cloth and emotional feelings of trepidation at the beginning of an important event; the sounds of that first Christmas recreated by musical compositions of the Infants and Junior and the sights that remind us of that first Christmas. The service was made all the more special by the wonderful singing and instrument playing and the nativity costumes - a big thank you must go to all the staff at the school for the efforts they put in to make this time of year so special.

CHURCH NEWS

Services take place as usual at Horton Church and Little Sodbury Church during January and February at 11.15 am and 6pm respectively, excepting for the last Sunday in January when there will be a Benefice Service at St Johns, Chipping Sodbury.

MEMORIES OF 1948 OLYMPICS

I have been asked by my sister [Rachael Jolley], who works for a newly founded charity called British Future, if I know of anyone who has memories of the 1948 Olympics and would be willing to talk to her on the telephone in connection with a project the charity are doing. If you have any such memories and would be willing to speak to her please let me know by email cbrosecottage@gmail.com or telephone me on 01454 317471. Then I can put you in contact with her. The charity is recently founded and she is the communications manager.

Carol Brodie

SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITY GROUPS

Would you like to make your area a better place to live, work and play? Then why not get involved with your local Safer Stronger Community Group? It works with the Council, Town Council, Police, Fire & Rescue and Health Authority to do just that.

You can come along to a meeting, go on-line at: <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk> or call your Safer Stronger Communities Officer on 01454 864625

The next meeting for the Chipping Sodbury and the Cotswold Edge Group is on Thursday 19th January 2012, 7.30pm
Chipping Sodbury Old School Rooms, High Street, Chipping Sodbury

FOR SALE

Citroën C3 1.4HDI SX diesel 5 Door

March 2003, (MoT till March 10th 2012)

Silver, with grey cloth interior; 83170 on the clock; one careful lady owner from new! Economical ~ 60 miles to the gallon and £35 road fund licence. Available for viewing and test-drive locally. **£2500**

Caroline Bannister (call 07899 866683 or 312277)

Delicious Dorset Down Lamb

Our half lamb packs are now available at £70.00. The meat is fully jointed and labelled. Packs include shoulder and leg joints, loin chops, chump chops, breast, kidney, liver and mince. The lambs are reared completely naturally – as near to organic as you can get! For more details or to order, please contact us on 318002 or email pearce@widdenhill.freeserve.co.uk.

Jenny & Simon Pearce



We enjoyed being part of the Horton Church Nine Lessons and Carols Service again this year. We think that a new tradition is in the making of a jointly-sung carol from the School and Choir - we hope the Choir enjoyed this collaboration as much as we did!



Westonbirt Visit

Over the Christmas period our carol singing around the village was sadly rained off but we did manage to sing for the Cambrian Green Day Centre community and spread some Christmas cheer!

With the New Year now with us, we are looking forward to another exciting term. Our whole school topic is Local History and we have already been in touch with Maggie White and the Yate Heritage Centre so have things planned with them. We would, however, like as many of you to be involved as possible and are planning a cream tea and chat event in March (date to be confirmed) to find out all about your memories of Horton (if you are a recent incomer to Horton come along to find out about the local history too). We would also like to build up a local history of houses in Horton. If you have any information, photographs you would like to share, or if you would be happy to be interviewed please email me at jane.leo@southglos.gov.uk and we'll be in touch.

HORTON NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

A New Year's Eve party was held in the village hall and was once again well attended by villagers. Revellers brought their own food or, in one case, had a delivery of an exotic Chinese meal from a local restaurant – much to the envy of some others. Scraps and leftovers though were widely shared around in the spirit of the festive season – an especially ripe truckle of Stilton brought by Catherine Harvey proving more popular than she had perhaps hoped. This arrangement does enable the regular voluntary “kitchen staff” at village hall events to have one night off a year without feeling guilty.

Hog Roast and BBQs

Thinking of having a party, wedding or celebration? Why not consider a locally reared hog roast or BBQ? All our meat has been reared in your village, which we believe is the secret to producing top quality meat. You can feed approximately 100-120 people for just £600. For more information please contact Phillip Dolman 07866 910447 or via www.dolmanscatering.co.uk.

Reopening of Santé et Beauté Beauty Salon

Local residents have taken over this Beauty Salon in Chipping Sodbury. We wish them all the best in 2012. There are some attractive New Year offers. Call 01454 310594 for more information.

POWER CUTS

In the event of a power cut or brownout, it is best if everyone phones Central Networks individually to report the problem. A single call from one property may be interpreted as a fault confined to that one house, rather than an area fault - the more people who call, the quicker the fault will be remedied. The number to call for power problems is 08003281111.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER

In future the primary mechanism for distributing the newsletter will be by email. The newsletter is also available on the Village Hall website. To be sure of getting future issues please forward your email address to the Newsletter Editor.

CONTACTS

Contact details for members of the Village Hall Committee are available on the website halsvh.org.uk.

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

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions.

News items should be sent to: newsletter@halsvh.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.

During the evening, a sparkling cabaret was presented which showcased the rich pool of talent which is available in Horton. The cabaret, in order of appearance, featured:

- Song from "Toy Story" performed by Rosie Wake.
- One-legged man auditioning for the role of Tarzan by Dave Morgan and Tony Wake.
- "Stop in the name of love" Diana Ross and the Supremes tribute act by Guy Harvey, Paul Denton and Lynne Hammersley.
- "Riverdance" : classic Irish dance performed in full costume by Richard Febry and Dave Morgan
- A human puppet show by Alison and Keith Barlow with Alison's sister and brother in law.
- A short story about sheep by George Hammersley.

Following the cabaret, a hush developed over the hall as the introduction to the Woman and Man of the Year awards were announced. It is always very difficult to keep the names of the recipients under wraps and to isolate the judging panel from possible inducements offered by Hong Kong and Indian gambling syndicates. Secrecy prevailed and for her tireless work in the catering and design of many events at the hall (even down to making the "petit fours" for the Murder Mystery play), **Barbera Denton** was named "Woman of the Year". A tearful Barbera was presented with a classic English check pattern apron with the hope that she will get a lot of useful wear out of it in the years to come, to the further benefit of her grateful public. The gastronomic theme continued into the Man of the Year award which was given to **Bert Gough** in recognition of the several gallons of free range, organic Cock A Leekie soup that he so generously prepared for the Burns Supper last January not to mention his rustic potato salad, fondly remembered by all who attended the Harvest Supper. To deserving applause and clearly moved by this award, Bert was honoured by the gift of an authentic Savoy Grill style chef's hat.

Towards midnight, a small party of the bell ringing fraternity "peeled off" to give the now traditional 14 rings at midnight followed by rounds on the Horton church bells. Perhaps in future we can dispense with Big Ben and broadcast the unique Horton sound to bring in the New Year.

Many people worked hard to make the event such a success including Caroline Bannister (tickets), David Bannister and team (Bar), Barbera Denton (tables), Lynne Hammersley (prizes), Pat Gough, Richard Febry, Tony Wake, Dave Morgan, George Hammersley and those who helped to clean the hall on New Year's Day. Biggest thanks of all go to everyone who attended and we hope that we can have an equally good party at the end of 2012.

(From our undercover reporter)

HORTON WALKING FESTIVAL – APRIL 27-29

Plans are going ahead apace (oops sorry!) with the Walking Festival; we are delighted that the idea has received such an enthusiastic response and that organisations within the village are keen to join in.

We have walks of varying lengths and difficulty arranged, so whether you fancy a gentle 2 mile stroll or an energetic hike there should be something to interest you. The National Trust have agreed to open the Court and in conjunction with the Cotswold Wardens will be leading a walk. Gloucester Wildlife Trust are looking at running walks in Lower Woods. The Benefice walk will enable you to trace the steps of William Tyndale. There will also be a walk more suited to the younger members of the community organised by the School. Additional events will also take place over the weekend: these will include a talk by our very own Brian Jarvis on the Friday evening about walking up Annapurna; a quiz hosted by the Social Club on Saturday evening; and a photographic workshop to enable you to make best use of your camera. We shall be providing refreshments at the Village Hall throughout the weekend where there will also be displays and stalls add interest to a well-earned pause in physical activities.

We shall limit numbers going on each walk or attending each event for safety reasons so it would be wise to book if you are interested in coming along. We shall be posting full details on the Village Hall website of all walks and associated events; this will also give booking details. You can also see updates on our Walking Festival Facebook page. If you would like to be directly posted with developments as they arise, email Lynn on office@lenergy-assessor.co.uk and she will put you on a circulation list to receive the Walking Festival Newsletter.

We still have some scope for more events so if anyone feels they would like to lead a walk or arrange something else particularly on Saturday, don't be shy, do get in touch. For more information please contact:

Carol Brodie 01454317471/cbrosecottage@gmail.com

Lynn Edwards 01454 323 848 / 07973 166 692/ office@lenergy-assessor.co.uk