

THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



PUBLISHED FOR THE HORTON AND LITTLE SODBURY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

May 2012

Deadline for articles for the next edition 1st July 2012

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11 th May	History Soc visit to Sezincote near Stow *
16 th May	Horton Toddlers Group *
16 th May	History Soc exhibition at Yate Heritage Centre *
24 th May	Horton Village Hall AGM *
1 st Jun	Horton School Diamond Jubilee Street Party *
1 st Jun	Diamond Jubilee Pub Night *
6 th Jun	WI Garden Meeting *
12 th Jun	Volunteer Centre Open Day Yate *
15-24 Jun	Chipping Sodbury Festival
3 rd Jul	WI Indoor Meeting *
5 th Aug	Village Olympics party
18 th Aug	Horse race night, Horton Village Hall
16 th Sep	Village Golf
27 th Oct	Horton Village Hall Barn Dance
28 th Oct	Winter Bull Run

* More information elsewhere in Newsletter

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

VILLAGE HALL AGM

The AGM of the Horton & Little Sodbury Village Hall committee will be held on Thursday 24th May at 7.30pm in the village hall. This is a public meeting and anyone can attend; all will be welcome. This is your opportunity to raise issues, make suggestions and offer to take up volunteer roles (e.g editing the newsletter).

WALKING FESTIVAL

A group on Hawkesbury Knoll enjoying the



weather on the Saturday walking programme!

HORTON WALKING FESTIVAL APRIL 2012

The festival took place over three days in what has been the wettest April since records began. Despite the weather many of the planned walks took place including those involving pupils and staff from Horton Primary School, groups from the South Gloucestershire Active programme and the Sodbury Vale Benefice. In addition individuals and family groups joined walks to Hawkesbury Knoll, Lower Woods, a Horton Heritage walk and the Iron Age fort. Outside bodies who led walks included the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and the Cotswold Warden Service. Members of the Hogweed Trotters led an early morning run over the nearby fields. Sadly the two walks planned for Sunday morning were cancelled. The shorter Sunday walk took place and the special opening at Horton Court continued.



A large number of interested people turned up to listen to a talk about trekking given by Brian Jarvis and twelve teams took part in a quiz night at the Social club on the Saturday evening.

The organisers would like to say a very big thank you not only to the participants but also to the many people who just came along to support the festival by having breakfast, coffee, lunch or tea and enjoyed food and drink in a pleasant setting with good company.

The raffle was won by Alan Singleton with Jacki Hebblethwaite taking second prize.

This festival would not have taken place without the many people involved having given up a great deal of time and energy to prepare, organise and help. So a great big thank you to walk organisers, cake and

soup makers, the Horton village Social Club, Landowners, our sponsors Hobbs House and Altrax and everyone else who gave up their time to help and support in any way.

A significant amount of money was raised to help towards the upkeep of our village hall through bar takings, food and raffle sales, plus the sale of our locally made Horton cider jelly [one or two jars still available at £2.50 each for those who missed out]. Contact Carol Brodie on cbrosecottage@gmail.com for your jar.

NEWS FROM HORTON VILLAGE SCHOOL

What a busy time we have been having this spring. Our news items will give you a flavour of the exciting learning we have been doing and the experiences we have had as well as details of upcoming events – to one of which you are all invited!

Our topic for last term as was local history and we had lots of contact with, visits to the homes of, and historical information from many of you in the village; a huge thank you for this! The children's learning is the richer for this involvement. Our Junior children used a presentation format to show their learning – thank you to all those of you who came along to share this – and to share the yummy cream teas they had made. Walking down the hill with the children is now accompanied by 'Did you know ...?' as a result of their investigations!

As usual the children have been out and about doing various activities. Our Juniors sang at the Colston Hall as part of a schools choir event and will be there again on 18th May when they will be performing in the foyer space just before the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain perform on the main stage. This is probably the biggest event we have done so far so, if you were thinking of or have already booked to see the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain on the 18th May, make sure you come along early so you can see us too – if you haven't booked for the main concert you can still come along and see us anyway as entry to the foyer is free! We will be performing from 6:50 – 7:20 pm.

It's not only musical things that the children have been doing lately either. We have had various teams out playing Tag Rugby. Our year 4/5/6 team did really well in their tournament at Dursley and even managed to stay quite clean! Our cross country runners will be at Little Stoke competing this week – they are not so good at staying clean, particularly with the weather we have had recently!

WI PROGRAMME FOR 2012

The next two events are on 6th June (a garden meeting – hopefully the rain will have abated) and 3rd July (a talk about underwater treasure hunting).

For more information contact Lynn Edwards on 07973 166692.

TODDLER GROUP

On Wednesday 16th May at Horton Village Hall the Horton Toddler Group is having Inspiration (the pottery and ceramics lady) come so that the babies or children can do hand or foot print on ceramic. This should result in lovely mugs and plates as great ideas for Fathers Day or as special keepsakes. All are welcome to come to Toddlers' sessions on any Wednesday in term time 10am until 11.30am.

Marina Hawker

DIAMOND JUBILEE PUB NIGHT

You are cordially invited to come along and join us for a "Pub Night" at Horton Village Hall on Friday 1st June.

In the hall, there will be a variety of films depicting the royal events, including the coronation, the silver jubilee etc.

The bar will be open from 6:30 onwards for the sale of alcoholic beverages and bar snacks. Also the patio doors will be open to allow us to sit out in the wonderful sunshine and enjoy the ambiance. So why not join us for what promises to be a great evening?

HORSE RACING EVENING

A fun Horse Racing event is planned at Horton Village Hall for Saturday the 18th August. It will be a light-hearted affair that will include gentle participation for those who wish. A supper and bar is also planned. Please make a note in your diary; it should be fun.

Barbera Denton

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

Volunteers Week is a national annual celebration of volunteering between 1-7th June. This year, due to the bank holidays during that week, Yate Volunteer Centre will be holding its own event on 12th June, when we will be having a special 'volunteering surgery' in Yate Library. Anyone interested in volunteering can come and see us at our desk in the main library between 11am and 2pm. We will be able to give information and advice about volunteering and will also be happy to discuss any volunteering related matters with local groups who are seeking advice. No need to book, just drop in and have a chat with us!

The Volunteer Centre Yate is based in Yate Library and covers not only Yate, but the wider surrounding rural areas. Our website is www.yatevoluntarylink.org.uk.

Carole Zorzo



around the playground. A fun day was had by all! Some of the children also did a Readathon and raised £200.



the Saviour gave hope to us all. Our school services are open to everyone to come along. Our next service in St James' is our End of Year Leavers service on Thursday 19th July at 2:00 pm; you would be most welcome to attend.

These last two terms of the year are set to be full of interest and excitement. Our topic is, of course, the Olympics! We are joining with other local schools to have our own mini Olympics and you may well see our very own Olympic Torch being run from Hawkesbury to Horton on May 31st about 11:50 a.m. ready for a meeting of Olympic ambassadors from the schools in our cluster, who will be creating our very own Olympic Charter. The actual events themselves all take place between 11th June and 11th July at various school locations and I know the children will really enjoy taking part. If you have any knowledge of the Olympics at any location, maybe you have been to some yourself, and would be willing to share your experiences then we would love to hear from you – please contact Lesley in the school office.

You are all invited to the Diamond Jubilee Horton School Street Party on Friday 1st June between 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm, to be held on the school playground. The dress code is 1950's and there will be bunting, tea and 1950's music to get the party going! It would be lovely to see you there - RSVP the school office (Lesley.leahey@southglos.gov.uk or call 01454 318834). We will be putting fliers through your doors and you may even be asked if you would like to enter our Jubilee Raffle which will be drawn that afternoon – there are some great prizes including a Jubilee Hamper.

DUCKS AT THE VILLAGE POND

In the Ordnance Survey publication "A Recreational Path Guide to the Cotswold Way", there is a description of the main sights to be appreciated on entering Horton:

"The route passes Horton Court, at the heart of which is a single storey Norman hall house, home to the prebendary of the adjoining church.....Turn left at the road. The small pond opposite contains a very large duck population".

For the past few years, walkers looking forward to meeting the very large duck population will have been disappointed as the said population has fallen away, maybe as a result of Mr Fox, duck thieves, drought, emigration or a combination of these factors. The pond has been sadly vacant. The Newsletter is therefore pleased to report that due to the efforts of David and Linda Bricknell at The Cottage (on whose land the pond is located), ducks have been reintroduced to the pond.



The whole school enjoyed kicking off the Horton Walking Festival and would like to thank Carol Brodie and Lynn Edwards for accompanying us on our walk and for the delicious biscuits they made for the end of the walk.

Our World Book Day was a colourful event with many wizards, princesses, adventurers, pirates and Mr Men characters arriving for school. The children shared their favourite stories, took part in drama events and created poems from words hidden

Our term ended with our Easter Service at St James the Elder. The children had studied the Easter Story using colours to link thoughts and feelings at different parts in the story. The singing was, as usual, magical – especially the infants with their Spring Chicken song! All the colours came together at the end in a Rainbow of Hope, showing that through his death Jesus

CHURCH NEWS

Services take place as usual at Horton Church and Little Sodbury Church during May and June at 11.15 am and 6pm respectively.

FOR SALE

Delicious Dorset Down Lamb

Our half lamb packs will be available from June @ £70.00.

The lambs are reared completely naturally – as near to organic as you can get!

The meat is fully jointed and labelled by Artlingstall's Butchers in Chipping Sodbury. Packs include shoulder and leg joints, loin chops, chump chops, breast, kidney, liver and mince.

For more information or to order, please contact us on 01454 318002 or email pearce@widdenhill.freeserve.co.uk – first come first served!

Jenny & Simon Pearce

Widdenhill Farm

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.dolmancatering.co.uk.

Car for sale

For sale - 2007/07 BMW 320d SE Touring (2 litre diesel estate)

- 42000 miles, one owner from new.
- 11 months tax; 3 months MOT.
- Fully serviced from new.
- Excellent condition.

Accessories include:

- In-car sat. nav.
- Leather seats/walnut trim.
- Cruise control.
- Rear parking sensors.
- Heated front seats.
- Air conditioning.
- Xenon headlights.
- Alarm/immobiliser.

£11,400 ono

Contact: Paul Denton (01454 319889)

So far, there is one male and one female mallard duck who appear to be settling into their new home, especially with the current abundance of rain which has filled the pond.

As a result of careful selection and some genetic modification, it is expected that the new occupants will be far more resilient to the advances of predators or even stray pellets emanating from pheasant shoots. Passers-by however are requested not to feed the ducks or to throw bread into the pond. This could imbalance the special diet on which the ducks are being reared and could even suppress their natural mating instincts.

We wish the ducks a long and happy life in the Cottage Pond and if "Ronseal" does exactly what it says on the tin, there is no reason to doubt that the ducks will be there for many future generations of walkers to enjoy.

From our wildlife correspondent.

PROVISION OF TEAS AT HORTON COURT OPEN DAYS

After the very successful summer last year we are holding teas again in the Church when the Court opens. This will be on Tuesday with the Village Hall and school organising them, and on Friday and Sunday with the Church organising them. We are looking for volunteers to help with the Church serving teas on Fridays and Sundays in June, July and August. We hope to have three people each session which runs from 1.30pm – 4.30pm. We would welcome all help so if you can do one or more sessions through the summer please let Ros Farrell know on r.farrell@gmx.co.uk or 325336. Last year over 30 people helped in one way or another. If you can help on Tuesdays in June and July please contact Carol Brodie, and Sarah Gray for Tuesdays in August. We will be putting a call out for cake baking nearer the time.

Ros Farrell

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Thank you for all your cards and messages of condolence that we received on hearing that Tony had passed away. As it was so sudden, it was a shock to all of us. He had been so well, and was going for his usual walks around the village, and stopping to chat with people on the way. He was always happy to meet people. It is a great loss to the family, not having him here, and seeing him busy in the garden that he took such pride in.

Once again thank you for attending the funeral service and for your support on the day and since then.

Yours Edna, Nick & Mark Quinlan and families

SUCCESS IN THE BATH HALF MARATHON

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me in aid of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research in the Bath Half Marathon that took place on 11th March. I was very pleased to make it around the course in the heat (happy memories – Ed.) and was equally happy with my time of 2:06 for my first attempt at this distance. I have raised a total of £690. Thank you everyone.

Emma Febry



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP NEWS

There are three items of interest this time around.

Firstly (and quite soon) there is a trip for the Horton Historical Society (but anyone can come) to the country house of Sezincote, near Stow, on Friday 11th May- meet at the Horton Village Hall at 12.30. Sezincote was what gave George (the Prince Regent) the idea for the Brighton Pavilion. The visit itself will be just as members of the public - no special tour - so that we can sample their nice teas and cakes in the Orangery. For more information contact Alan Singleton - akssingleton@hotmail.com.

Secondly, the local history group has been preparing material for an exhibition at Yate Heritage Centre on local shops. The text of Horton's display board is contained in Part 2 of this newsletter - to tempt you to come to the opening on Wednesday 16th May at 7.30pm at the centre. There will also be folders of supplementary material, and ours will

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER

The primary mechanism for distributing the newsletter is 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.

have reminiscences from Horton people about its shops and post-offices and trades. If you're new to the village, come and learn about its past. The exhibition will continue until July, if you can't come to the opening. For more information contact Maggie White – maggiewhite.mw@gmail.com.

Finally you may be interested to know that a geophysical survey of Horton hill fort is planned for June/July of this year. This will be conducted by the Community Archaeology Officer of South Glos. Council, with support from the Yate & District Archaeology Group and the Horton History Society. This is quite a large site to survey and will probably require volunteers from these local societies to cover the ground adequately. If you are interested in following developments or actively helping then you should contact one of these local societies – be aware that some training would be necessary and that magnetometer surveys require personnel to be metal-free.

FIRST FULL PEAL OF THE HORTON CHURCH BELLS

The first full peal of the Horton Church bells in recorded history took place on Sunday 8th April 2012 under the auspices of the Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association. Members of the ringing team were: Rex Isaac (1), John Cornock (2), Jane D Bull (3), David A C Matthews (4), David J Kelly (5), Andrew M Bull (6). The full peal, known technically as a 5040 Plain Bob Major, was completed in 2hr 57min.

In the past (since 1649) the church bells had been a ring of five but they had become unusable in 1914. Now fully renovated and extended to a ring of six bells, the full peal was rung to the memory of the late Rev. Gordon H Edwards, whose vision the restored and augmented ring was, and whose tenacity through a five year battle saw the scheme to fruition.

Congratulations are due to Rex Isaac as the first Horton ringer to ring a full peel on the recently restored bells - he may never venture there again. We also need some new ringers to start learning now to augment the main group. We also have four very experienced ringers who assist us so you will be getting tuition of the highest order. Our usual practice night is on a Wednesday followed by a very social drink at the Social Club. Horton tower is known for its relaxed attitude so if you want to try bell ringing with no pressure please contact Rex Isaac or any of the regular ringers for more information.

Richard Needs

ENERGY NEIGHBOURHOODS

Is anyone interested in the idea of saving 9% on their fuel bills? If you are, read on.

The Energy Neighbourhood project is looking for groups of people, anywhere between 5 and 18 households to form a team. The team will be given support, encouragement, advice and incentives to help them individually and collectively reduce their household energy consumption by 9% between 1 December 2012 and 31 March 2013. The key to this project is that the energy savings be made by behavioural change only – no investment is needed. The project helps people make the connection between household energy consumption and how they do things around the home. The savings are monitored through the participants taking weekly energy meter readings and inputting them onto the website which then demonstrates any savings made (or not).

Each group will need an energy master - this is someone who will receive training on how to save energy in the home and who will encourage and support the rest of their group and will be able to monitor how the group is doing.

For more information on the project see the website www.energyneighbourhoods.org.uk. This provides more information on the project (particularly the 'how it works' page).

As you will have noticed the project doesn't officially start until Dec 2012; however there is work to do ahead of this such as training the energy master and getting participants to gather together past energy bills.

I've asked the Editor to include this in the newsletter as I wondered whether anyone else would be interested in getting together to make up a team. Apparently in the last phase of the competition there were 3 teams from South Glos and they did very well. As some of you will already be aware my business does involve energy efficiency (I'm a Domestic Energy Assessor); however I would like to make it clear that I am only putting the idea forward on a personal front: my business will not benefit; my only financial benefit will be through the energy that Chris and myself may save if we take part.

If you are interested in being involved please email me on office@lenergy-assessor.co.uk. If no one gets in touch I will just presume that I am the only sandal-wearing, nut & berry eating environmentalist in the village and will just have to continue to go around turning off the lights alone!!

Lynn Edwards (07973 166 692)