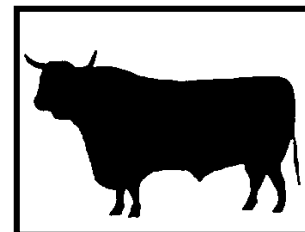


HORTON AND LITTLE SODBURY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Edited by Horton and Little Sodbury Village Hall Committee
Further information of events and news on www.halsvh.org.uk



April 2023

Please send items for next newsletter by 19th May 2023 to newsletter@halsvh.org.uk

Editorial

Ok, ok ... so we are still going to have a series of "guest editors" for this bi-monthly newsletter, but Tony Wake realised the prospect of sending this out on 1st April, and couldn't resist the opportunity of doing this just one more time. Yes ... 1st April ... you have been warned !

But if you would like your chance to be guest editor for a month, then please e-mail us on newsletter@halsvh.org.uk

Following your feedback, we are going to continue with the "two versions" of the newsletter - the abridged version readable in the e-mail, and a fuller version in the attached PDF. Please let us know what you think. And lastly, if you have anything you would like included in the next newsletter ... from the school, from the Social Club, from local organisations and clubs, from anything happening in the village, then please let us know by 19th May – e-mails sent to newsletter@halsvh.org.uk

Thank you.

Dates for the Diary

Here is a list of what will be happening in and around Horton & Little Sodbury in the next few months

Horton Bull Run	Sun 23 rd Apr.	- see below for details
Coronation Day Party	Sat 6 th May	- see below for details
Cheese & Wine quiz evening	Fri 16 th Jun	- details to follow
GreenMatthews' Witty Ditties	Fri 8 th Sep	- see below for details
National Hopping Day	Thu 29 th Feb '24	- see below for details

Boxercise classes are every Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6.30- 7.30pm

– no need to book ahead

Pilates classes have resumed

– please contact Sue Webb on sue@coreandmore.co.uk for more information.

Did you know ...

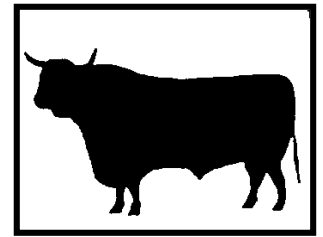
The "sixth sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick" is believed to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

There are 195 countries in the world recognised by the UN. However, none of them start with the letters W or X.

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Dates for the Diary in detail

The famous Horton Bull Run

Sunday 23rd April @ Horton Village Hall

A date for your diary.

Why not spend a sunny Sunday morning enjoying a scenic 4 mile run through the Horton countryside. Starting at Horton Village Hall at 10.30 on Sunday 23rd April, the Bull Run is road run catering for all abilities. Hope to see you there.

Pre-entry is encouraged – Adult entry £9.00 and Child entry £6.00

More details available by calling 01454 319889 or 07501 808468,
or e-mailing hortonbullrun@ymail.com (yes – ymail.com!)
or by visiting the site www.hortonbullrun.co.uk



The Coronation Day Party

Saturday 6th May @ Horton Village Hall

A date for your diary.

Watch the Coronation with friends on the big screen at the Village Hall. There will be children's games, fancy dress and lots of fun. All finished off with a Coronation high tea.

More details to follow. Hope to see you there.

GreenMatthews present Witty Ditties

Friday 8th Sept @ Horton Village Hall

Another date for your diary.

Chris Green and Sophie Matthews are returning to Horton in September. They are modern-day balladeers, specialising in story telling through song. Following on from their acclaimed show "A Brief History of Music", GreenMatthews have a new show which explores our rich history of witty wordplay and melodic mirth.

Chris Green (piano, guitar, accordion) and Sophie Matthews (early woodwinds, flute, saxophone) summarise 4 centuries of chromatic comedy, ranging from bawdy Restoration ballads to stinging Sixties satire. Featuring songs by Noël Coward, Tom Lehrer, Flanders and Swann and a host of other lesser-known songwriters, this fun and fast-moving revue will have you rolling in the aisles!

Doors open at 7pm, with concert starting at 7:30 ... and yes, the bar will be open !!

Tickets are £15 (+ booking charge) and are available via <https://hortonwittyditties.eventbrite.co.uk>

Book your tickets now to secure your seat – it's likely to be a sell out !! Hope to see you there.



National Hopping Day

Thu 29th Feb 2024 @ Horton Village Hall

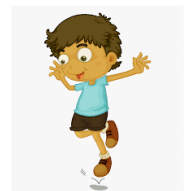
Now a date for your 2024 diary.



To celebrate National Hopping Day, there will be a "fun run" with a difference.

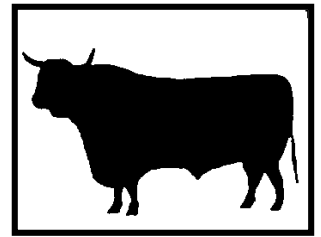
Starting at the Village Hall, but following the course of the Bull Run, participants will be asked to "hop" around the 4 mile course, whilst adhering to the official Olympic hopping regulations.

More details to follow – "hop" to see you there !!



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What else has happened

Solving the Great Stink – a talk by Brian Jarvis

At the Village Hall back in February, Brian Jarvis gave a fascinating talk about one of his (engineering) heroes, Joseph Bazalgette, and how he saved thousands of lives by designing and constructing a network of underground sewers. These would then take the effluent out to treatment stations in east London before discharge into the Thames ... and this network is still being used today.

It really was an entertaining and informative talk on an extraordinary topic about a remarkable man.

Donations from the evening's talk went to our Christmas (Tumaini UK) appeal – a further £124 was raised, bringing the overall total to £454.

Many thanks Brian – you really are “effluent” speaker ! (sorry – Ed)

Ninebarrow returned to Horton



Yes, the multi award winning folk duo, Ninebarrow, did return to Horton Village Hall in mid-March and played to a sell-out audience of 80 people. This was Jon and Jay's fifth visit at the hall where they provided a truly splendid and hugely entertaining evening.

Looking forward to their sixth visit ... possibly sometime in July 2024.



(P.S. This concert also gave us the opportunity to try out our new stage lighting ... they worked a treat !)

The Fat Boys Burns Supper

The Fat Boys in Lycra write :

On 25th January 2023, the village hall reverberated to the rafters with diners enjoying a three-course dinner with coffee and, of course, a 'wee dram' or two (or three!) of whisky in honour of Scotland's finest - Robert Burns.

Bob McHolloway gave a moving introduction, Keith McBarlow gave a rousing Address to the Haggis, David McBannister played the 'bagpipes' and the Fat Boys cooked up a storm! The proceeds of over £1200 were divided equally between supporting the Village Hall and sending aid to Ukraine via the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

Thanks to all who came and joined in to make this a fun evening!



You “wood” not believe what’s happening at the Village Hall ...

Yes, it's déjà vu all over again 😊



You will remember that back in November 2022, we planted over 400 trees around the field at Horton Village Hall. Well, we have been donated a further 100 “wild wood” saplings (consisting of holly, hazel, crab apple, downy birch, hawthorn, goat willow) by the Woodland Trust.

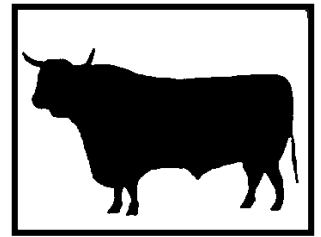
A happy band, with spades and wellies, came along to the hall at the end of March and planted them around the field.

Thanks to all who came along for their tree-mendous effort, and apologies for acorn-y joke !



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What else is happening

Versa-tile tiles available

Double roman red tiles available - also a few pan tiles.
Is there anyone in the village who might want to have these?
If so, please contact Terry Boulton, Mapleridge 01454 312987

Welcome to the village

Please extend a warm welcome to Michael and Chanel Maguire and family who have recently moved into Bix House in Wood Lane. Looking forward to meeting you at the local village events.

Update on the Phone Box Library

Carolyn Plows writes :

After its unfortunate collision with a car, the Horton phone box library has sadly been inaccessible for some months. Happily, and having been gently shunted back onto its base, it is now open again. While it still requires a paint refresh, it is available for the borrowing of a wide selection of adult books, with our small children's section gradually expanding again as books in good condition are kindly donated (more are welcome, thank you). Do come and have a look when you're passing.



Potholes in Horton

Sally Batten writes :

There is a significant problem with potholes along King Lane, outside Horton Farm and Vinney Lane. I have written to the council but would be grateful if others could participate in an email regarding this problem I have had 2 punctures in 24 hours and driving carefully.

The roads are appalling and in need of urgent repair.

A cyclist sustained an unpleasant accident also over the weekend.

News from Horton Church

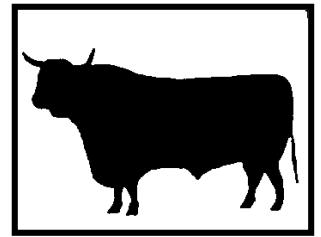
Richard Winsborrow writes :

As many of you will know, our Rector (David Bowers) retired last year. Steps have been taken to recruit a replacement, but this is proving to be a time-consuming process. Nevertheless, a full range of services is being offered to the community in the interim; these are being conducted by a team of (partially) retired clergy and the Curate attached to the Benefice.

The summer teas programme last year was very successful both from a social and a fund-raising perspective. Many thanks to all of you who participated in what proved to be a set of enjoyable events for those not concerned with calorie control. We hope to run a similar programme in 2023.

As you will recollect one of the key drivers for the teas was fund-raising for roof repairs. The 2022 programme actually collected somewhat in excess of £3k for this purpose. Together with specific one-off donations this has been sufficient to commission the first stages of the roof repairs – namely a detailed site survey and the development of a specification of required works.

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The site survey took place in mid-February. We expect that the detailed specification of works will follow on in the near future. At that point we will have a more accurate picture of the total funding requirement. We expect the total cost to be in excess of an initial ball-park estimate of £80K. In addition, to local fund-raising activities it is clear that we will need to submit requests for funding from several organisations that make grants to churches for repair and maintenance purposes. Recently, for instance, Arlingham Church obtained grants from nine sources for similar purposes.



There is an annual meeting organised by the church management committee which all parishioners are invited to attend. The meeting is scheduled for 25th April starting at 7pm this year. It takes the form of three meetings held in sequence: the first is the Annual Meeting of Parishioners at which churchwardens are elected; the second is the so-called Annual Parochial Church Meeting which takes reports on progress and the finances over the past year and elects new members to the church management committee (aka Parochial Church Council); and, finally, a PCC meeting to set dates for its further meetings for the year. You are welcome to participate in these meetings. If you wish to do so please send an email to hpcc@tadorna.org.uk for further details. A venue for the meeting will be selected based on the level of expected participation.

Finally, it goes almost without saying, that it is always great to see new faces at services, so please come along and join us, and if you'd like to be more involved in any of our activities please let us know.

News from Horton School

Hannah Murray writes :

Horton School's year 5 & 6 class went on a 2-night residential trip to PGL, near Swindon on the last week of term. The weather was wet and windy but they still enjoyed the canoeing, fencing, climbing and team building activities. They all came back needing a shower, washing machine and their own bed to sleep in! On Thursday 30th March the pupils of Horton School had their Easter Service at St James the Elder. The audience enjoyed seeing the children perform and the sunshine streaming through the windows! The pupils walked to and from the church in the dry, luckily.

Afterwards the Friends of Horton School put on the Easter Fair in the village hall. The fair included refreshments, games (chocolate tombola, guess the number of Easter eggs in the jar, pin the tail on the rabbit, guess the name of the stuffed rabbit toy, lucky dip, find the buried treasure on the map) and craft. The year 6 children designed and ran the games to fundraise for a charity.

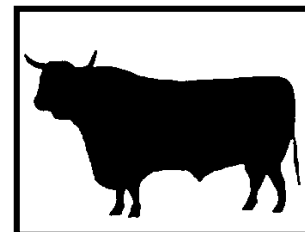
U3A in Yate and Chipping Sodbury

Many of you might be unaware of the national organisation U3A or The University of the Third Age. This is intended for people who are fully or semi-retired, but rest assured that no one is "old" or past it!

There is a thriving, active group based in Yate and Chipping Sodbury, offering over 80 interest groups covering topics from Art to Walking, Badminton to Ukulele lessons. These are organised by volunteers, and costs are minimal. The majority of sessions are during the day, but some are held in the evenings. There is a free monthly meeting on a Friday afternoon when everyone is welcome to come along, find out more about U3A, and listen to a visiting speaker.

You can find out more about the U3A on this link: <https://u3asites.org.uk/yate-sodbury/welcome>

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Useful Local Information

Horton & Little Sodbury Village Hall

Web site: www.halsvh.org.uk
Chair chairman@halsvh.org.uk
Hall bookings emma@halsvh.org.uk or on 01454 322879

Quick Quiz

Answers to last edition's quiz

- 1..In which city is the Eurovision Song Contest 2023 to be held?
And in which city was it held previously? **Liverpool. Turin (Italy)**
2. Officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 1973, October 20th sees the 50th anniversary of which iconic building? **Sydney Opera House**
3. How old will King Charles be on the day of his coronation on the 6th May?**74**
4. Which three word phrase accredited to Sir Alex Ferguson has made it into the Oxford English Dictionary? **Squeaky Bum Time**
5. The actor Ryan Reynolds is part-owner of which football club? **Wrexham FC**

5 quick questions to test your general knowledge. Answers provided in next edition

- 1.. Carlo Lorenzini, better known by the pen name Carlo Collodi is best known for writing what?
2. How many edges does an octahedron have?
3. Whose last words were "I'm going to the bathroom to read"?
4. What was the name of the best selling game on the Sony PlayStation, released in 1997 ?
5. In what year was the county of Avon abolished and the area split between four new unitary authorities: Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ?

And yes ... there are no countries in the world that begin with the letter W.
Although Wales is a country, it is not a sovereign state and is therefore not a member of the UN.

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