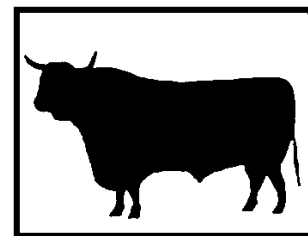




HORTON AND LITTLE SODBURY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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



December 2023

Please send items for next newsletter by 26th January 2024 to newsletter@halsvh.org.uk

Editorial

To misquote the great Bing Crosby "Are you dreaming of a White Christmas?". Well, anything has got to be better than all this rain we've been having !!. And I'm guessing from all the merchandise in the shops and the piped Christmas music, that we are nearly there. So welcome to our December edition of the newsletter. And what a bumper edition we have (in this pdf version of the newsletter). We have Dates for the diary; we have review of what has happened recently; we have updates of things of local interest ... and we have Christmas Cracker jokes and a Christmas quiz. What more could you possibly want !!

Now, if you have anything you would like included in the next newsletter ... from the school, from the church, from the Social Club, from local organisations and clubs, from anything happening in the village, then please let us know by 26th January 2024 – e-mails sent to newsletter@halsvh.org.uk

Thank you.



And ... we hope that you have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Dates for the Diary

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

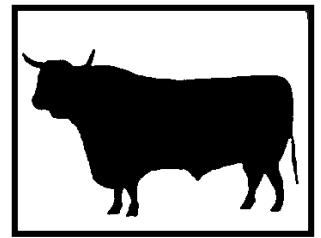
Horton Christmas Card Evening	Fri 1 st Dec	- see below for details
Tree planting event at King Lane, Horton	Wed 6 th Dec	- see below for details
Craft Fair	Sat 9 th Dec	- see below for details
Upper Horton v Lower Horton Skittles match	Wed 13 th Dec	- see below for details
Christmas Tractor Run	Sun 17 th Dec	- see below for details
St James', Horton, Carol Service	Sun 17 th Dec	- see below for details
St Adeline's Carol Service	Fri 22 nd Dec	- see below for details
Carols & Cocoa at the Shepherds Hut	Sat 23 rd Dec	- see below for details
Christmas Day at the Social Club	Mon 25 th Dec	- It's Christmas !
New Year's Eve at the Social Club	Sun 31 st Dec	- see below for details
Hawkesbury & Horton WI talk	Tue 2 nd Jan '24	- see below for details
Hawkesbury Community Library	5 th & 19 th Jan '24	- see below for details
Babes in the Wood panto at Chipping Sodbury	12 th to 20 th Jan '24	- see below for details
The Horton Quiz Trilogy	19 th Jan / 16 th Feb / 15 th Mar	- see below for details
Hawkesbury & Horton WI Jigsaw race	Tue 4 th Feb '24	- see below for details

Boxercise classes are every Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6.30- 7.30pm at Village Hall.

Pilates classes starting again – see below or contact Sue Webb on sue@coreandmore.co.uk.

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Dates for the Diary in detail

The Village Christmas Card sign-up evening

Fri 1st Dec. @ Horton Village Hall

A date for your diary.

In the words of the great Noddy Holder ... "It's Christmas !" ... well, nearly ... but let's start getting into the Christmas spirit !!. The doors will open at Horton & Little Sodbury Village Hall on Friday 1st December at 7pm for a good ol' fashioned pre-Christmas get-together. The bar will be open, there will be mince pies and mulled wine, a quiz, and, if you are lucky, we may even sing some Christmas carols.

We will also be launching the traditional Village e-Christmas Card, which, this year, will be supporting local charities (including the St James' Church Roof Appeal, and Little Sodbury Church).

(Ed –Christmas joke anyone ?? My gardener friend said to me this morning "I'm going to dig a deep hole in the garden and fill it with water". I thought "ah – he means well !! ")

Tree planting event

Wed 6th Dec. @ King Lane, Horton

Emily Dymond - Communications and General Assistant for Forrest of Avon trust writes :

Hello Horton and Little Sodbury villagers!



We are the Forest of Avon, the West of England's community forest, planting trees and creating woodlands across the region for people to enjoy and wildlife to thrive.

We are messaging to let you know about our tree planting event on 6th of December in King Lane, Horton between 10am and 3pm. At this site we'll be planting wood pasture trees adjacent to the Little Avon River.

We'd love to get some volunteers or groups of volunteers signed up – and a day of tree planting is a great way to spend time outdoors, take in the fresh air and feel good about making your local area a little bit greener!

Links to sign up:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/volunteer-tree-planting-horton-south-glos-tickets-760582912967?aff=oddttdcreator>

Craft Fair

Sat 9th Dec. @ Old Grammar School, C/S.

A date for your diary.

There will be a craft fair at the Old Grammar School in Chipping Sodbury on Saturday 9th December.

It will be in aid of Huntington's Disease Association and the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity.

Entry is free, and refreshments are available.

The event is being run by the friends, family and members of the U3A Quilters.



Upper Horton v Lower Horton Men's Skittles Match 13th Dec. @ Horton Social Club



A date for your diary.

There is the traditional Upper Horton v Lower Horton Men's Skittles Match on Wednesday 13th December at the Horton Social Club. The club opens 7.30pm. All comers are very welcome.

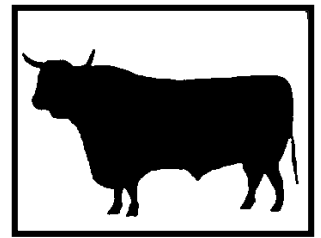
There is already talk of a fish & chips run for those that want.

Be great to see you all there.



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St James' Church Carol Service

Sun 17th Dec. @ St James' Church

A date for your diary.

Martin May writes:

There is to be a Carol Service at St James's Church, Horton on Sunday 17th December.

Breaking with tradition, this service will be held at 11.15 in the morning; hopefully this will encourage many of you who don't want to battle the elements on a dark, wet windy night!

There will be the traditional carols and perhaps (of course!) a glass of something afterwards.

The Christmas Eve service will be held on Sunday 24th December, starting at 6pm when they will celebrate Holy Communion. Mulled wine will be served on arrival at 5.30.

Christmas Tractor Run

Sun 17th Dec. @ Horton Social Club

A date for your diary.

There will be a Christmas Tractor Run on Sunday 17th December, starting and finishing at Horton Social Club. Registration is at 9:30am, with the Tractor Run starting at 10:45 sharp.

Please come along and cheer the tractors around the route, taking them to Hawkesbury via Highfield Lane, then back to Horton Social Club for some family entertainment including a raffle and auction. There will also be homemade pizzas in the afternoon and professional karaoke from 5 pm.



St Adeline's Church Carol Service

Fri 22nd Dec. @ St Adeline's Church

A date for your diary.

There is to be a Carol Service at St Adeline's Church, Little Sodbury on Friday 22nd December.

The service will start at 6pm, with light refreshments being served afterwards.

The Benefice Service will be held on Sunday 31st December, starting at 10.30am

Carols and Cocoa at the Shepherds Hut

Sat 23rd Dec. @ Little Sodbury

Lots of things happening at the Shepherds Hut

Firstly, plans are being put together for the Prayer, Peace and Reflection garden- which is being designed by a local garden designer. More details and hopefully pictures will be posted shortly.

Also, be on the lookout for the Christmas tree that is going up at the start of December.

And lastly, there will be a Carols and Cocoa fundraising event on Saturday 23rd December from 3-5pm.

Tickets are £10 per person, and are available from Brenda Cordy via email at brendacordy370@gmail.com

More things happening at the Social club

Mon 25th Dec. @ Horton Social Club

and Sun 31st Dec. @ Horton Social Club

More dates for your diary.

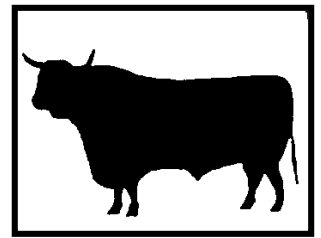
The Horton Social Club will be opening its doors from 11am till 1pm on Christmas Day. All welcome.

Come have a drink before Christmas lunch

And then, on New Year's Eve, they are open again !! You will be able to dance the night away to disco music !.

Entry is free, and you are welcome to bring a plate of food.

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(Ed – I got my friend a fridge for his Christmas present. I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it.)

Hawkesbury & Horton WI talk

Tue 2nd Jan. @ Hawkesbury

A date for your diary.

Jenny Harris from H&H WI writes :

Hawkesbury & Horton WI, Tuesday 2nd January at 7.30pm in Hawkesbury Village Hall.

Talk on ADHD and Autism by Tiggy Greenwood. Visitors welcome £4 a session.



Hawkesbury Community Library

5th & 19th Jan. @ Hawkesbury

A date for your diary.

Jenny Harris from H&H WI writes :

Hawkesbury Community Library at Hawkesbury Village Hall 5th and 19th January 2024 between 2.30pm and 4pm. There'll be tea and cakes, and children's crafts. All welcome.

Chipping Sodbury Players presents ...

12th to 20th Jan. @ Town Hall C/S

Panto is back !! Oh yes it is !!!

The Sodbury players are putting on their traditional panto "Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood" at Chipping Sodbury Town Hall between the 12th to the 20th January. If you want to get tickets for this tale as old as tights, then just head to the website www.sodburyplayers.org.uk

(Ed – in the true spirit of panto ... So I was talking to my friend and said "I bet you can't name a single subject I don't know a joke about". He said "Beavers". I said "Dam !")

(Ed – same friend ... I tried to explain a joke about mould removal to him, but he couldn't see the fungicide.)



The Horton Quiz Trilogy returns !!

starting Fri 19th Jan. @ Horton Village Hall

Dates for your diary.



Yes, the great Horton Quiz Trilogy returns to Horton, starting at 7pm on Friday 19th January, and then again on the 16th February and lastly on the 15th March. It's a maximum of 4 per team; there will be winners at each quiz, but also the scores will be accumulated over the three nights to award an overall winner.

Watch this space for more details nearer the time

(Ed – The tiles, A,E,I,O,and U were discovered in a dead scrabble players stomach. Vowel play is suspected.)

Hawkesbury & Horton WI Jigsaw Race

Tue 4th Feb. @ Hawkesbury

A date for your diary.

Jenny Harris from H&H WI writes :

Jigsaw Race Tuesday 4th February 2 -4 pm at Hawkesbury Village Hall. Teams of four at £5 each.

For more details, call Louise on 07817 226612.

Christmas Cracker Jokes ...

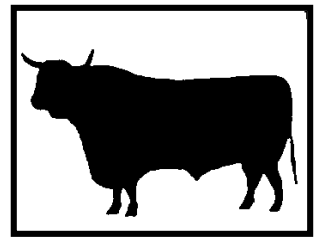
What carol is heard in the desert?

O camel ye faithful!



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What else has happened

Cheese & Wine Evening

A great (or was it grape ?) night was had by one and all at the Cheese & Wine evening held at Horton Village Hall on Friday 20th October. Much quaffing and slurping went on, and there was a quiz too ! Many thanks to Barbera and Caroline and all their other helpers for organising this wonderful event, which also raised £225 for HVH funds.



Craft Fayre and Macmillan Coffee morning

The craft fayre in aid of church funds and Macmillan provided an excellent opportunity for lots of people to get together, to have a coffee and a chat, and to purchase the many amazing goods that were on offer. The event raised a remarkable £479 for St Adeline's and £249 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Brenda Cordy writes :

I didn't realise that we had so many talented crafters in our community – incredible !
Thank you so much for supporting this event.

Mags Bond writes :

We had a great time at the Craft Fayre at Horton Village Hall. Managed to raise another £249 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Many thanks to Brenda for organising.



Christmas cards for Macmillan Cancer Support



... and speaking of Mags Bond, you may have seen from her Facebook page that she is still has some Christmas Cards left for sale. If anyone would like to buy some, they are 1 pack for £4.50 or 2 packs for £8.00. All proceeds go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Message Mags on her Facebook page for more details.

And then there's ...

Mags & Steve's sky dive

... when she and her brother-in-law Steve are going to do a sky dive in aid of Dementia UK. The sky dive is scheduled to take place on Monday 11th December.

If you would like to support her and Steve, then please go to ...

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/mags-bond-1695573604686 ...](https://www.justgiving.com/page/mags-bond-1695573604686...)

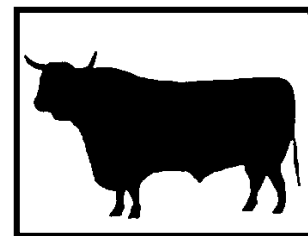


Horton & Little Sodbury Village Hall AGM

The Horton & Little Sodbury Village Hall AGM was held on the 6th November – thank you to all who came along. A number of key issues were raised, in particular the ever increasing cost of running the village hall in order to keep it available to the community, and the need for future social events to raise funds.

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The HorseHeard Coast to Coast Trail

On Friday 17th November, Alison Barlow gave an excellent presentation about her challenges and experiences when she and five colleagues rode from Coast to Coast across Britain on horseback. The courage the group and the horses displayed; the logistics of getting six riders and seven horses from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire; a journey of over 220 miles in 11 days – an amazing achievement.

Thank you to Alison for her talk and to all who came along, who helped raise £180 that was shared between HorseHeard, Children-in-Need, and the Village Hall.



Cream Teas at The Shepherd's Hut

Rev David Powe writes :

A huge thank you to all those who turned up to the Cream Tea fundraiser held on Saturday 14th October at The Shepherd's Hut. It was a huge success, raising over £1,400 which was incredible for one afternoon, an amazing turn out. So many people turned up we had to have seating outside!

Thank you to all who have signed up for the newsletter - the first of which will be coming out after Christmas

The Sodbury Slog

To say that this year's Sodbury Slog was 'a bit muddy' would be a HUGE understatement. But regardless of the conditions, over 1,000 runners completed the 10 mile course on Sunday 12th November around the Horton and Sodbury countryside ... including a few of our very own Hortonians. Many congratulations to everyone involved. Two of those taking part were Paul & Pauline Anthony, who were running to raise money for the Horton Church Renovations, alongside the Tanzanian Tumaini Orphan Support Organisation. The JustGiving link is still open for those who want to donate. Please do so if you can ... these are great causes – well done Paul & Pauline.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/HortonSodburySlogTeam2023?utm_id=1&utm_term=xZnWgkgyK

Some photos ...



The "Sheep Dip" before & after; Mike LW at the water station, runners at the Pig Trough; Pauline + a marshal.

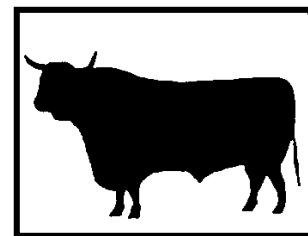
Christmas Cracker Jokes ...

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney??
Claustrophobia



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Other news

Holly's fundraising for her trip to Borneo

Holly Standerwick writes :

We are currently half way through fund raising for my trip to Borneo with Global Action in July next year.

We have successfully run a coffee morning raising over £500 and are now selling Christmas hot chocolate cones and sweet cones to raise funds.

A village quiz and a tack sale are planned for the new year!



During my trip I will be doing conservation work in the local communities, as well as teaching the primary school children English. I am excited to learn more about their culture and way of life, but also to meet the animals specific to Malaysia and Borneo, which I didn't think I would get to do, so this opportunity is extremely valuable to me.

I would like to deeply thank everyone for their generosity and encouragement surrounding this trip, as it all really counts and means a lot to me, for my life experience and my outlook on life, which I think is a really important opportunity, especially for young people.

If anyone would like to order any hot chocolate or sweets for Christmas please message 07866 981084.

Best wishes, Holly.

(Ed – wow. Well done Holly. Your trip sounds amazing. Good luck with the fundraising.)

The Village Agent Update

Please welcome Paul Jones, our new Village Agent. He is here to help, support, and give advice for residents of the Cotswold Edge area, which embraces the villages of Acton Turville, Badminton, Little Badminton, Hawkesbury Upton, Wickwar, Horton and Little Sodbury.



Paul Jones, our Village Agent writes:

My Village Agent role is overseen by WERN - a local charity promoting rural sustainability. As we approach the colder months and switch the heating on, our thoughts turn to heating costs and how energy efficient our homes are. For some people utility bills are their most significant outlay. If you are struggling with the cost of heating your home or know someone who might benefit from some help or advice, there are a couple of schemes of interest. For more information or advice, call 0800 500 3076, or visit the Website and check your eligibility at:

<https://warmandwell.co.uk/grants-and-funding/home-upgrade-grant/>

(Ed – you will find the full article at the end of this newsletter PDF.)

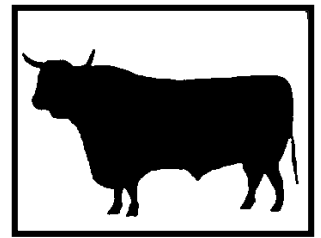
Christmas Cracker Jokes ...

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
Tinsilitis!



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Church News

Martin May writes:

We have enjoyed two well attended recent services, Harvest Festival (the church looked the part, well done to all who did the hard work) and Remembrance. Thank you to all that joined us.

Our Harvest Lunch was held on Sunday 22nd October and I think it's fair to say a good time was had by all. The day generated a profit of £1,721, which is a great boost to our day to day running costs. Well done to everyone who made the day a success.

Talking of money, we continue to make (very) slow progress towards the roof repair fund. As mentioned before we will have to raise, probably, in excess of £100,000 - no mean feat!. Some grants are available but to get anything substantial we need to generate about 50% of the overall costs. With that in mind we continue to welcome donations and would be delighted to have contact from anyone that has an idea for fundraising.

The next "big event" in the church will be our Carol Service. Breaking with tradition this will be held at 11.15 in the morning. Hopefully this will encourage many of you who don't want battle the elements on a dark, wet windy night! December 17th is the date, traditional carols and perhaps (of course!) a glass of something afterwards.

The Christmas Eve service will December 24th, 6.00pm, when we will celebrate Holy Communion. Mulled wine will be served on arrival at 5.30.

The path is finished so easy access for everyone; and the yew trees have been trimmed to allow a straight run to the door!!

The WESTlink bus service

Does anyone else know about this ? The WESTlink Bus service ??

WESTlink is a new type of bus service which operates in the vast majority of the West of England, outside of Bristol and Bath city centres. It runs without a fixed timetable or route, and is booked 'on demand' by users through the WESTlink app or by phone.

There are approximately 30 buses running across the region, which can take up to 16 passengers each. These will operate within 3 zones, North, South and the Future Transport Zone pilot (journeys are limited to within each zone, except for shared areas).

Passengers can get on or off at existing bus stops (over 1,800) as well as at a number of easy to reach places, and then connect to major bus and rail services. And the cost of a ticket ... Adult fare is only £2 and child is £1

Find out more by going to the website : <https://travelwest.info/westlink/#where>

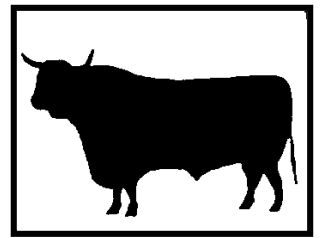


(Ed – so it's a bit like a bus Uber where you ask the driver/app to pick you up and drop you off where you want, rather than them doing specific routes. And apparently it's on trial for two years so I guess it's use it or lose it !)

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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

More Christmas Cracker Jokes ...

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?	A christmas quacker!
Where do sheep go for a haircut?	To a Baa Baa shop!
What did the man get for stealing an advent calendar?	He got 25 days.
What shoes can you make from banana skins?	Slippers.
What type of key do you need for a Nativity play?	A don-key!

(Ed – apologies ... but it just had to be done !!)



Quick Quiz

Answers to last edition's quiz

- 1.. Is a pumpkin a fruit or vegetable?
2. Burke and Hare committed murders on the streets of which city?
3. What was the first name of the scientist Frankenstein in Mary Shelley's book?
4. In which year was the failed Gunpowder Plot?
5. What alias was used by Guy Fawkes who was also known as Guido Fawkes:?

Fruit
Edinburgh
Victor
1605
John Johnson

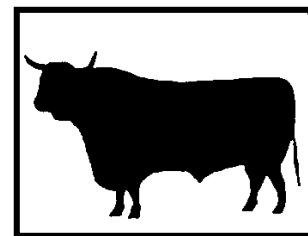
Five quick questions to test your Christmas knowledge ! Answers provided in next edition

1. How many ghosts appear in A Christmas Carol?
2. Eating KFC as a Christmas time meal is a widely practiced custom in which country?
3. If you're born on Christmas Day, what's your star sign?
4. If there are 365 days in a year, what number day is Christmas Day?
5. In the English Victorian carol what was seen sailing in 'On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day'?

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Paul Jones, Village Agent Update

Help, support, and give advice for residents of the Cotswold Edge area, which embraces the villages of Acton Turville, Badminton, Little Badminton, Hawkesbury Upton, Wickwar, Horton and Little Sodbury.

My Village Agent role is overseen by WERN – The West of England Rural Network. **WERN** is a local charity promoting rural sustainability. As we approach the colder months and switch the heating on our thoughts turn to heating costs and how energy efficient our homes are. For some people utility bills are their most significant outlay. If you are struggling with the cost of heating your home or know someone who might benefit from some help or advice there are a couple of schemes of interest:



Warm and Well is managed by Severn Wye Energy Agency on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council. They administer the Home Upgrade Grant - Fully-funded home improvements for homes without mains gas heating.

<p>This scheme is for households which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Live in South Gloucestershire✓ Do not have mains gas heating✓ Own or privately rent an inefficient home (EPC rating: D, E, F or G)✓ Have a combined household income of under £31,000 per year	<p>This scheme will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Expert surveys, reports and recommendations for your home✓ Fully-funded energy-saving upgrades✓ Improvements such as insulation, heating, renewables✓ Support for you and your household at each step
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For more information or advice, call **0800 500 3076**. Or visit their Website and check your eligibility at:

<https://warmandwell.co.uk/grants-and-funding/home-upgrade-grant/>

Pension Credit is extra money to help you cover your costs if you're over State Pension age and living on a low income. You might be able to get it even if you have other income, savings, or assets. Pension Credit comes in two parts Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit. You might be eligible for one or both parts.

Guarantee Credit tops up your weekly income to a guaranteed minimum level. In 2023-24, this level is:

- **£201.05** if you're single
- **£306.85** if you're a couple.

Savings Credit is extra money if you've got some savings or if your income is higher than the basic State Pension. It's available to people who reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016. In 2023-24, you could get up to:

- **£15.94** extra per week if you're single
- **£17.84** extra per week if you're a couple.

On the GOV.UK website you can check if you are eligible for Pension Credit and apply online: <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>

Village Agents can make a real difference to their communities by working with local people and support agencies. Your help to promote and develop the service would be greatly appreciated.

More information on the project can be found here: www.wern.org.uk/village-agents

Or contact me on:

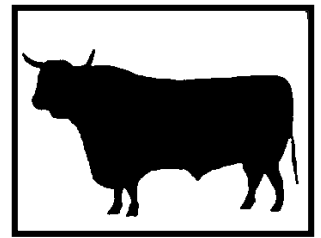
T: 07795442272

E: paul@wern.org.uk

Paul Jones

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From: **Emily Dymond**

Subject: **We're planting trees in Horton and we need your help!**

Hello Horton and Little Sodbury village hall!

We are the Forest of Avon, the West of England's community forest, planting trees and creating woodlands across the region for people to enjoy and wildlife to thrive.

We are messaging to let you know about our tree planting event on 6th of December in Horton. At this site we'll be planting wood pasture trees adjacent to the Little Avon River. This will increase the diversity of the site and provide essential habitat connectivity close to Lower Woods. We are really looking forward to making Horton and the surrounding area greener!

It would be amazing to involve the local community with the tree planting, to engage the public with local nature recovery. If you are able to share this with people in the community or on your local feed to get the word out, we would really appreciate it. We'd love to get some volunteers or groups of volunteers signed up – and a day of tree planting is a great way to spend time outdoors, take in the fresh air and feel good about making your local area a little bit greener!

Links to sign up:

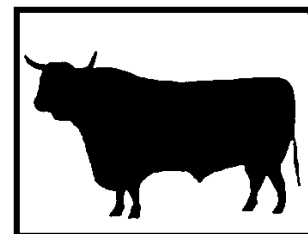
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/volunteer-tree-planting-horton-south-glos-tickets-760582912967?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Link to our Facebook: [@forestofavon](https://www.facebook.com/forestofavon) / Instagram: [@forestofavon](https://www.instagram.com/forestofavon)



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



 **Saturday**
9th

December
10 - 4pm at the Old Grammar School
Chipping Sodbury
Craft fair
in aid of Huntington's Disease Association
&
Great Western Air Ambulance charity
Refreshments on sale
Free entry
(event run and organised by friends, family and
members of U3A quilters)

 
Christmas Tractor Run
Sunday December 17th 2023
Start and finish at Horton Social Club
Tractor registration at 9.30am
Tractor Run starts at 10.45am sharp
Come and cheer on the tractors around the
route (you might even see Santa or two) then
head back to Horton Social club for some family
entertainment including a Raffle and auction
Get ready to sing along with Karaoke
from 5-7pm
Delicious hot food being served from 3pm
All money raised for local charities

 **SODBURY PLAYERS**
Sponsored by 
Presents
Robin Hood and BABES in the WOOD
Written by Alan P Frayn
A Tale as Old as Tights
12th-20th January 2024
CHIPPING SODBURY TOWN HALL

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