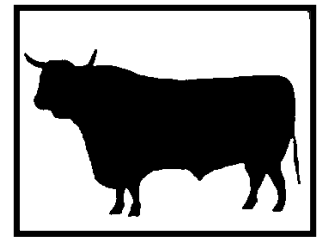




# HORTON AND LITTLE SODBURY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



Edited by Horton and Little Sodbury Village Hall Committee  
Further information of events and news on [www.halsvh.org.uk](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)

December 2024 (v2)

Please send items for next newsletter by 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to [newsletter@halsvh.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@halsvh.org.uk)

## Editorial

To misquote the great Bing Crosby “I’m dreaming of a WET Christmas”. Goodness, hasn’t it been raining lately? I’m starting to think my wellies might need an upgrade!

How are you all doing? Are your festive preparations underway? Have you started peeling those sprouts or have chestnuts roasting by the open fire? Or maybe you’re just enjoying the calm before the Christmas chaos!

Welcome to our December newsletter—what a packed edition we have for you! Inside, you’ll find Dates for the Diary, updates on local happenings, Christmas Cracker jokes, and even a festive quiz. Everything you need to get into the Christmas spirit!

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 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – e-mails sent to [newsletter@halsvh.org.uk](mailto: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

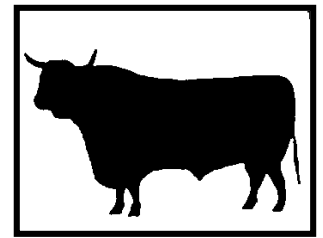
Christmas Cabaret @ HVH	Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	- see dates for diary
Christmas Shopping Evening @ Hawkesbury VH	Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	- see HU VH events
St Adeline’s Church Carol Service	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	- see Church news
St James’ Church Carol Service	Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	- see Church news
Christmas Tractor Run @ Social Club	Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	- see dates for diary
Christmas Eve Service @ St James’ Church	Tue 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	- see Church news
Christmas Day @ Horton Social Club	Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	- see dates for diary
Polaris, the Snow Bear @ Hawkesbury VH	Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	- see HU VH events
St Adeline’s & St James’ Plough Sunday Service	Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	- see Church news
‘Grow and Show’ Hawkesbury Horticultural talk	Thu 23 <sup>th</sup> Jan	- see HU VH events
The return of the Horton Quizzes #1	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	- see dates for diary
Fat Boys Burns Night	Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	- see dates for diary
Rockhampton Wind Quintet concert @ HVH	Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan ‘25	- see dates for diary
The return of the Horton Quizzes #2	Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	- see dates for diary
Ninebarrow @ HVH	Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Mar ‘25	- see dates for diary
Carnival of the Animals Concert @ HVH	Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> July ‘25	- see dates for diary

**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](mailto:sue@coreandmore.co.uk).

# 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](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)



## Dates for the Diary in detail

### A Christmas Cabaret

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> December @ Horton Village Hall**

Ok, so here's a thing. It's been a long time since we have seen locals performing at the Hall, so we are going to put on a Christmas Cabaret. There will be people performing on stage; there will be mince pies; the bar will be open. It's Christmas !!

Doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7:30. Tickets are £15 (and include a free mince pie, a glass of mulled wine and a raffle ticket) and available from Caroline via [caroline@bannistersfamily.co.uk](mailto:caroline@bannistersfamily.co.uk)

Also, that night, we will be launching the traditional Village Christmas e-Card, which, this year, will be supporting local charities. So please, book your tickets and come along to a magical evening of entertainment, and you can "sign" the village Christmas Card at the same time.

See you there.

### St Adeline's Church Carol Service

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. @ St Adeline's Church**

There is to be a Carol Service at St Adeline's Church, Little Sodbury on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

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

### St James' Church Carol Service

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. @ St James' Church**

There is to be a Carol Service at St James's Church, Horton on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

The 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.

### Christmas Tractor Run

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. @ Horton Social Club**

The traditional Christmas Tractor Run is happening on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

*(Ed – for Tractor Run Route and approximate timings, please see full flyer at end of PDF!)*



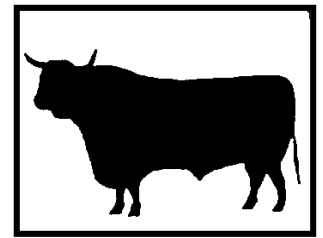
### St James' Christmas Eve Service

**Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. @ St James' Church**

On December 24th (Christmas Eve) there will be a Christmas Communion at 6.00pm. All are welcome to join us from 5.30 to enjoy a glass of mulled wine prior to the service. Please note there will be no refreshments after the service.

# 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](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)



## Things happening at the Social club

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. @ Horton Social Club**

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.  
Other things are happening at the club as well – just pop in to see list of events

## Plough Sunday Service

**Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. @ St James' Church**

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 there will be a joint St Adeline's and St James' church service held at St James', Horton to mark Plough Sunday. Plough Sunday is a traditional English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year, involving bringing a ploughshare into a church with prayers for the blessing of the land.

## The return of Quiz nights

**24<sup>th</sup> Jan + 21<sup>st</sup> Feb @ Horton Village Hall**



Yes, the great Horton Quiz Nights return to Horton, starting at 7pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, and then again on the 21<sup>st</sup> February. It's a maximum of 4 per team.

Watch this space for more details nearer the time

*(Ed – for info, we don't allow animals at our quizzes – one of them might be a cheetah !)*



## "Fat Boys in Lycra" – Burns Night

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Jan @ Horton Village Hall**



The "Fat Boys in Lycra" present

Burns Night, on Saturday 25th January 2025, 7.30 pm (doors open 7pm)

Tickets just £20, that includes a traditional three course dinner and plenty of wee drams of fabulous malt whiskies.

Booking essential !! For tickets and dietary enquiries - contact Caroline Bannister on [cbannister1977@gmail.com](mailto:cbannister1977@gmail.com)  
(Menu: Cock-a-Leekie soup, Haggis Neeps and Tatties (salmon option available), followed by Topsy Laird Trifle)

## Rockhampton Wind Quintet Concert

**Fri 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 @ Horton Village Hall**



A definite date for your 2025 diary. ☺

The Rockhampton Wind Quintet (including our very own Mike Lea-Wilson) return to Horton Village Hall on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, for an entertaining evening that will showcase the range and variety of music written for wind quintet, from Mozart to Poulenc and Malcolm Arnold to George Gershwin. Tickets are available via [chairman@halsvh.org.uk](mailto:chairman@halsvh.org.uk)

or <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1029253353487?aff=oddtcreator> (booking fee applies)

## Ninebarrow returning to Horton

**Sun 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025 @ Horton Village Hall**

Yes, Ninebarrow are returning to Horton Village Hall on Sunday 16th March.

Back by popular demand, this multi award winning folk duo are back in Horton as part of their mini 2025 national tour. It's a matinee performance, and so doors open at 1:45pm, with the concert starting at 2:30pm ... and yes, even at that time of day, the bar will be open !! And there will be tea and cakes on sale too !!

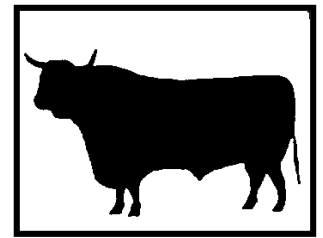
Tickets are £17 (+57p booking charge), and are available via [www.ninebarrow.co.uk/horton](http://www.ninebarrow.co.uk/horton)

Book your tickets now to secure your seat – it's likely to be a sell out !!

*(Ed –and seriously, we have sold a lot of tickets already, so if you want to come, then get your tickets now !!)*



# 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](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)

## Carnival of the Animals Concert

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025 @ Horton Village Hall



OK ... so we are really planning ahead here, but this is well worth knowing about and getting in your 2025 diary.

On the afternoon of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July the international Feria chamber ensemble will come to Horton for a light classical concert for the whole family. The famous 'Carnival of the Animals' by Saint-Saëns will take centre stage, with You Chiung Lin and Stefan Hofkes as the piano soloists, and specially written comedic poems by Dominic Lopez Real.

Before this musical celebration we will hear the beautiful Siegfried Idyll as it was originally intended, a beautiful love letter in sound, performed as a surprise to Wagner's wife Cosima on the steps of their house by a group of musician friends. It was made famous when it was used in the film 'The boys from Brazil'. A musical treat in our beautiful setting, and not to be missed.

These matinee tickets are £15 adult/£10 under 16s, and are available via [chairman@halsvh.org.uk](mailto:chairman@halsvh.org.uk)

*(Ed – This is going to be huge, in all senses of the word – so please put Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July in your diary.)*

## What else

### Horton & Little Sodbury Village Hall AGM

The Horton & Little Sodbury Village Hall AGM was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> October – thank you to all who came along. The key point came in the Treasurer's Report (paraphrased below)

*(for the financial year ending April 2024) Income is down a lot. Fund raising is down on previous years despite some successful events. We're no longer putting on high earning events. Even though income from hall hire held up reasonably well, our income overall decreased considerably.*

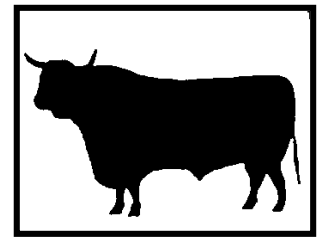
The reality is that currently we are running at a considerable loss, and have been for the past few years. The cost of maintaining the hall is in the order of £14,000 pa, and then there are capital expenditures that go on top of that (like the new car park, and possibly a new boiler soon). Overall, income is down, with fewer people coming to events. (This is not just a Horton problem, this is happening nation wide). If this trend continues, then serious questions need to be asked about the future of the hall.

If you have any ideas or suggestions as to (a) how we can reverse this trend and have fund raising events that people want to come to, or (b) how the hall can make money during non-hire times, then please contact the committee via [chairman@halsvh.org.uk](mailto:chairman@halsvh.org.uk)

*(Ed - and don't forget, the hall is available to hire by anyone including you and your friends for get-togethers, coffee mornings, hobby clubs, parties, weddings, sports classes ... loads of things. Spread the word !)*

# 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](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)

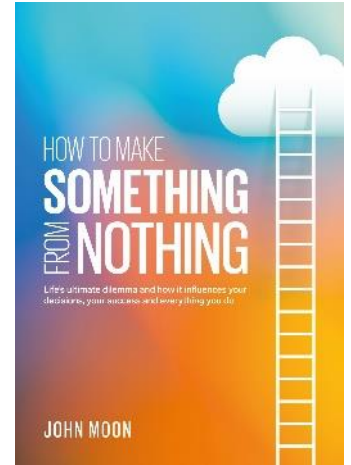


## How To Make Something From Nothing

Wood Lane resident, John Moon, has had his first book published, entitled 'How To Make Something From Nothing'.

It's his own story, from his challenging childhood on a council estate in North Somerset to building a number of businesses and a successful motor racing career. The lessons he learned along the way are clearly outlined in the book, which was written to help inspire people to achieve more. For anyone looking to improve their circumstances, financially or personally, it's a must read. John has appeared on a number of radio programmes, both locally and Europe wide, so you may already have heard him talking about 'life's ultimate dilemma', the phrase he coined to encapsulate the fundamental forces which drive every decision we make.

The book is available from all online book retailers or direct from John's website here: <https://something-from-nothing.co.uk/>



## Message from Sally Batten

Sally Batten and family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and cards sent following the passing of Ellie. It was very comforting

Thank you

Sally Batten

## Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall Events

Vicky Rispin writes :-

Here is a list of some of the events happening at Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome.

### Christmas Shopping Evening

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. @ Hawkesbury VH**

Christmas Shopping Evening. Friday 6th December 5.30-8.30pm. Gifts, crafts, pop-up nail bar, Christmas food, refreshments, raffle. Free entry! All profits go to the upkeep and maintenance of the play park in the rec

### Polaris, the Snow Bear

**Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. @ Hawkesbury VH**

The Badapple Theatre Company present 'Polaris, the Snow Bear', Thursday 2nd January 6.30pm. A tall tale for old and young alike.

### 'Grow and Show' Hawkesbury Horticultural talk

**Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. @ Hawkesbury VH**

The Hawkesbury Horticultural Society Chairman, Keith Player, is giving a 'Grow and Show' talk about how to grow and exhibit vegetables. The multiple winner of many vegetable classes at the Hawkesbury Show will talk about which seeds to buy, how to grow and how to present for display. Free to all

The date for this talk is Thursday 23rd January 2025, 7.30 -9pm at Hawkesbury Village Hall. There will also be an RHS Judge coming to talk about what Judges look for when judging vegetables.

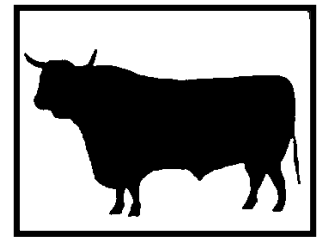
Complimentary refreshments for all.





# 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](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)



## Other news

### The Village Agent Update

Paul Jones, our Village Agent writes:

Hopefully by the time you read this I will be recovering from knee surgery with my feet up in between hourly exercises to help me get mobile again! Preparation for surgery has made me think about mobility around the home, transport and how to manage the day-to-day tasks we sometimes take for granted. I've mentioned the Celestine Centre in Yate before. It's a converted house where you can view (and have demonstrated) a huge variety of aids and adaptations aimed at helping people remain independent in their own homes. These include:

- Through floor and stairlifts
- Hoisting Equipment
- Steps & Ramps
- Telecare
- Home living aids
- Automatic Toilet
- Bathing Aids
- Door entry systems
- Level access showers
- High/low kitchen units



The house is available by appointment only Monday to Friday. To arrange a visit contact [psehousing@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:psehousing@southglos.gov.uk) or ring 01454 868126. If it's easier, please give me call and I can arrange a visit.

Paul

Village Agents can make a real difference to their communities by working with local people and support agencies.

More information on the project can be found here: [www.wern.org.uk/village-agents](http://www.wern.org.uk/village-agents)

Contact me on:

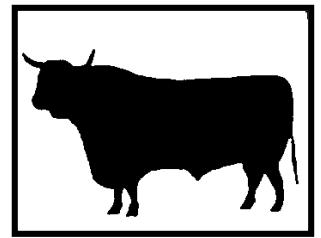
T: 07795442272

E: [paul@wern.org.uk](mailto:paul@wern.org.uk)



# 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](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)



## Church News

### Update from St James' Church, Horton

The PCC writes

We were pleased to see a good turnout for our recent Remembrance Day Service with close to 50 people in attendance. It makes such a difference to any service to have a good congregation. Pleased to say that not only the service was enjoyed by all, but the refreshments after were well accepted!

Our recent quinquennial (yes, that's every 5 years!) inspection of the church building and all associated things such as heating, electrics, fire safety etc. took place on 13<sup>th</sup> November. We have yet to receive the report but we know that there is plenty of work to do with the roof, so our fund raising efforts will continue.

On the subject of fund raising, we have been informed that The National Lottery have re-opened their applications to churches. No idea why they stopped this a few years ago, but its good they have reversed their decision. There is a considerable amount of work to complete the Lottery application, so if anyone would like to volunteer to take on this role, the PCC would be delighted.

December is (obviously) a busy month for the church. We have our Carol Service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11.15. We hope this new time will attract a good attendance. There will of course be refreshments after the service.

On December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve) we will be holding our Christmas Communion at 6.00pm. You are welcome to join us from 5.30 to enjoy a glass of mulled wine prior to the service. Please note there will be no refreshments after the service.

We hope to see you at St James the Elder at one of our normal Sunday services, the Carol Service and the Communion...or all of them! If you cannot join us, may we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful new Year.

### Update from St Adeline's Church

Linda Hurst writes

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who booked a table and also attended the Craft Fair [16<sup>th</sup> Nov]. Well over £700 was raised to assist with the upkeep of the church. We look forward to the next one, possibly in the spring or early summer.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Sue who has donated a new bench for the churchyard. It fits beautifully into the alcove outside the church and replaces the old one which was falling to bits.

There will be a Carol Service on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm. Refreshments will be served after the service and everyone is welcome to attend.

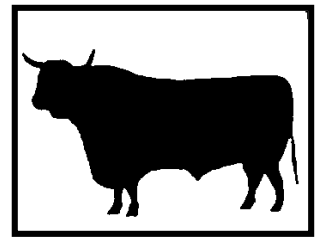
On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 there will be a joint church service with St James, Horton to mark Plough Sunday. Plough Sunday is a traditional English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year. Plough Sunday celebrations usually involve bringing a ploughshare into a church with prayers for the blessing of the land.

Finally, everyone at St Adeline's wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-



# 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](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)

## Useful Local Information

### Horton & Little Sodbury Village Hall

Web site: [www.halsvh.org.uk](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)  
Chair [chairman@halsvh.org.uk](mailto:chairman@halsvh.org.uk)  
Hall bookings [emma@halsvh.org.uk](mailto:emma@halsvh.org.uk) or on 01454 322879



## Some Christmas Cracker Jokes ...

Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join their work conference call	There was no Zoom at the inn
Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?	Because they were too deer
What's green, covered in tinsel, and goes ribbet ribbet?	Mistle-toad!
How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?	Deep pan, crisp and even!
What do you call a vicar on a moped?	Rev!

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



## Quick Quiz

### Answers to last edition's quiz

- 1.. Which is the longest month? **October (it has the extra hour for GMT)**
2. What company makes the most number of tyres in a year? **Lego**
3. The Oktoberfest is held annually in which German city? **Munich**
4. What is the name for a group of hedgehogs? **A Prickle**
5. Name of first artificial satellite to orbit the earth and launched in Oct '57? **Sputnik 1**

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

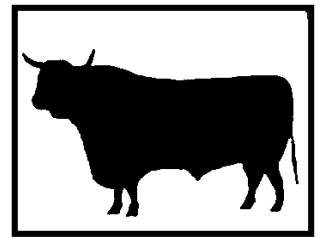
1. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
2. According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the ninth day of Christmas?
3. If you're born on Christmas Day, what's your star sign?
4. How many of Santa's reindeers' names start with 'D'?
5. What time is the King's speech traditionally broadcast on Christmas Day?

-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-



# 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](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)



## The Poster section



### Christmas Tractor Run

Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024

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 see Santa, an Elf, the Grinch or Stitch)  
then head back to Horton Social club for some  
family entertainment including a Raffle and Auction

Delicious breakfast rolls served before the run and hot food being  
served after the run



### Tractor Run Route

*All times after this point are approximate*



11am To Hawkesbury Upton through Sandpits Lane along high street

11.15am To Hillesley passing through main high street

11.15-11.30am To Kingswood turning off to Charfield

11.30-12pm Stop at Renishaw Car park to re-group stopping for about 15 mins

12.15 To Charfield through main high street

12.30-12.45pm To Wickwar through main high street

12.45-1pm To Yate via Peg Hill

1-1.15pm To chipping sodbury high street – Via Bowling Hill stopping in  
the high street for about 1 hour

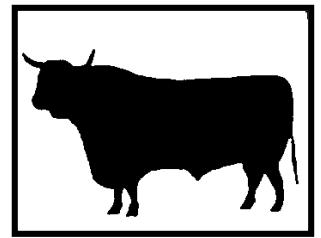
To Sodbury common via Hatters Lane, Finish at Horton Social Club

**All money raised for Time is Precious and Glos Suicide Prevention**



# 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](http://www.halsvh.org.uk)



**Fat Boys In Lycra**  
**Burns Night**

JOIN US

Cock-a-Leekie Soup

Haggis Neeps & Tatties

Tipsy Laird Trifle

Coffee

(Salmon Option)

The Scottish Poet Burns Night

Robert Burns  
1759-1796

**TICKETS just £20**  
Includes a traditional three course dinner and plenty of wee drams of fabulous malt whiskies  
**Booking Essential**

**BAR**

**Saturday 25th January**  
**7:30pm Doors Open 7:00**

Tickets & dietary enquiries  
[cbannister1977@gmail.com](mailto:cbannister1977@gmail.com)  
**HORTON VILLAGE HALL**  
[//cookbooks.resist.muffin](http://cookbooks.resist.muffin)

[www.hortonandlittlesodburyvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.hortonandlittlesodburyvillagehall.org.uk)

-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-o0o-