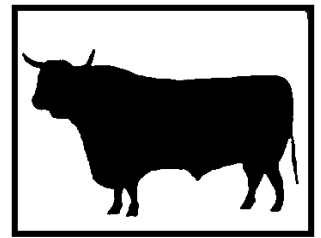


HORTON AND LITTLE SODBURY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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



September 2026

Editorial

Welcome back!

The weather has been astonishing, hasn't it. Back in March, I was complaining about the amount of rain that we were having; in August, it was all about the soaring temperatures; and now I can complain about these thunderstorms. Good grief !. But at least it gives me something to complain about ☺.

Something else that confuses me ... the word "FRIDGE" is a shortened term for the word "REFRIGERATOR" ... where does the D come from ??

Speaking about 'astonishing', there is plenty of things happening in and around Horton over the next few months, and you'll find details of many of those events in this edition.

It would be great if you could make the time to come along to these events – it's a great way of catching up with old friends, making new ones, and having a bit of fun along the way.

As always, if there's anything you'd like included in the next newsletter, or circulated via the village email network, please let us know ... whether it's news from the school, the church, the Social Club, local organisations, village groups, or any other community event, we'd love to hear from you. So please send your articles and comments 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

Ninebarrow coming back to Horton	Sun 20 th September at 1:30pm for 2pm
Harvest Festival Service @ St James' Church	Sun 27 th September at 11:15am
St Adeline's Church Craft Fair @ HVH	Sat 14 th November at 10am
Board Game Afternoon @ HVH	Sun 22 nd November
The Mysteries of Loch Ness – talk by Gareth Williams	Sun 6 th December (matinee)
A Christmas Get-together / Christmas Card launch	Sun 13 th December (evening)
Rockhampton Wind Quintet	early 2027
The Horton Quizzes #1 & #2	Fri 15 th Jan and Fri 19 th Feb 2027

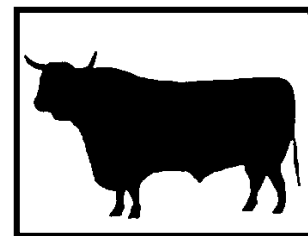
Boxercise classes are every Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6.30- 7.30pm at Village Hall.

Pilates classes– contact Sue Webb.

Zumba classes – contact Andrea Benson to express interest.

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What's in the Diary in detail

Ninebarrow returning to Horton

Sun 20th Sept. @ Horton Village Hall

We're delighted to welcome Ninebarrow back to Horton Village Hall this September for a special afternoon of music.

The doors will open at 1.30pm, with the performance beginning at 2.00pm.

Tickets are £18 when booked in advance, or £22 on the door, subject to availability.

For tickets and all the details, visit www.ninebarrow.co.uk/horton.

And of course, what's an afternoon at the village hall without a little refreshment?

The bar will be open throughout the event — because even at a matinee, we do like to keep things civilised!

For those who prefer their afternoon refreshments a little more traditional, tea and homemade cakes will also be available.

(Ed – last time Jon and Jay came here, it was an absolute sell out ... so book your place now.)



Board Game Afternoon

Sun 22nd Nov. @ Horton Village Hall

Roll the dice, shuffle the cards and prepare to discover just how competitive your friends really are!

Join us at Horton Village Hall on Sunday 22nd November for a relaxed afternoon of board games, with plenty of games to choose from and people to play them with.

Whether you're a seasoned strategist or haven't played anything more complicated than Snakes and Ladders for years, everyone is welcome.

And, naturally, no village hall afternoon would be complete without tea and cakes.

Come along, pick a game and let the fun begin! Watch this space for further details.

(Ed – I hope they have Guess Who? Then again, at my age, I spend half my time doing that anyway!!)



The Mysteries of Loch Ness – Gareth Williams

Sun 6th Dec. @ Horton Village Hall



Some will remember that Gareth Williams came to Horton last year to give us an excellent talk about "The Impossible Bomb" and the Manhattan project. Well, we are delighted to welcome him back to Horton Village Hall to discuss "A Monstrous Commotion: The Mysteries of Loch Ness" - a creature that should have died out with the dinosaurs, or a legend built on hoaxes and wishful thinking? More details to follow – what is known so far is that it will be a matinee performance. Watch this space.

Also, at this event, we will be launching our traditional Village Christmas e-Card, with monies going to a local charity.

The Pre-Christmas Get-together

Sun 13th Dec. @ Horton Village Hall

It's never too early to talk about Christmas ... so on the Sunday 13th December, there will be a pre-Christmas get-together at Horton Village Hall.

Again, details need to be worked out, but the evening will start around 7pm.

There will be festive delights to sample and beverages available to purchase at the bar; and yes, there will be a bit of a quiz as well.

And of course, there will be Christmas music playing in the background.

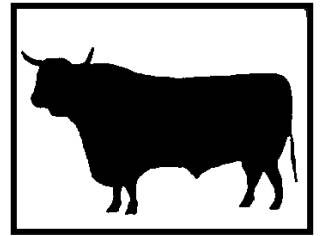
Also, there will be another chance for you to add your messages to the traditional Village Christmas e-Card.

(Ed – last year, my friend won the Tallest Christmas Tree competition. I thought, "How do you top that!")



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What's happening elsewhere

Cycling from London to Lisbon, raising money for charity

Amber Denton writes :-

I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated to our Justgiving page so far.

In September, my partner Shaheryar and I are cycling to Lisbon to raise awareness and money for two charities, Shelter and Andy's Man Club. For anyone who would still like to donate, here is the link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/londontolisbon-2026km>

Both charities help people get back on their feet once they've hit rock bottom at the two points where people are most likely to fall through the gaps: housing and mental health.

You can follow us on Instagram to see stories from our journey and photos of beautiful scenery and (warning!) our pained sweaty faces. Over 14+ days we are passing through 4 countries, 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and enjoying lots of delicious food.

Find out more here: <https://www.instagram.com/cadenceandclouds/>

Sending you all the best,
Amber Denton

Horton C.E. VA Primary School Update

All being well, the school should be having some new fencing and gates installed to the footpath side of the school playground and the external joinery (fascias and bargeboards etc), repaired and painted, during the summer holidays.

Church News

Update from St James the Elder Church, Horton

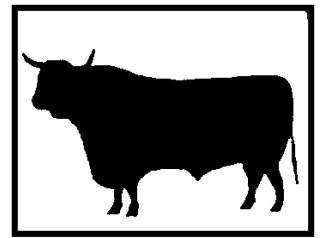
the Church Team write :-

- You would have read the previous details from Tina as to our successful Saturday Teas at the Church. Well done to all involved in raising over £1000 for ongoing Church funds.
- Our next fund raiser will be teas for the open days at Horton Court, 12th and 13th September. The National Trust, in partnership with Heritage England, hold the week-end of open days. Have a look at Horton Court for details as to times. This is your chance to see around the Court and (another chance!) to enjoy tea and cake in the Church.
- Please remember our Harvest service on 27th September, at 11.15, this will be a joint service with our friends from St. Adelines, Little Sodbury. There will of course be refreshments after the service.
- We are making very slow progress with our Lottery Grant application for the roof repairs. There are many stages to the application. We have yet to complete the first one (!) but we are moving forwards. As time goes by the costs increase as does the expected completion, but we are hopeful!

The Church team.

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Update from St Adeline's Church

Brenda Cordy & Linda Hurst write :-

- We would like to give our thanks to the Parish Council for the Defibrillator which is now installed close to the church wall.
- We would also like to express our appreciation to the Preece family for the huge amount of work done in clearing and mowing the churchyard, also for the most beautiful display of flowers in the church for Jean Preece's memorial service which was a lovely occasion.
- We have had a joint PCC meeting with St James' church and are working together for the benefit of both churches. We will be sharing a service once each month beginning in October and service details will be circulated in the monthly newsletter. This year we will be joining with Horton for the Harvest Festival on Sunday 27 September as this year, it is impractical to hold one in Little Sodbury due to the poor condition of the vestry.
- This year is the 500th anniversary of William Tyndale's translation of the bible into English and we have had several visitors from both the continent (the Tyndale Museum in Antwerp) and also the USA. Earlier this year we also had a visit from the 13th descendant of the Tyndale family. We have had a film crew and also people doing a podcast about his life. In September we have a coach of American visitors who are tracing his life.
- This year's Craft Fair will be held on Saturday 14 November 10.00am - 2.00pm at Horton Village Hall. If you wish to book a table, please contact Brenda (brendacordy370@gmail.com or on 07767 076985). This year there will not be a raffle but a Bottle Tombola. Any bottle (glass or plastic) from alcohol to sauce will be gratefully received and can be given to Brenda or Emma.

Church Wardens
Brenda and Linda.

Update from The Shepherds Hut

Richard, David & Gillian write :-

Discover the Shepherd's Hut: A Unique Place of Welcome on Little Sodbury Common

Steeped in history and surrounded by natural beauty, an ancient chapel on the common in Little Sodbury is experiencing a remarkable rebirth. Once a historic sanctuary where the famous reformer William Tyndale preached, the building (formerly the Tyndale Baptist Chapel) unfortunately lay unused for many years. Today, thanks to the vision of evangelist David Powe and his wife Gillian, it has been beautifully transformed into a vibrant, alternative place of worship known as the Shepherd's Hut.

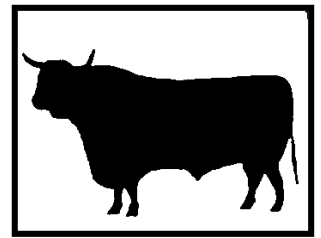
A Sanctuary for Everyone:

The realisation of this project was made possible by the immense generosity and hard work of local people who poured their time and resources into restoring the building. David and Gillian's primary goal was to create a destination specifically for those who might feel hesitant, uncomfortable, or reluctant to step inside a traditional established church. What they have achieved is truly special. The Shepherd's Hut is a wonderfully welcoming, comfortable, and informal space designed for quiet prayer, contemplation, and community connection. Whether you are seeking a moment of peace or a relaxed environment to explore your faith, the doors are open to all.

Regular Meetings and Community Life:

People gather on the 2nd Friday of each month to share in a prayerbook communion service at 10.00am and on the 4th Friday for a prayer meeting at 9.00 am. The atmosphere is always warm, accepting, and incredibly relaxed. Beyond regular meetings the Shepherd's Hut is also a hub of community spirit. To support the upkeep of the chapel, David and Gillian host several fundraising events throughout the year. Far from solemn affairs, these gatherings are great fun, featuring excellent food, a highly convivial atmosphere, and a wonderful raffle that is definitely not to be missed!

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A Ministry of Reaching Out:

David Powe's approach to ministry is deeply rooted in his unique background. Before taking on the Shepherd's Hut, David served as a prison chaplain, a role where he spent years successfully sharing the message of Christianity and supporting individuals through profound personal transformations. Together, David and Gillian have worked tirelessly to bring the word of God to those who might not normally hear it or feel included by traditional religious structures.

Looking to the Future: The Prayer Garden:

The transformation of the site continues with exciting new developments. Work is currently underway on a dedicated prayer garden right next to the chapel. Once completed, this beautiful outdoor space will offer an additional, serene setting for quiet contemplation, reflection, or simply a place to sit and enjoy the tranquillity of nature.

Come and See for Yourself:

Whether you are curious about the history, looking for a fresh environment for worship, or simply want to stroll over to see the new garden, David, Gillian, and the community at the Shepherd's Hut look forward to welcoming you.

Dates for your diary:

Friday September 11th @ 10.00am Communion service.

Friday September 25th @ 10.00am Prayer meeting.

Friday October 9th @ 10.00am Communion service

Friday October 23rd @ 10.00am Prayer meeting.

Saturday December 20th @ 3.00pm Carols and Cocoa

For further details please contact Richard Hore, richard.hore.01@gmail.com or pop in and meet David & Gillian on any of the above dates.

The Village Agent Update

Andy Hiscox, our Village Agent writes:

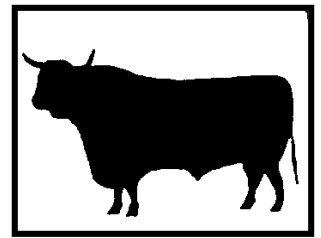
Hi everyone, today I am looking at shining the spotlight on claiming Attendance Allowance. This is a UK benefit for people who have reached state pension age and have a disability or health condition that means they need help with personal care or supervision.



Key facts

- It is not means-tested. Your income, pension and savings generally do not affect whether you can receive it.
- You normally need to have needed help for at least 6 months before qualifying.
- You do not have to have a particular diagnosis. What matters is how your condition affects your need for care or supervision.
- You don't necessarily need someone providing personal care. The important issue is whether you need help or supervision.
- It can cover needs such as help with washing, dressing, eating, getting in and out of bed, taking medication, using the toilet, or staying safe.
- There is no requirement to have a carer living with you.
- It is generally paid tax-free.
- It can potentially lead to additional entitlement to Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction, depending on your circumstances.
- It does not normally cover mobility needs alone; the focus is on care and/or supervision.

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- If you live in a care home, you can usually still receive Attendance Allowance if you pay the full cost yourself. It is normally not payable where your local authority is paying for your care.
- You generally cannot receive Attendance Allowance if you're already receiving Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance, Adult Disability Payment, or Armed Forces Independence Payment.

Should you wish to check your eligibility for Attendance Allowance or need assistance with completing the necessary forms I can assist you with this should you need any help.

The Village Agent Service can make a real difference to the rural communities they support by working with local residents and agencies. For more information on the Village Agent Service please visit www.wern.org.uk/village-agents

Or alternatively please contact myself on:

Mobile: 07795442272

Email: andy@wern.org.uk

Want to hire out the hall ??

Are you looking for an event venue for 2026, then look no further than Horton and Little Sodbury Village Hall. Our village hall is perfect for birthday parties, wedding receptions, craft fairs, musical evenings, business meetings, off-site away-days, or team building event. Our rates are very competitive and you can host whatever kind of event suits your social or business needs.



We have free high speed wireless internet and a screen for you to project slides or other presentations. The hall seats up to about 100 people theatre style, and about 60 cabaret style.

Outside we have space for a hog roast or a barbecue. Our well fitted kitchen means that food can be cooked on site if you wish. We have a plumbed in water boiler to provide copious cups of tea or coffee.

Tables, chairs, use of the kitchen, crockery, cutlery, glasses, teapots and cafetieres are included in the hire charge. And we have a bar area. No hidden extras.

Outside we have a patio, a large car park and also a large playing field where you could have teambuilding events. We are within easy reach of Bristol, Bath, Yate,

Stroud and the M4 and M5 motorways.

Check out our web site <http://www.halsvh.org.uk/>

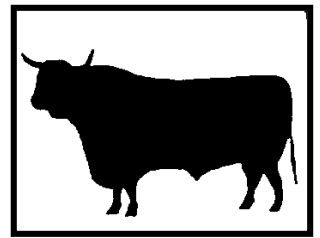
or contact Emma on emma@halsvh.org.uk or 07766 524591 for further information and to arrange a visit.



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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 07766 524591

Village Agent

Andy Hiscox: andy@wern.org.uk or on 07795 442272

Horton Parish Council

<https://hortonparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Quick Quiz

Answers to last edition's quiz

- 1.. Dara won the Eurovision Song Contest with "Bangaranga", but what country did she represent? **Bulgaria**
2. The new hosts of Strictly Come Dancing are Emma Willis, Johannes Radebe, and ?? **Josh Widdicombe**
3. Which two football teams were involved in the "Spygate Scandal" ? **Southampton and Hull City**
4. Which child in The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe is the first to discover Narnia? **Lucy Pevensie**
5. The text of what occupational document begins "I swear by Apollo the physician ..."? **Hippocratic Oath**

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

1. Which spice is commonly added to apple pie and rice pudding ?
2. What is the name of Batman's faithful butler ?
3. Which song has the opening lyric "Hello darkness, my old friend " ?
4. Which chocolate bar used the Salman Rushdie-created slogan "irresistibubble" ?
5. By what name is the patella more generally called

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