

# The Gossip

H O R N T O N

ISSUE 136

2025 EDITION ONE

## 'Decorate a Tree' Competition

The Church hosted a 'Decorate a Tree' competition for all the various organisations. The 3Hs Gardening Club was the winner, Hornton Primary School was second and the History Group came third.



*The Hornton Primary School pupils' tree took second place with their lovely tree.*



*Well done History Group, with your tree harking back to the days of real candles and homemade biscuits and decorations taking third place.*  
*Laurie Furneaux*



Hello, everybody

You'll recall that we opted to enter the decorated Christmas Tree Competition at our meeting in November and that Allison and Richard kindly agreed to design and produce the tree. Well yesterday it all happened in an event in Hornton Church when our entry was pitched against eight other fantastic entries from organisations in the village, after judging by the considerable number of visitors, guess what? We won!

Alison and Richard produced an amazing tree decorated largely with garden vegetables including sprouts, beans, potatoes, peppers, gourds and cauliflower! So good in fact it could have been taken home, cooked and eaten. A brilliant effort and many thanks and congratulations from all the members. At our next meeting you'll be invited to taste the prize and view the certificate. Happy Christmas to you all.

*Mike Patching*



## Christmas Tree

The installation of the Hornton Christmas Tree, which this year was a homegrown one from the Jumba land, was undertaken on Friday 29 November by the stalwart team of Paul Burden, Andrew Higgins, Ian Harris and Steve Woodcock. It has been shining brightly every evening into the New Year, bringing cheer to one and all!

## Carol Singing

The Carol Singing around Hornton on 19th December raised a brilliant £425, which is on its way to Cancer Research UK. Thank you to all the singers, collectors, refreshment providers and, of course, all those who donated.

*Ian Harris*

## Congratulations!

Warmest congratulations to Thomas and Agata on the birth of their daughter, Hanna Maria, on 28 December 2024. A sister to Amelia.



# Bridge the Gap Tea Party

## ... a heartwarming success...



On Friday 6th December Hornton Methodist Chapel was filled with joy and laughter as the community came together for the second annual "Bridge the Gap" tea party. This charity event, inspired by Sophie Heathcote's passion for uniting the older and younger generations, was a resounding success.

Bloxham School played a significant role in supporting the event. Hospitality pupils had the opportunity to practice their skills, and they did an outstanding job. Their politeness and helpfulness ensured that everyone was well looked after. Guests enjoyed a delightful array of sandwiches, cakes, scones, and plenty of tea and coffee.

Meanwhile, the young children from Willow Class at Hornton Primary School were busy decorating gingerbread men and Christmas tree decorations. Their creativity and enthusiasm were a credit to Mrs. Whitehouse and the staff of Hornton Primary School.

A special moment of the event was when Eileen Lewis and Julie Stanley were presented with bouquets of flowers by Elsie, Albert and Codie, who expressed their gratitude beautifully.

The event was a wonderful example of community spirit and intergenerational bonding. Congratulations to everyone involved for making it such a memorable day.

*Sophie Heathcote*



## Progressive Dinner



Ni Marot did a fantastic job organising this year's Progressive Dinner, which took place on Saturday 19th October. Twenty five couples enjoyed meeting and getting to know each other as they went from one host to another by the light of a very bright full moon, enjoying a starter, main course and dessert at each new venue. Lots of people who haven't lived here for long, and some who were hosting for the first time took part. Hopefully new friendships were formed and even more people will take part next time. Thanks to the generosity of the eleven hosts and Ni's hard work £1,440 was raised for village funds.

## SCHOOL NEWS

The Oak classroom was finally finished in the last week of term, and we were delighted that the whole school had been able to come together to celebrate Christmas on the main school site. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our chair fund. We received over 35 donations, and Oak class looks fantastic with its brand-new furniture. We are truly overwhelmed by the generosity shown towards this project. The last weeks of December were tremendously busy. Our nursery, reception, and Key Stage 1 children showcased their singing and dancing talents in two delightful productions: one traditional and one with a comical twist. Parents were entertained from start to finish as many of our youngest performers took to the stage for the first time. The children in Years 3 to 6 performed for their families at Hornton Church, delighting the school community with a variety of solo performances and both modern and traditional Christmas songs. Finally, the children loved joining with the village community at the Christingle Service. The candles, reading and singing ensured everyone felt ready for Christmas.

On behalf of our staff team and governors, we would like to wish the village of Hornton a happy and healthy 2025. We appreciate your support for Hornton School and your efforts in making it a thriving and enjoyable place for growth, work, and play.

*Wendy Whitehouse, Head Teacher*





# All Aboard!

Saturday 12th October saw *The Spirit of Hornton* set sail from the Pavilion quay for an Evening Cruise when the Hornton Allsorts put on another of their brilliant theme nights. Together with Head Chefs, Jan and Graham Hall, the attention to detail was faultless with the uniformed crew manning the kitchens, waiting tables and doubling up as entertainers. Even the paper napkins were folded into little boat shapes.

After an excellent three course dinner the Entertainment Crew put on a splendid show which included audience participation, glamorous singers, less glamorous synchronised swimmers and culminated in a rousing sing-along. There was a generously stocked bar which ensured that passengers disembarked at the end of the evening still feeling the gentle swell of the ocean beneath their feet. The Allsorts made a profit of £946 and after making a donation to the Pavilion the balance is going towards buying a new lighting console. Well done, Allsorts!



## Hornton Allsorts Drama Group

The Allsorts have been entertaining the village for more years than many would care to remember and has included villagers of all ages, backgrounds and experience. Currently we have about 15 active members, and we would welcome more to help us stage a wider variety of performances, at least two a year.

It's great fun and you won't have to act if you don't want to, and you may find a skill you didn't know you had!

If you fancy having a go either on stage or behind the scenes please get in contact with Sarah Walther ([sarah.walther@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarah.walther@hotmail.co.uk)), Al Mills (07853109116) or Pete Lemon (07538184020); or anyone else you know who is already in the group.

## Just Puddings!

To provide some winter cheer, the Ladies' Working Party is planning a '**Just Puddings Evening**' on Saturday 1 March, in the Pavilion! Enjoy an evening tasting a selection of puddings and raise some much-needed funds for Katharine House Hospice in the process.

Tickets, costing £5 per person, must be booked in advance via Jo Langton; there is no charge for individuals bringing a pudding sufficient for 6-8 people. Anyone kindly providing a pudding should please let us know, and also supply a list of the ingredients for display alongside. There will be a competition for the most popular puddings!

Tea and coffee will be provided, as well as glasses for anyone who wishes to bring their favourite tippie. Look out for further details, and have your spoons at the ready!



*Lights, camera... now it's time for action!*

The first village film night in 15 years had everything a Hornton movie buff could wish for: a glimpse back to Hornton 2000 years BC, the Village People singing YMCA on the green – and a glamorous Jane Wain serving popcorn and choc-ices! Even Sir Trevor McDonald put in an appearance...

The evening, held on November 9, was showcasing some of the best entries into the Hornton Film Festival, which ran for five years from 2005 and awarded the most prestigious film awards this side of Tinseltown – the Hornies.

And now it's your turn, Hornton, because there's going to be another Hornton Film Festival in November 2025 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the first.

But you can't have a film festival without any films, so organiser Pete Whitehead - who came up with the idea and hosted the evening - wants people to put their thinking caps on now and make new films to be shown later this year.

Your film mustn't be long – anything from a few seconds to a maximum of three minutes – so it shouldn't take too long to make. All you need is the germ of an idea and, if you need any technical advice, there are several "old hands" in the village who are happy to help you.

Pete told the 60-strong audience that it was much easier to make films today because everyone has a smartphone, with editing software built in. Twenty years ago, Hornton's film makers had to use clunky video cameras and even clunkier software to edit them. Yet somehow, more than 70 films were entered for the festival from 2005 to 2009.

A film about everything and anything can make it into the Hornton Film Festival. Past festivals have included a spoof version of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, an animated film with shellfish called Prawn Star – geddit? – and the children of Hornton School making their own TV advert to recruit a new headteacher.

The school's current head, Wendy Whitehouse, is really keen for the children to be involved this time, so that's one film already on the playbill. Can you join them in making your own film? If you're interested, please email Pete on [peterwhitehead2017@gmail.com](mailto:peterwhitehead2017@gmail.com).

*Psst!* Don't tell everyone, but your film is sure to be a prize-winner. Every entry wins a Hornie in one category or another!

Roger Corke

# HORNTON MAY DAY

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Can you believe that planning for May Day 2025 is already underway! We're looking forward to bringing the village to life with our traditional May Day celebration and we hope you will support the village causes by joining in the fun.

If you're spring cleaning and have any clothes, toys or bric-a-brac which could help fill one of the many stalls, keep an eye on the village Facebook page and village emails for details of who is running them and needs your contributions.

The real hard work that makes our day such a success is done by all the stall holders, we just help organise the day. If you would like to be involved helping us plan and run the day or would like to have your own stall, please e-mail us at [Horntonmayday@gmail.com](mailto:Horntonmayday@gmail.com)

Thank you, *Sally Spencer, Jane Wain, Pete Lemon*

**Important News about our Famous Pre-Loved Clothes Stall**  
Next May Day 2025 will see a slightly reduced *New-to-You Clothes Stall*, concentrating on quality rather than quantity.

We will not be selling any menswear, shoes, jewellery or accessories at all. There is always quite a lot of interest in the menswear and a lot of donations, but I'm afraid we don't have the manpower or the space to deal with both, so will be concentrating purely on the ladies' clothing. Only ladies' clothes which are either designer labels or in excellent, clean condition can be accepted and these can be dropped off, ideally on hangers, at The Glen, Millers Lane, from the beginning of April.

Thank you for your understanding. *Alice Protheroe*

## Could 'The Apprentice' be in Hornton?

Mr Marks and Mr Spencer, Mr Tesco and Mr Sugar all started with market stalls, so why shouldn't a young Horntonian follow in their footsteps?

Alice's decision opens up a fantastic opportunity for a budding entrepreneur to accept the challenge - and start a Gentlemen's Outfitters stall! Everything you need for the full start-up experience is there: a free location, just contact [sallyspencer59@gmail.com](mailto:sallyspencer59@gmail.com) for a site; free publicity and stock, simply contact [roger.corke@aol.com](mailto:roger.corke@aol.com) to ask the village for donations, or post on the Hornton Village Facebook site, and free mentoring from Alice Protheroe at [alice.protheroe@outlook.com](mailto:alice.protheroe@outlook.com).

The only thing you would need to find is warehouse space for your stock - but a garage or spare room would do! You could even film your progress and upload your 'Diary of a young businessperson' who knows, you could go viral!

There is always a great deal of interest in the menswear - last year the ladies lost count of the pairs of mens' jeans that were donated, and there were even several evening suits in perfect condition, so stock won't be a problem. Go on - have a go!

## Goodwill for all Seasons

Christmas may be the traditional season of goodwill but there's goodwill aplenty in Hornton throughout the year, thanks to the Hornton Goodwill Fund. It's designed to give a small gift to anyone going through a bit of a hard time - and that's all of us sometime or another, isn't it?

It was first started by the late Jean Burden but, when she died, so did the fund. But now it's been started again by Jean's close friend, Julie Stanley. She's been given a donation to kick-start the fund and Julie has already given several presents to villagers who could do with a pick-me-up. "But I don't know everyone who needs to be cheered up, so please get in touch if you think someone could do with a goodwill gift," she says. You can contact Julie on 670507 and at [julieharrystan@aol.com](mailto:julieharrystan@aol.com).

Also, if you could spare a few pounds, either now or when you're next raising money at a village occasion such as May Day, Julie would be very grateful, as the initial donation to re-start the Goodwill fund won't last for ever. *Roger Corke*

## Local planning decisions

### Application for a Biomass Plant on farmland between Tysoe and Radway

Acorn Bioenergy Ltd have withdrawn their plans to construct and operate a huge anaerobic digester plant on farmland close to Tysoe.

Stratford District Council had made it clear that the application would have been refused planning permission. More than 1,400 people had signed a petition opposing the plans.

Whilst these plants have enormous eco value this one, a scar in an area of outstanding beauty, would have caused congestion, damage and pollution by transporting 92,000 tons of crop foodstock in 15,000 extra transport movements per year and the resulting gas transported back through Banbury. As we are all too aware Sunrising Hill in winter doesn't make for an easy journey particularly for HGVs.

The news that this project will no longer go ahead in this unsuitable location has caused enormous relief in the area which, ironically, is not connected to the gas grid.

### Application for the formation of Fishing Lakes with Accommodation

On Thursday 7th November a number of residents attended the planning committee meeting at Bodicote House when the application for the formation of the proposed fishing lakes adjacent to the MX track was to be decided. The Chairman, Cllr. Barry Wood, asked the Officer to outline the application. ATE, the applicants, had submitted a request for deferral of the decision because they had only just provided further details regarding transport and the environment which they felt the committee needed time to consider.

The proposer and the objectors were allowed five minutes each to put their case. Speaking on behalf of Hornton, PC Chair John Offord, supported by Dr James Hartley of Shenington and Alkerton PC, reminded the committee of their refusal of permission for the MX track, reiterated local objections, and pointed out that the same landowner was now involved with this application with the developer. He said that the reports revealed that there were no good reasons to approve the proposal and plenty of policy reasons to refuse. The accidental 'reveal' of the true intent of the application was mentioned showing what appeared to be future plans to construct a 'holiday village'.

Mr Lance Wiggins, agent for the applicants, was next to speak, appearing via Zoom. He asked for a deferral because he claimed it was located next to an "existing leisure facility, i.e. the MX site". This clearly demonstrated that the applicants did not know that the MX site had been refused and that indeed use as such would be illegal, but that the organisers clearly intended to use the access and the accommodation for the continuing use of the MX track, despite having been refused planning decision.

Several councillors then asked various questions about the plans, which the Officer in charge of the case was, in most cases, unable to answer because the information hadn't been provided. These questions included where was the water coming from, how was access going to be provided bearing in mind the site being twenty five foot below road level, how will sewage be dealt with, what impact will the visitor numbers have on local infrastructure for instance the Doctors surgery. The Officer could only say that if permission were granted then these problems would have to be addressed by conditions of use. After an hour's discussion Cllr Webb proposed refusal, and Cllr Chapman seconded. The Chair asked councillors to vote on the proposal and the application for the fishing lakes and the accommodation was refused by an unanimous vote.



# PAVILION WILDLIFE & School Garden Project



## **News update... Approval of Grant from Rural England Prosperity Fund through Cherwell District Council of over £6000, to fund the project, now confirmed.**

This is what they said: .... 'One example of a successful proposal has come from Hornton PC who have worked hard with local ecologists and Hornton Primary school to put together a grant funding proposal for just over £6000. The project will enhance biodiversity; provide an edible growing space for the village primary schools and enlarged educational nature area for the school and community; and improve the natural environment of Hornton pavilion communal grounds. We are delighted that this project will benefit so many members of this rural community'.

Work is progressing on the project. Preparing land for the hedgerow trees involved a lot of hard digging and weeding but was completed in time to get the hedge planted. The trees arrived from Woodland Trust in the first week of November so we have now been able to get them all planted. This gave the children from Hornton primary school the opportunity to all get involved and plant a tree.

### **Year 2 students had this to say of the experience:**

This term, our school planted new trees at the Pavilion. Mr. Holt helped us with this exciting project. He chose different types of trees, like rowan, wild cherry and hawthorn, which are great for the environment. Trees give us clean air to breathe and provide homes for many animals. We invited our parents to join in, and everyone worked together, digging holes and carefully placing the

young trees into the ground. It was a fun afternoon, and we felt proud to help nature. We learned how important it is to take care of the trees in our village. We can't wait to see the trees grow big and strong.

*The Environment Council (Year 2 Hornton Primary School)*

The planted hedgerow runs along the top of the bank at the kitchen end of the pavilion and continues along the bank at the south side of the sports field above the path. It is made up of a mix of 10 native hedgerow tree species. These have been selected for their value as habitat and food sources for a wide variety of our wildlife. They will provide flowers for pollinating insects like bees, butterflies, moths and hoverflies; berries, fruit, nuts, insects and arachnids to feed birds and small mammals; natural cover and perches for many birds; a safe corridor, food and protection for small mammals, invertebrates and

amphibians such as dormice, hedgehogs, grass snakes, newts, frogs and toads.

The trees as planted are very small but will soon grow into a beautiful hedgerow. As the hedge grows the area will benefit from an attractive, interesting, wildlife-friendly backdrop. The species we have planted are as follows:

Hawthorn, Hazel, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Silver Birch, Dog Wood, Rowan, Dog Rose, Elder and Blackthorn. The lower part of the bank by the Pavilion has been overseeded with wildflowers. The established grass is very thick here so will need to be effectively managed by cutting and raking to allow the flowers to establish and flourish. If successful this colourful area should be full of butterflies and bees during the summer months as they feed on the nectar and pollinate the plants. The mix also includes plants that birds love to feed on, for example, teasel, which is a great favourite during the autumn and winter months for our beautiful goldfinch.

The area between the hedgerow and flower meadow will be the school garden. The next task here will be to dig plots and construct raised beds for the children to grow their produce. **HELPERS WELCOMED** – let's get the garden ready for spring sowing and planting.

Work will also need to continue over the next few months to prepare ground for more tree and shrub planting and seeding in the spring.

If you would like to be kept informed of action days or kept up to date with progress please contact or send your email and/or mobile number to:

Philip Holt  
[phil.holt1005@gmail.com](mailto:phil.holt1005@gmail.com)  
07932 366397





# The Dun Cow



Farewell to Steve and Rebecca Yates, their parents and family, Tom, Carole, Molly and Chloe, who are leaving the Dun Cow after five years here. When they took the Pub over it was in a sad state, and with a huge amount of hard work they transformed it whilst keeping it open. No sooner was it repainted, re-upholstered and redesigned than Covid struck and brought with it the many unpredictable new rules and regulations, laws, threats and uncertainty that we all recall with a shudder. Steve and Rebecca duly rose to the challenge, clearing space in the garden and installing a tepee with an outside bar and comfortable,

covered shelter seating. They ran themselves ragged delivering safely distanced orders to the garden tables when no-one was allowed inside, and developed a takeaway meals service when we weren't allowed to go to restaurants. Not only did they supply the takeaways, but Steve delivered them as well - a new luxury for Hornton! When the Government randomly decided that if we went to the Pub we had to have food with our drinks (!!!) Rebecca immediately installed a kind of tapas system, whereby you could have a tiny course with each round of drinks.

The situation could not possibly be worse for people taking over a new business, but by pulling together and investing their time, money and determination they kept the Pub afloat throughout those difficult years. Our Pub is hugely important to village life and we have a great deal to thank Steve and Rebecca for; so many small local Pubs have closed down and the loss of the Dun Cow would have been a disaster. Their time here will be remembered fondly, and we wish them all the very best in the future.

## Hornton Grounds Farm changing hands



In 2009 we arrived at Hornton Grounds with a plan to set up a pasture based livestock farming system and hopefully help establish a young farmer. We opened to take guests for a farmhouse bed and breakfast, which has been wonderful to welcome visitors from all

over the world, and developed a Park and ride for guests to bring their horses on holiday.

The enormous bonus to coming to Hornton Grounds has been the welcome into the community of Hornton. Undeniably our proudest achievement has to have been holders of the title of 'Isabelle's knockers' for the last fourteen years' carol singing.

We have loved living, working and laughing in Hornton and hope to maintain all our friendships as we move over the county border into the next Parish, in Ratley.

*Catherine and Graham*

## STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...

*Hullo Hornton and Happy New Year!*

*My name is Rochelle and my partner is Tony. We're excited to share that our takeover of the Dun Cow is set to complete by the end of the month.*

*While we can't confirm a reopening date just yet, please know our goal is to preserve the heart and soul of the pub. We're committed to ensuring its future and keeping it thriving for everyone to enjoy. Tony and I are certainly looking forward to meeting you all!*

## CHURCH NEWS



### The Gospel Bell

*Something completely different*

In place of a normal service in November the church invited a local group of gospel singers to run the entire service with songs to sing along to, words on the big screen and a quick run through history of gospel music. The church was packed, people singing away and some even dancing in the aisles. A brilliant success and they will be back next year.



### Fayre's Chairs

Despite the terrible weather, December's Christmas Fayre, run by the Ladies Working Party in the parish church, was a roaring success. "We raised just over £1000," said joint organiser, Sarah Walther. "The Ladies Working Party are sponsoring ten chairs for Oak Class at Hornton Primary School and are funding a new carpet for the altar area at the church. "Our thanks go to all the ladies for their donations and wonderful stalls, our male volunteers and all the people who braved the storm!"

Come and join us at

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# Halloween in Hornton...



Creepy Streets...



Creepy Food...



A very Creepy Room...

... in the Dun Cow (sound effect - Ring a ring a roses sung slowly by creepy children)...

And horrible creepy outsiders who, for the third year running, came and stole the hamper, bowls and sweets that people left outside their doors. The sweets were free anyway - what turned these people into thieves was taking the cooking pot, hamper and bowls they were in. Perhaps next year we can arrange to give them a fright!

## The Hole in the Wall Gang

During the winter of 1998 a group of chaps found themselves meeting regularly every Wednesday early evening for a swift half in the Dun Cow. One convivial evening they decided to give themselves a name, and for reasons now lost in the mist of time Freddie Campbell instigated the "Hole in the Wall Gang".

Here they are, front row, left to right: Dave Kings, Ken Hartlett, Norman Britten with Barney; back row: Dan Joyner, Steve Whitby, Pete Joyner, Greg Dyson and Alan Rushforth. The photo was taken by Freddie Campbell.



Some things never change, and now another group of chaps find themselves meeting every week. The 2025 version features: John Furneaux, Jurgen Fricke, John Abbott, Andrew Overton, Bob Langton, Ian Harris and Pete Joyner.

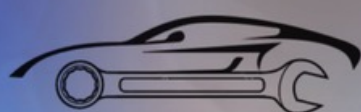


## Hornton History Group calling...

Do you or other members of your family have any mementos of World War 11: photos, cap badges, cartridges, stamps, in fact anything that dates from the 1940s? If you do, then Hornton History Group NEEDS YOU!

The Group is planning a small exhibition to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, Victory in Europe Day, which marks the official end of World War 11 in Europe on May 8 1945. It will be staged in the Chapel for a short period around May Day.

The exhibition will largely be confined to a four-shelfed display case, so small artefacts are what HHG is after and they don't need to have a Hornton connection. If you have something that you'd be happy to lend for a while, please contact Laurie Furneaux on 670896 or [lauriefurneaux@gmail.com](mailto:lauriefurneaux@gmail.com).



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# FAMILY FOCUS

Here is some information that might be of interest for children and young people.  
If you have any more info to share, please let *The Gossip* know and we'll gladly include it.

## *Baby Sitting*

Connie Joyner - 07393 520890; Edie Madden - 07921 336579;  
Lottie Atkinson - 07423 639329

## *The Mill Arts Centre*

The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury has a jam packed schedule of shows, events and workshops. They are all available to view on [themillartscentre.co.uk](http://themillartscentre.co.uk) and booking is online. Here are just a few upcoming things for young people:

- Sunday 26th January 2025, 4.30pm - Jack and the Beanstalk, ages 3+, tickets £12.
- Thursday 13th February 2025 - Youth workshop for 6 -12 years, making air dry clay animals.
- Thursday 13th February 2025 - Teen workshop 13 -18 years, learning Japanese Ink Art.
- Saturday 8th March 2025 - Youth workshop 6 - 12 years, make your own kite.
- Thursday 13th March 2025 - Youth workshop 6 -12 years, make your own bedroom door sign.

## *Spiceball Sports Centre*

01295 257522

As well as the swimming pool there are a complete range of sports and activities available for children, just phone for detailed information or to book.

There is Soft Play and crash course swimming lessons for all ages. The Pool also has 'Atlantis Splash', giant inflatable obstacles and games that almost cover the entire pool. Age 5 and over, £8 for 45 min sessions.

## *Local Village Facebook Info*

If you are a Facebook user there are several local pages that you can join which list upcoming events and local issues.

There is a combined page for residents in Hanwell, Horley, Hornton, Shotteswell and Warmington; a page for Tysoe Village; a page for The Runway, Shenington; and 'Horley Views' for Horley.

## *The Light, Banbury*

[banbury.thelight.co.uk](http://banbury.thelight.co.uk)

As well as the Cinema and a whole range of restaurants and bars, The Light has a comprehensive range of activity areas. All of the details and booking are online.

- Climbing walls - there are 26 climbs over 3 zones with 2 racing walls. With activities for all ages, Adventure Climb offers a fun and safe way for people of all abilities to challenge themselves and get active.
- Early Bird Climbing Sessions - Join us every Saturday and Sunday at 10.10am for early bird sessions for only £9.99, a great way to start the day.
- Bowling - strike it lucky with ten lanes of bowling, you can order drinks and snacks to your lane.
- Soft Play - age 2 to 6, swing, slide and jump through the soft play centre complete with a ball pool, tunnels and a 1.5 m drop slide. There is also a mini trampoline and a ball blaster. £3.

## *Coffee & Cake Mornings*

The ladies of Hornton Chapel host a Coffee and Cake morning every Friday between 10.30am and 12 noon. There is a children's corner, with some toys and games to keep the children occupied while their adult enjoys a cuppa and a chat. Everyone is welcome, it's friendly and informal.

## *JUMPA*

The tennis court in Hornton next to the Pavilion is available all year round and is free for Hornton residents. Now and again the committee will need help with maintenance and perhaps a fundraiser and will ask for volunteers instead of charging per use. As well as tennis it is lined for five-a-side football.

## *Football*

For information about Hornton Football Club check their Facebook Page and message Olly Wright.

## *Calling Babies and Pre-Schoolers...*

Hornton families are very welcome to come and join the 'Stay and Play' group nearby in Horley. The Old School Hall is tucked away behind the Church in Horley. Follow the footpath through the Churchyard straight on with the Church on your left and through a garden gate on your left which leads into the old school playground and the hall entrance.



**St Etheldreda's Church**  
with support from  
**The Michael Hardinge Trust**

**'Stay and Play' Group**

for babies and pre-schoolers in Horley  
and the surrounding villages

**Horley Old School Hall OX15 6BJ**

**Thursday mornings**

Check [thehorleyviews.com](http://thehorleyviews.com) for dates  
and more information

**10.30am - 12pm**

**[babygroup@ironstonebenefice.org](mailto:babygroup@ironstonebenefice.org)**

No booking required

Children must be accompanied by  
a parent or guardian at all times

The Michael Hardinge Trust  
Is a registered charity (no. 309585)



## Compton Verney

Family events January 2025 – April 2025

*Breathing With The Forest: Marshmallow Laser Feast.* Opens Saturday 8 February.

*Breathing with the Forest* is an immersive video installation that illuminates the ecosystem surrounding a capinuri tree (*Maquira coriacea*) in the Colombian Amazon. The installation recreates a real plot of Amazonian forest in its full majesty and astounding detail, revealing the beauty and fragility of these tropical environments, bringing to light the many delicate interactions and relationships that exist between the major kingdoms of life. Standing within the installation surrounded by the pulsing rhythms of the rainforest you will find that your breath begins to synchronise with the life of the forest as you become connected and part of the forest ecosystem.

*Archaeological Tour and Finds Handling* - Friday 21 March  
Free with a Compton Verney membership or day ticket.  
Join archaeologist and Compton Verney volunteer Hilary Calow as she brings the site's past to life.

### February Half Term

*Welly Walk.* Saturday 15 - Sunday 23 February.  
£3.50 per trail. Adults need a valid membership or day ticket.  
Pull on your wellies, pick up a map from the Welcome Centre and hunt for some marvellous welly creations.

*Makers Lab.* Tuesday 18 - Friday 21 February.  
Free with a Compton Verney membership or day ticket. Create your own special moving automata or anything else you can imagine!

*Beyond Blocks.* Thursday 20 - Friday 21 February  
£12 per participant, grown-ups will also need a ticket as well as membership or a day ticket. This workshop is perfect for curious minds aged 7-11 years.

Buzz into spring with LEGO Robotics! Guided by Andy from Beyond Blocks, use motors, sensors, and creative thinking to bring your bee to life, simulating the buzzing, pollinating action of real bees!

*Brick Builders.* Tuesday 25 February - Thursday 27 April  
Free with a Compton Verney membership or day ticket. Drop into our Brick Builders space for play and creativity with LEGO bricks.

## Banbury Museum

Banbury Museum hosts an Archaeological Finds Surgery on the first Thursday of every other month.

Have you found any archaeological objects? If so come and help build a bigger picture of our history by having them identified and recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme by your local Finds Liaison Officer, Edward Caswell.

His role is to identify and record artefacts found by members of the public, who may have found something whilst metal detecting, gardening or perhaps just out for a walk, about which they are curious. Anything of archaeological interest will be recorded on the Portable Antiquities Website, a database which preserves information about the articles for any future studies of the area's past.

Edward's next surgeries in Banbury are on the 7th March and 2nd May, in Banbury Museum and Gallery between 10.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. Booking is not necessary.



mm Portable Antiquities Scheme Oxfordshire Museums Service



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- **Tutoring Room:** Alternatively, one-to-one sessions are available at my comfortable, well-equipped Tutoring Room in Bodicote (£35 per session).

Every lesson is designed to be engaging, enjoyable, and effective, helping your child build confidence and succeed in their learning journey.

**Contact me today to discuss how I can help your child achieve their full potential!**



**Emma Hugo-Schofield**  
Email: [emma@ehs-tuition.co.uk](mailto:emma@ehs-tuition.co.uk)  
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1st Sat of the month: 10am - 2pm



# Macbeth at Broughton Castle



If you were going to produce a play featuring a fierce hand to hand battle, a murderous bloodbath, ghostly hauntings, curses and terrifying witches, where better to perform it than on a dark and freezing winter night in a real castle?

In a chilling lead up to Christmas that's exactly what talented Director and Head of Drama Neil Madden did, bringing his Sibford School students to Broughton Castle to perform MacBeth.

Having queued on the bridge over a sulky freezing moat, the promenade audience entered beneath the portcullis to watch the first few scenes of fighting and witchcraft on 'the blasted heath' performed in a circle ringed by flickering flames.

The witches then directed us into the Castle, where the rest of the story unfolded against a backdrop which no theatre could better, with real thrones and armour and flaming sconces.

The Sibford students performed faultlessly and took full advantage of the wonderful, atmospheric venue to give us a night to remember.

I asked Neil Madden how it had become possible to perform in Broughton Castle. "I knew that I would be producing Macbeth this winter and as I was driving past the Castle one



evening I thought what a fantastic opportunity for the students to perform in a real Castle. When I got home I e-mailed the Estate Manager, who arranged for me to visit and meet Martin Fiennes. He showed me around the castle as I explained my plan and he graciously offered the Great Hall. Martin is keen to make the Castle available for local Schools in future, and he kindly waived any fee. We were extremely grateful for this amazing opportunity."

Macbeth is a play which Neil knows inside out, having appeared in the London RSC in 2004 with Greg Hicks and Sian Thomas. As well as playing McDuff, the Porter and Satan he also understudied the leading roles, so in effect he had to learn the whole play. During his years with the RSC he appeared in Hamlet with Toby Stevens in the title role, directed by Michael Boyd, and toured Michigan, USA, with the Henrys, 1,2 &3. He also did a tour of British schools with a shortened version of Macbeth. After leaving the RSC Neil was a jobbing actor and appeared in rep and TV roles. I asked him why he chose to stop acting and become a teacher. "Given the unpredictable nature of the profession there's a point in life where taking on a mortgage and planning a family isn't

practical if you're both in the same precarious profession, as my wife and I were. Eventually she took on a long term contract and we decided to move to London to be closer to the studio. I used our children's early years to retrain, take an MBA and a teacher's qualification. By the time we moved back to Hornton I was able to move into teaching full time and take up this post as Head of Drama at Sibford School."

Neil's in-depth knowledge of the play brought about an elegant solution to the problem facing the student playing Macbeth - a scary number of difficult lines to learn. "I knew that Macbeth's mental state deteriorates throughout the play, as each of his evil deeds corrupts him, until by the end he is Satan himself" explained Neil. "Studying the text shows that after each murder his words become colder and steadily more manic as his personality alters. Together with the students we developed the idea that four of them would share the role of Macbeth and to illustrate this descent, plus how haunted Macbeth becomes by his actions, the next actor stepping into Macbeth's shoes would be the one whom he has just killed. Every one of Macbeth's transformations was slightly





different, but all were very cleverly choreographed so that the audience didn't notice the change. I gave the job of designing the transitions to Hayley Whitford, a new member of staff with a keen interest in drama, particularly physicality, and she did an excellent job."

Shakespeare is not an easy subject for students and I asked Neil how they tended to react to the unfamiliar text. Neil said that he found that they benefited from approaching the story in a more modern form to start with, so that they could empathise with the emotions and the sentiments of the characters. Once they understood not just the narrative, but what the characters were experiencing, they loved it and were keen to do more. Being able to perform the play in the Castle was a huge bonus as the atmosphere and setting really fired their imaginations. Another of Neil's devices was to expand the roles of The Witches so that they were woven into the narrative. They could then act as guides, both physically by steering audience in from the outside, and linking the scenes as the original play had necessarily been cut and shortened. Neil said of the witches "I wanted the three of them to act as one entity. We gave them total freedom and as they grew more confident they expanded the idea until as I was taking cast photos I watched Grace crawling manically through the grass and plucking at a soldier's feet, and Bonnie turned and literally growled at the camera - they were really possessed by it. We only had to guide them in a certain way and give them freedom and it infects their response."

I asked Neil whether he thought he would ever return to acting, or remain in teaching. He replied "I really enjoy teaching drama. I'm constantly surprised by what the students are capable of, and after we've put the work in and we switch on the lights, sound and action, and I watch them performing perfectly to a ticket paying, real live audience, there is no buzz like it. I remember pre-Covid when we put on a full, uncut version of Les Mis complete with all the songs and a flag waving revolution, I will never forget the pride I felt in their achievement. As for the far distant future, I have to say that teaching is slowly changing and I would say is now about 70% compliance, and creative freedom is being curtailed, which, for me personally, makes it a less attractive proposition. My experience at Sibford has allowed me to direct, which I admit I probably enjoy more than acting now. My ideal future would be something like conducting workshops within the RSC, or establishing myself as a director outside of education - but I'm very happy where I am at the moment."

Interview by Anne Joyner

## Save the Dates...

### Hornton History Group

#### Looking forward into 2025

The History group will be firming up on dates for outings after their next meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

On the agenda are an overnight visit to Salisbury, a visit to Ragley Hall in Warwickshire, the home of the Seymour-Conway family, Marquesses of Hertford and the Northampton Shoe Museum.

New members are always welcome and should contact organiser Laurie Furneaux for further information.

[lauriefurneaux@gmail.com](mailto:lauriefurneaux@gmail.com) or telephone 01295 670896.

### The Hornton Progressive Dinner

Saturday 18 October 2025

Make a note of the date in your diaries!

## Council Offices to relocate to Banbury Town Centre

Cherwell District Council announced its intention to relocate its headquarters from Bodicote House to the shopping centre, which it also owns, in August 2023.

Following a competitive tendering process, the council has appointed workspace specialists Workplace Creations as its main contractor. An entrance to the offices for the general public will be situated on the ground floor by the former Gap unit. This will lead to an upstairs reception.

The new offices will include a council chamber for public meetings.

During its time in the shopping centre BHS used the first floor for homeware and a café, complete with a balcony overlooking the centre. Councillor Lesley McLean, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Property and Regeneration, said: "I am delighted to report that this milestone has been reached. We're creating a modern office space that is fit for the future, reduces our environmental impact, and will ensure that our ongoing running and maintenance costs are reduced, delivering better value for our taxpayers throughout the district."

"This move will not only put our council headquarters in a central location, but it will also increase footfall at Castle Quay and is part of our future regeneration plans for Banbury, to ensure a thriving and vibrant town centre. Our move to Castle Quay will help broaden the offer within the centre, providing residents with fully accessible district council services in a convenient town centre location, capitalising on Banbury's strong public transport links."

The refurbishment works and relocation from Bodicote House are scheduled to be completed by early spring 2025.



## Updates on Hollow Way Footpath & the Culvert



In October, OCC 's Countryside Access Team organised major repair/reconstruction work on the footpath steps that lead up from the Hollow Way to the field above. I have since received the following update:

"In October, the Countryside Access Delivery Team came out to replace the existing steps in the bank on the footpath that goes up from the bottom end of the Hollow Way to the field above. At present, there are no plans to continue the steps to the top of the bank, but this is under review pending further complaints/reports."

Following the flooding in central Hornton at the end of September and a visit by the OCC Drainage inspector, work was finally undertaken by OPC Drain Services on 3 December to clear the culvert, which, to our knowledge, has not received any maintenance since its installation in the winter of 1999. OPC did an excellent job: it took them more than 4 hours to clear the silt and debris trapped in the culvert by the nest of small roots from the willow tree. The water is now flowing freely and the water level at the upstream end has dropped considerably now that water can flow unimpeded.

The OPC operatives recommended that the culvert should be "jetted" annually in the summer. The question now is who will organise and fund this going forwards – obviously no one wants a repeat of the recent flooding due to avoidable negligence.

Maggie Higgins

# HORNTON IN 2050

How will our local wildlife respond to the changing climate?

Luckily, in the UK we are better placed to answer that question compared to anywhere else in the world. We can use 350 years of high-quality climate and wildlife measurements, including over 230 million records for nearly 50,000 species of animals and plants. They show that during the past 170 years – since the beginning of industrial times - Winters are becoming increasingly milder, with fewer ground frosts and snowfall, Springs are arriving earlier, Summers are drier (but with increasing risk of heavy downpours, similar to the one that flooded the village recently) and Autumns are arriving later. Temperatures are forecast to continue increasing at rates far exceeding anything experienced by humans in the past 25,000 years. Unsurprisingly, our wildlife is responding, but what will it look like around Hornton in future decades? The following are some predictions based on what has been happening in the UK so far. But, as always with nature, the balance of 'winners' and 'losers' could move either way depending on how well we control the *Earth's future warming*.

## WOODLANDS

e.g. Edge Hill, Bush Hill, Ragnell Bottom, Temple Pool

Drought-resistant trees such as small-leaved lime (Photo 1), holm and Turkey oak will begin to replace more drought-sensitive species such as birch, beech, sycamore and deciduous oak (2). Woodland floor communities will continue to change, with plants and shrubs such as holly and ivy replacing honeysuckle, foxglove (4) and bird's-foot trefoil. Mushrooms and toadstools (fungal 'fruits' such as fly agaric, 3) will appear earlier in Autumn, and remain longer. Some will appear for a second time in milder Springs. Birds migrating long distances (overwintering in Africa for example), including cuckoos (6), warblers and flycatchers, will decline. In contrast, populations of all-year residents such as our familiar blue tits, wren (5) and blackbirds could be boosted by more plentiful food supplies in milder winters and Springs, even having extra broods later in the year. Populations of non-hibernating woodland mammals such as deer (7) and badgers will continue to grow.

## FIELDS, HEDGEROWS AND GARDENS

all around us!

Plants will continue to flower and seed ever earlier in the Spring and Summer. 'New' species of butterflies, large moths, ground beetles, woodlice, spiders and

birds (including 'exotic' birds such as bee eaters) will be seen locally, many having arrived from overseas. Some familiar summer visitors such as painted lady butterflies (9) and swallows are predicted to become all-year residents. Most newcomers will be welcome, but some such as Asian hornets feeding on local honey bees (10) could become pests. Populations of plant and animal disease carriers, such as aphids, ticks and mildews, will continue to grow and remain active for longer. Arable, vegetable and fruit farming are tipped to become more common locally, moving from drought-prone areas in eastern England and overseas. Non-hibernating mammals such as rabbits and hares will benefit from milder winters, whereas hibernating counterparts such as hedgehogs (8) and dormice much less so. Reptiles such as adders (11) and common lizards could re-occupy sun-facing valley sides and stone walls having been lost from local sites such as Edge Hill in recent decades.

## PONDS, STREAMS AND RESERVOIRS

Garden ponds, West End pond and stream, Ragnell Bottom, Horley Valley, Sor Brook, Clattercote etc.

New species of strong flying insects such as dragonflies and damselflies are likely to settle in Hornton's garden ponds and streams, most having arrived on our seashores from continental Europe. Despite emerging from hibernation and breeding earlier in milder Springs our toads (12), frogs and newts face a more precarious future, threatened by deadly fungal diseases in milder winters and the loss of drought-prone wetland sites in the summer. In larger ponds and lakes warm-water loving carp (13) will thrive whereas active predators relying on high oxygen levels, including pike (14) and perch, will be the first to disappear. Wetland birds that are all-year residents (eg. coot, moorhen and heron) will benefit from frost- and ice-free winters. However, long-distance winter visitors such as teal and geese may become less common; Increasingly, they are choosing to overwinter in Scandinavian countries further north (which are warming even faster than us) rather than the UK, a habit known as 'short stopping'.

Need more information? Ask me in the Dun Cow, or borrow a copy of my book *Climate Change and Nature*, published by Oxford University Press in July. Thanks to Tony Short for all images, except 4, 10, 13 & 14 (Adobe Stock).

Steve Tilling

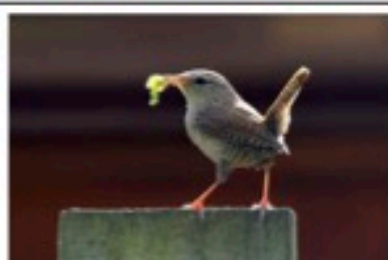




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Small  
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3  
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agaric



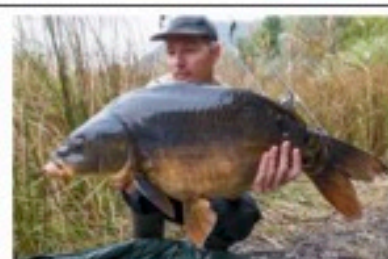
5  
Wren



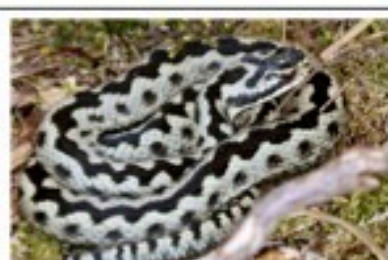
7  
Heron



9  
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deer



11  
Carp



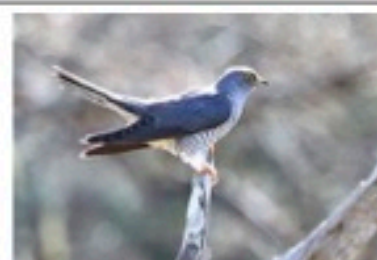
13  
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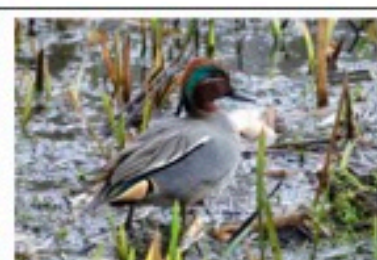
2  
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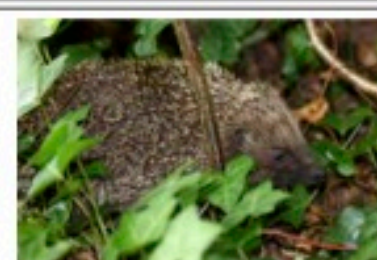
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6  
Cuckoo



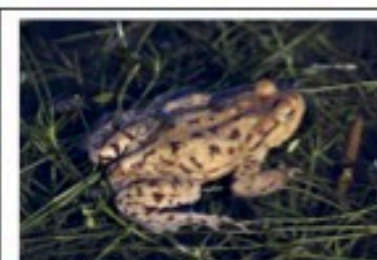
8  
Teal



10  
Hedge  
hog



12  
Pike



14  
Toads  
&  
Frogs



# Hornton History Group

## Back to Backs

Hornton History Group took another step back into the past when on Sunday 22 September 16 of its members drove to Birmingham to visit the National Trust's last surviving court of Back to Back houses.



Court 15 was part of a series of Back to Back houses quickly and cheaply built in Birmingham in the 1830s to accommodate the rapidly increasing population of this expanding industrial city.

The one-and-a-half hour guided tour provided by the National Trust, which took over management of the court from the Birmingham Conservation Trust, was fascinating, providing an intimate insight into life at the Back to Backs through the stories of the people who occupied the houses. In a court the outer houses faced on to the street with the inner houses facing into a shared courtyard. In the enclosed courtyard there would have been one toilet and one water access point shared by many households.

After the NT tour, and in the pouring rain, the intrepid Hornton History Group members made their way to the canal and embarked on the Euphrates narrow boat for a south bound cruise as far as the University of Birmingham. En route a picnic style lunch was served and the boat's bar was opened.

Another great HHG outing! Thanks to Laurie Furneaux for organising it.



## An Oxford Breakfast

The History Group's Oxford themed breakfast, organised by Laurie Furneaux, was very well attended.

Catherine Vint cooked the sausages, which had been specially prepared by Proctor's sausages to replicate the original Oxford sausage, and she supplied the eggs. Catherine had also made the marmalade to the original Frank Cooper's recipe, although we discovered during historian Liz Woolley's interesting talk that the credit for this famous recipe belongs to Frank's wife, Sara. Frank used to travel to Seville every year in order to ensure that his Oxford marmalade factory got the pick of the orange crop, "the man from Oxford - he say yes!"

The sausage and egg baps and toast and marmalade were washed down with Hook Norton brewery ale, or tea or coffee, and then the room settled down for an hour to watch Ms Woolley's presentation. Her virtual tour of Oxford pointed out the many, many ale houses and breweries in the city, the butchers and victualers who traded from the covered market and the sites of the marmalade factories. We also learnt about the gentlemen whose various successful trades elevated them from humble beginnings to Aldermen, mayors and even an MP. It was a very successful event and thanks to everyone who helped to make it so.



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# The Song Thrush

(*Turdus philomelos*)



Hark, how blithe the throstle sings  
And he is no mean preacher  
Come forth into the light of things  
Let Nature be your teacher

*William Wordsworth*

Until the last few years I would have two or three breeding pairs of song thrushes here in my organic Hornton garden. They have been steadily declining, and this year there were none, indeed only one pair of blackbirds instead of several. Once one of our most common birds the thrush has been in decline since the 70's particularly in farmland and is now on the amber list of conservation concern in Europe and the red list in areas of the UK and Netherlands.

The Song Thrush breeds in forests, gardens and parks and in land where agricultural practices have made intensively farmed fields unsuitable, gardens are an important breeding habitat. A study in England found that only 3.5% of nests are now found on farmland with 71.5% in gardens and 1% in woodland. The hen builds a neat cup-shaped nest lined with mud in shrubs, trees or creepers and lays four to five glossy bright blue eggs lightly spotted purple or black. She incubates the eggs for 10 to 17 days and the chicks fledge in a similar amount of time. The Thrush hen is almost never a host for a cuckoo as she can recognise a 'foreign' egg and will eject it. Two or three broods a year is normal, and the survival rate averages 55% for the first year or life; the adult survival rate is 62.2%. A life span of ten years has been recorded but the norm is more like three.

Unlike their fully migratory cousins the Redwing, the Song Thrush is partially migratory with those that choose not to stay here over-wintering in Southern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Thrushes have been trapped for food from as far back as 12,000 years ago and although the EU has banned the practice they are still trapped elsewhere by using birdlime including rural areas of Valencia district in Spain.

An omnivorous bird, the thrush eats a range of insects and invertebrates particularly slugs and snails and hunts on open ground at dawn and dusk. You can often hear them raking through leaf litter or using a stone as an anvil on which to break open a snail shell.

The territorial Male Song Thrush sings to mark his boundaries and will sing from high points on two or three edges of his territory. Its distinctive song, which has repeated musical phrases, has frequently been referred to in poetry. For its weight, the Song Thrush has one of the loudest bird calls. An individual male may have a repertoire of more than 100 phrases, many copied from its parents and neighbouring birds. Mimicry may include the imitation of man-made items like telephones, and the song thrush will also repeat the calls of captive birds, for instance canaries.

You can do a few things that will help to halt the decline of the Song Thrush:-

- Never use slug pellets in the garden. They work by paralysing the slug and manufacturers claim that they are 'bird friendly' because the slugs should die underground. You couldn't tell the difference between a paralysed slug and a sluggish slug, and neither can a Thrush, and that meal will kill the bird, and any chicks it feeds.
- Put up bird boxes where there is plenty of cover to protect the birds from nest raiders like squirrels, magpies, jays and hawks.
- Fit your cat with a elasticated collar with a bell and avoid letting it out at dawn and dusk.

*Birdbrain*

## POETRY CORNER

### Trees

by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast  
A tree that looks at God all day  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray  
A tree that may in Sumer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain  
Who intimately lives with rain  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree

## New Year - New Nature!

Why not make some **green themed resolutions** this new year!

Perhaps yours is to cultivate new hedge life. Maybe you're going to reduce your meat intake, find eco-friendly cleaning products, or make your garden more wildlife friendly using native plants. There are endless ways to make a difference!

Why not sign up to our monthly email Bulletin, visit our website, and follow us on social media for the latest nature news and ways you can join others in helping nature in Oxfordshire <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/news>

*Jess Bouwer*

Wild Oxfordshire Hedgerows & Partnerships Officer



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## Winter Warmer Recipe *Pork, Spinach & Butter Bean Tray Bake*

Serves 4



### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 pork chops
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 red onion, finely sliced
- 3 garlic cloves, finely sliced
- 6 fresh thyme sprigs, leaves picked
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard (or more to taste)
- 2 x 400g tins butter beans - do not make the mistake of draining the liquid from the tins!
- ½ vegetable stock cube, made up to 150ml
- 220g bag baby spinach

### METHOD:

- Preheat the oven to 200°C, fan 180°C. Drizzle 1 tbsp oil over the chops, season and rub to coat. Set aside.
- Heat the remaining oil in a deep, ovenproof frying pan or shallow, flameproof casserole dish over a medium heat. Fry the red onion for 8-10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until softened and lightly caramelised. Add the garlic and thyme and cook for another 2 minutes. Stir in the mustard and butter beans, along with the liquid from the tins. Pour in the stock, bring to a simmer, then transfer the pan to the oven for 15 minutes.
- Meanwhile, heat a frying pan over a high heat. Sear the pork for 1 minute each side until browned. Sear for an extra 30 seconds on the fat edge.
- Stir the spinach through the beans (it will look like too much but will wilt down), then top with the pork and any juices. Return to the oven for 8-10 minutes, until the pork is just cooked and the beans are thickened. Serve with crusty bread, additional vegetables or just on its own.

Enjoy!

Lynn Corke

## *The Gossip*

The copy deadline for the next issue of The Gossip is Friday 4 April 2025. Please send your ideas or submissions to Anne Joyner at thehorntongossip@aol.com. To advertise in the next issue, please contact Ni Marot.

*Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in this newsletter, the editorial team cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any errors that might occur, particularly in respect of advertisers not meeting customer expectations. The opinions published in this paper are not necessarily those of the team.*

### A word from the Editorial Team:

Don't forget - *The Gossip* welcomes your letters if there's anything you would like to say to "The Village" via these pages. The only rule is - no anonymous letters will be printed.

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# 15th Feb 2025

Bar & Nibbles



## DISCO FEVER

The Hornton  
Pavilion

7:30pm-12:00pm

Fancy Dress Optional

Tickets £15  
for 2 in advance

Email: [Justina.marot@gmail.com](mailto:Justina.marot@gmail.com)

The Hornton Allsorts present

# White Spirit

by Lucy Turmaine

a comedy play following  
Prince Charming's quest  
to find his one true love...



Friday 21 & Saturday 22 March 2025  
7.30pm in Hornton Pavilion

best suited to an adult audience... over 12 years