

The Gossip



HORNTON

Issue Number 37

SPRING 2000

NEW MILLENNIUM

By Philip Williams

Searching through stored boxes and paperwork for the on coming May Day White Elephant I came across Issue No. 13 of The Gossip, Spring 1994, the front page "leader" was written by Irene Harwood and entitled May Magic, and to quote:- "A few days before the May Day celebrations the trees on the village green were still just tight buds, but by the arrival of the actual day they had opened perfectly to give a beautiful crisp example of how glorious Spring is in Hornton". It described perfectly our Millennium Spring six years later, prior to this pink blaze, the village had awoken to April in the most spectacular way. Despite the excessive rainfall, from Millers Lane to Bell Street, Daffodils and Narcissi abounded, flowing over banks round the trees, even in the hedgerows, lifting the spirit to the awakening year. We do seem yet again to have escaped Winter without any major horticultural disaster. The only snow came before Christmas when the children grabbed their chance of a "bumpy ride" down the Holloway slopes. At this moment of writing I still wonder if we have escaped the notorious Blackthorn Winter. The Sloe blossom now withered and gone. Old 'Sages' mutter "Ne'er a cast a clout till' May be out...." We may finally see Harry Seigals 'White Wisteria' bloom, till now each year smitten by those dreaded nights of hard frost, Winters 'last fling'. Whether it be the fine March and wet April, but natures flora has abounded this year. Driving through the countryside, particularly in the South, Primroses, Wood Anemones, wild Daffodils on the Welsh borders and on motorway banks (always facing the morning sun) an abundance of Cowslips. In the Sherington Saxon "steps" Wild Saxafragia, and under the shelter of Gorse in our valley I spotted a few blue Hare Bells. if you feel like a walk, wander down Townsend Lane past "Diana Blue" banks of Anchusa, sprinklings of Bluebells (thanks Mrs Joyner), over the style and cross the meadow, where you will probably then become aware of a heavy, almost fruity smell. The Gorse too is in fuller flight than ever. Put your nose to it. Close your eyes; imagine you're savouring a glass of wine, Mmmm...an undercurrent of Honey and Butter.... Do I detect a smidge of Pineapple?? Mmmm... and that has to be a strong hint of Coconut...! Try it I think you will like it. Then wander down to the new brook bridge, savour the Gorse again, and if fit enough climb the slope to the ridge, see how well the fields have been resettled to pasture. Two years ago this whole area was a 20ft. Quarry. Turn and you will see the village, now surrounded by its fresh green mantle. Oh lucky folk are we.

The Swallows arrived with sightings between 19th and 22nd April, taking a well earned

feed, skimming the valley field and preening themselves after their miracle flight from Africa. I first heard the Cuckoo on 23rd April by the allotment fields, its favourite perch last year. Buzzards ride the thermals above Holloway much to the annoyance of residential Crows. I believe these majestic "gliders" are breeding in the Shutford/Epwell area.

Easter was later this year and the Church once again "bloomed" with colour after the restriction of Lent. Easter Sunday was a glorious day, and the Tulips in the Church windows opened to show their full colour. The Rev. David Addley gave a very spiritual and enjoyable service in his usual relaxed manner assisted by Lindy Bridgeman. I still enjoy the memory of Mrs. Bridgeman's "solo" on New Years day. Afraid that there would be but a handful of worshippers following our New Year revels, she faced a church so full of people there were too few seats for late comers!! A "debut" I'm sure she will always remember.

Whilst on Church matters, the Millennium Screen has found its permanent position by the Vestry with plenty of space for viewing. You will find by the Vestry door a brass switch, press it, and the screen will be lit. This is thanks to Eric Turner, who as always, works quietly and anonymously as he did when the whole Church was rewired and lit. Like a spirit in the night Tom Gibbs mended the ailing church door handle.

Mrs. Hart as from Easter has retired as has Mrs. Fox from the Church Ladies Working Party. Both have given invaluable service to the Church for many years and we owe them enormous thanks.

Bill Jeffs has taken on the duties of Church yard maintenance and has already made a marked impression, but let us not forget the many hours put in for the past few years by Glen Walther who had the difficult task of fitting in these duties between a busy working life and Football interests.

Philip Brooks is also one of our "anonymous" village workers. The results of his work can be found in the Churchyard, Tinker Tank and around the village green, whilst Rosemary Gilkes has mown the village green to perfection, which set the scene for our major spring event, May Day.

To everybody's relief we awoke to a glorious sunny morning. All forecasts to the good. By Ten O'clock the green was a scene of preparing activity. Tables and chairs, straw bales, shrubs, plants, bunting and Barbecue, delivered to their respective positions. Maypole erected, May Queen's chair and Chariot decorated. Although officially a 2 O'clock start, by 1 O'clock people were already pouring into the village. Vintage cars made a noisy entry to the School Playground to give a welcome added feature to our already growing venue. Our White Elephant stall grew by an added table

- four in all!! the input this year was better than ever. I thank all who took the time and gave so generously to make our tables of more interest. We were invaded the whole afternoon, and with thanks to my loyal chums, Ronald, Lyn and Roger, Jayne (8 months pregnant) and Simon, for their patient help and a lot of work. The final count was well worth it.

At one point during a lull, probably whilst the May Queen was being crowned, I looked about me. I saw activity in all corners of the green. Colour, people, happy chatter, music from the Morris Dancers and their accompanists. From the Church Room where Laura Pike raised many pounds, to the Pub which rocked all day, to Millers Lane which echoed to the sound of Shire Horses shoes. May Day was happening as only Hornton can do it. We are fortunate in this village to have a group of residents who each will turn out on the day, put in the effort and make this all possible. I've no need to list them, you know who they are. As the Rev. David Addley would say "God Bless you All and have another good year".

The May Day Committee wish to thank all stall holders, Morris Dancers, Maypole Dancers and village people who played a part to make May Day a great success again this year. Money raised as follows:-

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Teas | 206.00 |
| Lucky Square | 60.00 |
| (winner Norma Tew) | |
| White Elephant | 400.00 |
| Barbecue | 222.00 |
| Stall rents | 55.00 |
| Shire Horse Rides | 30.00 |
| total | £973.00 |
| Less Expenses | 30.00 |
| Pavilion Fund | £943.00 |
| White elephant | 183.20 |
| Bar | 24.00 |
| Furniture Sale | 245.00 |
| Open Garden Bellevue | 20.00 |
| Millennium Fund | £472.20 |
| Raffle | 127.10 |
| Skittles | 64.40 |
| Small Playing Field | £191.50 |
| Bottle Stall | 100.00 |
| Vintage Cars | 128.70 |
| Hornton School | £228.70 |
| Pick a Ticket | |
| Methodist Church | £167.30 |
| Produce & Bric a Brac | |
| Parish Church | £181.40 |
| Boys Football | £21.50 |
| Brownies Bric a Brac | £27.00 |

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND NEW EQUIPMENT

Last year we delivered letters to young Hortonians asking for their ideas as to what new equipment they might like in the Playground. We wrote to a total of 44 young people and received replies back from 14. Out of these replies the larger proportion favoured some kind of football and/or netball games (thanks to those who took the time to send back replies). We are pleased to be able to let you know that we have just collected a new basketball/five-a-side football combination, which we hope to install at the end of May/early June.

Sorry if we have been a little while acting on your ideas but we have had to save up to buy it! The cost is £848 including VAT and the money to pay for this comes solely from bingos, coffee mornings, raffles and donations.

We hope that you get a lot of fun from the new equipment.

Mike Webber (Treasurer/Secretary, Hornton Children's Playground)

P.S. At the time of writing this article we must apologise for the condition of the playground caused by the unfortunate incident of the cows getting into it and causing damage to the grass, something which was beyond our control. We hope to rectify this as soon as possible.

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY, 5TH AUGUST

10.30 a.m.

IN THE CHILDREN'S
PLAYGROUND FOR PLAYGROUND
FUNDS

HORNTON PARISH COUNCIL A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2000

At the Annual Parish Meeting at 8 p.m. on 17th April the Chairman, Cllr Eric Turner firstly introduced the new Clerk, John Peace, and welcomed principal guest, County Cllr George Reynolds. District Cllr David Turner who was due to retire from office at the election on 4th May was unable to be present due to his travels abroad.

Cllr Eric Turner said that only two nomination papers had been submitted to District Council offices by the 4th April deadline. Consequently there would be no Parish Council until another election was held within 60

days from 4th May. Meanwhile he and the Clerk would liaise on any matters of importance to the village.

The Chairman regretted that Cllr Harold Hart had not sought re-election and commended him for the fine service he had given the village as Parish Councillor for 51 years. During much of that time he had held office as Chairman and represented the community as District Councillor. It was interesting to note, the Chairman said, that during Cllr Hart's term of office he would probably have been involved in the introduction of mains electricity in the village in 1949 and the laying of mains drainage in the early 60s.

The Chairman concluded by thanking all those in Hornton who had helped with the mowing of the greens, upkeep of flower tubs and general maintenance and expressed his pleasure in the neatness and tidiness resulting.

The Finance Report was given by the Clerk in his capacity as Responsible Financial Officer. With the finances being in good order, he thanked the Chairman for the excellent way he had maintained the Accounts since the resignation of the previous Clerk. The auditors had approved the Accounts as at 31st March 1999 but the high cost of audit in proportion to the annual precept was noted with some concern. The Clerk then highlighted one or two items on the Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2000 which the Parish Council had previously adopted. Cllr Hart pointed out that the £850 cost of re-surfacing a pavement was the first of two equal annual payments agreed with the Oxfordshire County Council.

The usual Club and society reports were given which reflected the high level of activity within the village.

Cllr Reynolds expressed thanks to Cllr Hart for his long period of service on the Parish Council and for all the advice he had given him when he first became County Councillor. He remarked how lucky the village was to have such a good school and how impressed he was with the high level of club/society activity. Where matters needed attending to he emphasised that the Parish Council should keep up the pressure on the County Council.

Residents attending the meeting complained about speeding in the village which was mainly attributed to local parents when driving their children to school in the mornings. Villagers were urged to slow down, especially down Millers Lane and along Bell Street/Langway but Cllr Reynolds said that there was no simple solution; traffic calming

schemes such as chicanes or rough strips across the road were extremely expensive and were not always effective. Cllr Reynolds doubted whether the County Council would install them in the village due to financial constraints. The Chairman concluded that the Parish Council would benefit from speed monitoring systems and suggested that PC Clive Bradshaw of the local police, should be approached about this.

A resident complained also about the poor state of the road surface along Langway and blocked drains which were particularly bad along West End where water runs down the footpath towards the Church. The Chairman and Clerk would shortly be meeting Steve Bowden of County Council, Highways, to discuss what needed doing.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and asked that those who wished to be elected to the Parish Council should contact him or the Clerk. The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

THE CHURCH CLOCK

by Isabelle Harris

Further to the article in the Winter "Gossip" regarding the upkeep of the Church clock, people may be interested to know that the clock face is a solid piece of circular stone. The clock was converted to electricity in 1972 and since then has been maintained by Eric Turner. When any parts needed replacement Mr Richard Clark from Cromwells undertook the challenge and made or repaired the necessary parts free of charge.

CHURCH SERVICES

First Sunday in Month
8.30 a.m. Parish Church
11.00 a.m. Methodist Church
(United Service)

Second Sunday in Month
11.00 a.m. Parish Church
(United Service)

Third Sunday in Month
10.30 a.m. Parish Church
(Matins)
11.00 a.m. Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday in Month
11.00 a.m. Parish Church
11.00 a.m. Methodist Church

U.K. @ MUSIC LIVE

HORNTON MILLENNIUM
MUSIC LIVE
(WITH BARBECUE)
ON BANK HOLIDAY
MONDAY, 29 MAY
FROM 4 TO 7 P.M. AT
HORNTON PAVILION

I would like to give a few details of the musical aspects of this event. Over the week end of 25-29 May the BBC is acting as host and catalyst for a complete 5 days of live music throughout the United Kingdom. Not all the events are sponsored by the BBC itself so only those in this category can use the banner/logo "BBC Music Live". However, they have created another banner/logo to embrace all the events of these 5 days, which is "UK @ Music Live" (the logo we have used on our posters etc.)

The Musicians Union throughout the UK has a certain amount of finance to support "UK @ Music Live" events. I am a member of the Leamington Spa branch of the Musicians Union and have been able to obtain some funding to pay some musicians at an event during the period 25-29 May. I could have put on a "Music Live" event anywhere locally but I chose to put it on here in Hornton; and finally decided to link up with our Millennium Committee to make it more than just a musical event. However, from the musical angle I am using a trio of guitar, bass guitar and myself on vibraphone. As I like to encourage young musicians, also with us will be NATHAN HARWOOD, clarinet and alto sax, KERI HARWOOD, flute (both young Hortonians), and from Horley young vocalist ANNEKA NAYSMITH.

"Hornton Millennium Music Live" has been listed on the BBC database (visit the website at www.bbc.co.uk/musiclive). It will also be mentioned on BBC local radio broadcasts from 15 May on its daily guide to "BBC Music Live". It will also appear in a special edition of "Radio Times" available in the shops on 16 May. It may also appear in local newspapers. David Miles, Millennium Chairman, will now continue with some detail from the Millennium Committee regarding "Hornton Millennium Music Live".

Mike Webber

I would like to thank Mike for sorting out the music and sponsorship for this event. I will now give you some details about the non-musical aspect of this event. It will consist of a full barbecue with sumptuous puddings and an amply stocked bar of wines, beers and soft drinks. There will be some exciting games and competitions to play such as bowling and treasure hunt to name just two. The event will be held on the Pavilion sports field on Monday, 29 May from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The tickets are on sale from Mrs A Turner, price £5 adults and £2.50 children, and all the money raised at this event will be going to the Millennium seat project. So, come along, enjoy your barbecue, listen to the melodious music of Mike and his musicians and have a go at the games. It's going to be a fun afternoon so come along and put Hornton on the musical map!

*David Miles,
Chairman, Millennium Committee*

Open Garden in Hornton

Audrey and Eric Turner are once again opening their garden on Sunday 28th May 2000 to raise money for charity under the National Gardens Scheme. Teas will be available and also a good Plant Stall and the profits from both of these will be donated to the Hornton Millennium Fund.

If anyone is willing to donate a cake for the teas, it would be very much appreciated. Please contact Audrey Turner or Liz Jeffs.

A little bird told us - Lesley King from The Barn, Millers Lane has been invited to the Queen's garden party in June along with her partner John. Perhaps she will share this royal experience with us in the next issue of 'The Gossip' which will be out by the second week in August! Articles, please, to Julie Stanley or Ann Hemmings by 31 July.

OPEN-AIR SERVICE WITH THE SALVATION ARMY BAND

ON THE VILLAGE GREEN
SUNDAY, 18 JUNE
3.00 P.M.

GRILLED FRUIT BROCHETTES

Serves 4

½ medium sized ripe pineapple
2 just ripe, firm bananas
2 ripe but firm pears
4 ripe but firm fresh figs
2 ripe but firm peaches
juice of 1 lemon
4 tsp sugar
cape gooseberries to decorate

Raspberry-orange coulis
225 g (8 oz) raspberries
grated zest and juice of ½ orange
1½ tbsp sugar, or to taste

Preparation time: 20 minutes
Cooking time: 6-7 minutes

Soak 8 bamboo skewers in cold water for 20 minutes. Meanwhile make coulis. Puree the raspberries with orange zest, juice and sugar in a blender. Add more sugar to taste if necessary. Set aside.

Prepare the pineapple, bananas, pears, figs and peaches, peeling as necessary and cutting into bite-sized pieces. Thread fruit onto skewers making a colourful arrangement. Sprinkle kebabs with half the lemon juice and sugar. Grill them for 3-4 minutes till lightly tinged with brown then turn over, sprinkle with remaining lemon juice and sugar and grill for further 3 minutes until lightly browned and caramelised a little.

While the kebabs are being grilled pull back the papery skins on the cape gooseberries to form a star-like flower round the fruit. Place 2 fruit kebabs on each plate, drizzle round the coulis, decorate with cape gooseberries and serve hot.

Nectarines or apples may be used instead of peaches. Serve fruit kebabs raw if preferred, with the fresh fruit skewers resting in a pool of the coulis.

3 H's Gardening Club

Plant Sale

Sat 20 May

11.00 a.m.

Hornton Pavilion

CONGRATULATIONS to:-

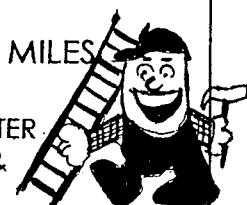
Ray and Roma Kain on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in June.

Also to Lisa Mellis, Lucy Pattenden, and Daniel England on their 18th birthdays

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH**

I was told a funny story the other day - by the head of the Dasset Hill Area group of Neighbourhood Watches actually.

A couple of days after the owners had gone on holiday, the keyholders of their house saw a small furniture van draw up outside and a man knock at the door and look a bit puzzled. Naturally, they went to see what he wanted. He explained that he had been asked to deliver a wardrobe, but there seemed to be no one at home. The neighbour got their key, opened the door for him supervised the unloading of the wardrobe by the driver and his mate, then saw them off the premises.

However, a couple of hours later the men reappeared saying that they were very sorry, but there had been a mistake, and that they had in fact delivered the wardrobe to the wrong client. They carried it out, reloaded it, and they went merrily on their way.

BUT what the neighbours didn't know was that there had been a third man *inside* the wardrobe who had, during the time he had been inside the house, been able to take his time to assess the most valuable contents and load them into the wardrobe, then get back inside himself.

Neat, huh? The Trojan Horse trick once again!

Now, how much would you be willing to pay to have your favourite photo-frame with the picture of your parents in, returned to you if it were stolen? Or the clock left to you by your grandfather? Or perhaps a treasured antique? Or your car? Your tools?

We have talked about marking items before - but here it comes again! If a stolen item is recovered, how on earth is anyone to know who is the rightful owner? However, what if there was some system which could help in tracing the owner, would this not be a good idea? There is, and as a member of the Neighbourhood Watch you can have it far cheaper than you can buy it in the shops! Items are marked with tiny dots containing numbers which are then recorded in a central registry against your name. The system is used by Jaguar to mark their cars before they leave the factory, and,

incidentally, the man who set up the system had his MG at our May Day Celebrations!

You pay a lot for house insurance, and it can help buy replacement items if they are stolen. But it can't help you keep or get back items of sentimental value that might be taken. Is this not worth paying for? Packs to mark 40 items cost £17.50, and there are very good deals on larger numbers. Ask your co-ordinator for a pack, or ring 670275.

Dogberry

PASSWORDS

The Neighbourhood Watch now have application forms for security passwords for both the Water Board and Electricity Board.

You choose any password that you will find easy to remember - your mother's first name, perhaps, or the place of your favourite holiday perhaps - and register it. Anyone then claiming to be an official must tell you the password before you talk to them or let them into your house. This would eliminate any impostors.

Forms can be had from either your Co-ordinator, from the village Post Office on Tuesdays, or by calling me, Virginia Britton, on 670275.

OUR TRIP TO THE DOME

By Anna Miles

On Friday 5th May years 3, 4, 5 and 6 went to the Millennium Dome. We got there at 12.30 and went to Schoolscape where we had our lunch and then left all our bags there. My group was with Mrs Childs and we went round with Mrs. Harwood's and Mrs. Miles groups. Then the fun started. The first zone was the Money Zone where you could pretend to win over a Million pounds! We also visited the Journey Zone which went from way back into the past to the present day. The next zone was the Body Zone which showed how all the body parts work. We also went to the Game Zone and Play Area which were of course GREAT FUN!!!! The highlight of the dome was the Millennium Show where we were dazzled by a spectacular display of acrobatics, dancing and bungee jumping from the Millennium Top!!!

On the way home we went to Burger King and when we got on the bus we were all tired but still very excited after our wonderful day at the DOME!!!!

**MILLENNIUM
SONGS OF PRAISE**

**At the Pavilion Sports
Field on
Sunday June 4th**

4.00 p.m.

Proceedings start with a shared picnic tea - please bring some food for the table.

4.45 p.m.

3 denominations will cut the Millennium Cake.

5.15 p.m.

Songs of Praise

*Please come and join in our
Celebration of the Millennium*

**Hornton Millennium
News**

The Millennium seat is now well underway. All the grants have been received and most of the fund-raising has been achieved. Mr. Trevor Dean the Stonemason has been commissioned to construct the seat and Peter Bennie Ltd. have kindly offered to supply the stone free of charge. So it looks like our late June early July deadline for the opening of the seat will be achieved. At the seat opening ceremony in addition to the time capsule being sealed in the centre of the seat and a Millennium gift being given to every child in the village, the village film which Mr. Roger Corke and Mrs Ann Joyner have been busily beavering away editing, will be released.

The other major Millennium project which is the Museum on every aspect of village life through the ages is to be held in the Methodist Church during the month of August and is also well on schedule. So keep searching out those old photographs and other items of historical interest, because we will be round to collect them shortly. Its all getting very exciting now these projects are coming to fruition.

David Miles

Millennium Committee Chairman

HORNTON SCHOOL
Antiques Roadshow
Friday 19th May
7 p.m.

School Fete
Saturday 1st July