

The Gossip

HORNTON

Issue Number 19



1995

AUTUMN

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT

A trip to see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at the Apollo Theatre in Oxford has been arranged for the evening performance on Wednesday 3rd January, 1996. The cost will be about £23.00 which includes a return coach from Hornton. The coach will leave Hornton at 6.00 p.m. and return at about 10.30 p.m. For further details and to book tickets please contact Jill Offord 670689 as soon as possible.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE
&
COFFEE EVENING
SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER
7 P.M.
IN THE CHURCH



BINGO

TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER
IN THE CHURCH ROOM
7.30 P.M.
FOR CHURCH FUNDS



BROWNIES OPEN EVENING
MONDAY DECEMBER 18TH
6 P.M. - 7.30 P.M.
IN THE PAVILION
REFRESHMENTS
RAFFLE
** EVERYONE WELCOME **

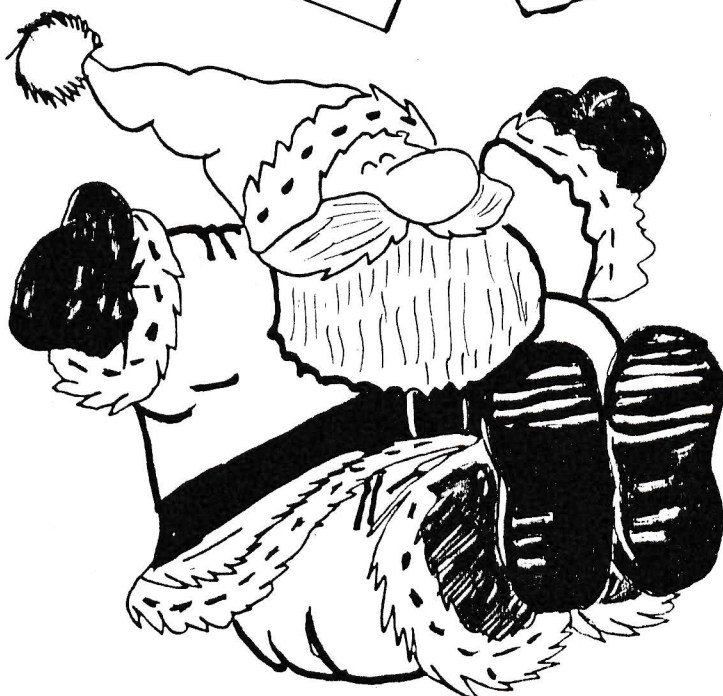
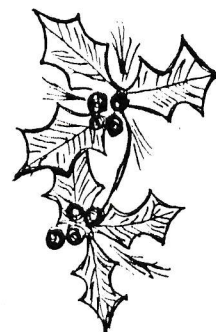
OXFORDSHIRE TOURING THEATRE
PRESENT

Peter Pan

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER
IN THE PAVILION AT 7.30 P.M.

Christingle

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10TH
PARISH CHURCH
AT 6 P.M.



CAROL SINGING FOR
CANCER RESEARCH
Around the village
Date to be arranged watch
Noticeboard for details
COME AND JOIN US



School

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hornton School News

This Autumn Term has seen a few changes at Hornton School. In September we welcomed Mrs. Janet Paul as the new part time teacher for the Juniors. Mrs. Paul lives at Warmington and has 3 children of her own. She has already started a netball club for the older Juniors after school. Mrs. Childs has replaced Miss Gibbons as the Infant teacher and Mrs. Oxberry retired at the end of October after 25 years at Hornton School. We held a celebration for her at which the children presented her with a flower vase, £110 cheque and a basket of flowers. They also composed a song in her honour and read some of their memories. We wish her well in her retirement.

In October the infant children visited the Warriner Farm to support their topic work and the Juniors had a visit from Mr. Peter Bassett who brought a portable planetarium to show them all sorts of exciting images of space, stars and the planets.

Our Harvest Festival was held to support "Feed the Children" charity - we entitled it a Harvest of Hope.

The new school Association has decided to hold a Christmas Bazaar on 2nd December at 2.00 p.m. at the school. Various crafts and gifts will be on sale and Father Christmas may be visiting if he has the time (bearing in mind it's his busiest time of year!) We hope everyone will keep this date free.

A representative from Barnardos will visit the school this month to talk about their work with under-privileged children. Our children will be involved in various sponsored schemes to support their work. This is our chosen Christmas Charity.

Our Carol Service and Nativity will be held on Thursday 14th December.

Finally, we are collecting Sainsbury's Schoolbag Vouchers; for each carrier bag re-used while shopping at Sainsbury's a voucher is received which can be used to 'buy' all sorts of equipment for school. We have a collection box for the vouchers in school.

WMFC:ffrd

A November Saturday morning may see four men wrapped against the cold driving rain, carrying tools, making their way to the Children's Playground. There is maintenance work to be done.

This committee, consisting of Don Wain (Chairman), Mike Webber (Secretary/Treasurer), David Miles and Paul Burden empty rubbish, inspect and paint equipment, and from March to October, mow the grass (Don and Mike).

Last year (1994) they all worked to replace the fencing opposite the Dun Cow and this year the remainder of the internal fence has been or is shortly to be replaced. The purchase of a new swing and some height restrictors for the "Rocking Rockette" means that there is still work to be done in fitting those items.

Constant fundraising is also part of the job for this committee. It costs between £200 and £250 per year to pay for mower servicing, petrol and rubbish bags etc. and for the Public Liability Insurance.

This money is raised from an Autumn and a Spring Bingo and a special August coffee morning held in the playground itself with the support of additional helpers.

Finding cash to buy new equipment is difficult since even small items cost in the region of £500 (i.e. the small "horse" purchased in 1991).

This group of four (a sub-committee of the Parish Council) makes all this effort for our village. I propose a vote of thanks from the rest of us to them.

Raynor Derrington

Decorous

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Gordon Ingram David Jarrett

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Sunday December 10th
Christingle Service at the
Parish Church at 6 p.m.

Sunday December 17th
Carol Service at Methodist
Church at 6 p.m.

Christmas Day December 25th
United Service Parish Church
at 11 a.m.

FAREWELL THE REV. ALAN LANCASHIRE

It is with much regret I write these few lines. During the ten years THE REV. ALAN LANCASHIRE has been our priest, have been very happy ones. He has led us with love, fellowship and compassion. We were hoping that Alan would be with us for a few more years. With the departure of the Rev. Ivan Meads of Wroxton, the synod on the 20th July agreed to the following resolutions:-
THAT A NEW BENEFICE OF WROXTON, BALSCOTE, DRAYTON, HORLEY, HANWELL, HORNTON, SHENINGTON AND ALKERTON BE FORMED.
So Alan thought it was best to go now rather than later.

He will take his last service in the Parish Church on Christmas morning at 11 a.m.

During his time with us, he has taken great interest in the United Sunday School. When they joined us at church services he made them most welcome, both children and parents. We thank him for his support and encouragement over the past years. One of the most important occasions was the day the Anglicans and Methodist communities signed a Covenant to work together in order to make more visible the unity of Christs people in the village.

We shall miss Alan and Joyce at the Ecumenical meetings and all the social occasions they always attend at Hornton.

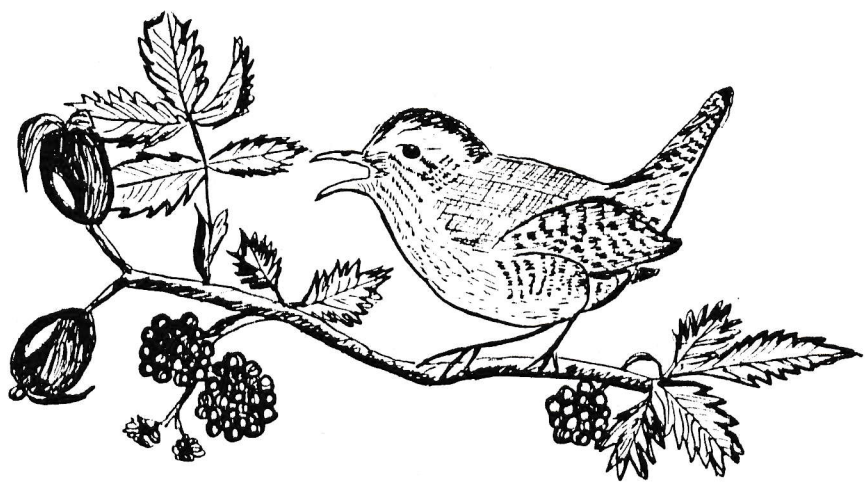
On behalf of the Hornton Parochial Church Council and all friends of Hornton, we would like to wish Alan and Joyce a very happy retirement and much happiness in their new home in Birmingham and we hope their replacement will give us the support they did.

H.A. Hart
Church Warden

There will be a presentation to Mr. & Mrs Lancashire after the Christingle service on Sunday 10th December. Anyone wishing to make a donation should give it to Harold Hart, Eric Turner, Frank Jarrett or Sally Buchan by Sunday 3rd December. Cheques should be made payable to St. John the Baptist Church, Hornton.

BOUNTY OF BIRDS

BY Philip Williams



Well I guess 1995 will go down in the record book as one of our hottest and most consistent summers for years, bringing with it many confusions to nature, ending recently with the warmest October to date. Mind you, October usually does produce an "Indian Summer" middle of the month. I've always known it as "Saint Luke's Summer", my mother always reckoned to have her "clear-outs" or "moves" mid October and was rarely let down by the weather. This year we had 3 weeks and more, warm sunny days, throwing trees and shrubs into false senses of blooming, waylaying the Autumnal fall until our first frosts, the second week in November. Rododendrons bloomed on the 'Bellvue' hillside. I witnessed bushes in full bloom in Kent, also Camelias. Was this long summer due to the mild winter and late spring?? (Hardly a rose bloomed until mid June!). Are we now to pay with a hard winter? If the berries in the wild are anything to go by, then wrap up!! Red is for danger... every hedge is laden.

I've always felt since living in Hornton how lucky we are to have the bird population that we do, particularly song birds. Visitors to the village often remark to this fact and how blessed we are to having so many trees and shrubs within the village area, so giving protection and encouragement to so many of these industrious little creatures.

Because of that mild winter of 94/95 we've enjoyed the sight of many more smaller birds. One of my favourites being the Wren. What a brave and independent little creature this is, bombing its way through our gardens, up and down stems disappearing into undergrowth, reappearing with a look of "Howzat!" and what a noise this tiny creature can make, when danger lurks. A fast "Chiti, Chiti, Chit," akin to a football rattle, enough to make any intruder think again. Did you know in spring the male will build several nests so that his bride can select and then line with feathers

the one of her choice. If we do have a severe winter, can you help this minature "Batman" by sprinkling grated cheese under a shrub or other likely place!

What a thrill it was in early June to hear and see the green Woodpeckers, parading their young through the village, around the green and at one point landing in confusion on the thatch of "Sunnyside". The parents concerned calls "Yaffle, Yaffle, Yaffle" inducing the young back to the valley and safety. In the heat of the summer it wasn't and unusual sight to see then "tipping" dried cow pats in search of their favourite diet, ants and grubs.

A visiting surveyor to the cottage told of an unusual summer visitor to the Tysoe area, a Hoopoe, an exotic looking bird from Southern Europe. Coral pink head and breast with black striped and fanned feathers to the head. It remained in the area for 3 or 4 days calling its own name 'Hoopoe, Hoopoe, Hoopoe', before moving on.

My own "unusual" sighting in this "unusual" year occurred not in Hornton but whilst visiting Norfolk in early August. Walking the dogs through the meadows of Blickling, a National Trust property, across our path flew a large butterfly, chocolate/purple wings, edged with white and blue border. Mentioning it to Sally Buchan on my return she immediately produced an "Everymans book on the Butterfly" and marked the page describing exactly my sighting:- The Camberwell Beauty, a rare visitor to this country, crosses the north sea from Scandinavia (first spotted in the late 18th century in a Camberwell garden). Imagine flying all that way, amazing.

Did you notice the absence of the dreaded snail and slug this summer?? Although I wasn't too aware of hedgehogs in the garden there did appear to be a lot of frogs who like nothing better than a moist slug supper. My Hostas are usually "laced" by August, but not this year. I know I have to thank the Thrush for this.

Not a moment would pass in the garden without the sound of "rat a tat" as yet another shell was systematically broken by this industrious bird. What a hard year for them, and the Blackbirds, who depend so much on earthworm and grub. (In the "concrete" situation of this summer no worm in its right mind would venture to within 6 inches of the surface!) yet at the end of the day, somewhere high on roof or in tree a thrilling song, still undaunted.

We had hatchings of Goldfinches in the wild Clematis that overtook one of our apple trees, Green Finches in the Cypress, very watchful and shy, (but very aggressive at the bird table), Flycatchers made the Orchard a happy breeding and hunting ground. A Robin fed 3 young in one of the "hanging" nest boxes under the thatch behind the cottage, susceptible to the eyes of the Magpie (can there not be a culling if this wicked bird?) Lastly whilst picking pears from that ancient tree by Bill Freemans, I was aware of a brief and "minature" invasion which lasted but all of five minutes in nearby shrubbery. High peeping voices, grubbing hurriedly and then gone, a group of Goldcrests, smaller than Wrens, a sight I had not witnessed before.

I've gone on too long, so I'll depart with one request.... If the coming winter does prove hard, remember this summer, remember those creatures that filled the air and garden with their presence and song, they will endeavour to do it all again and as able human beings we are able to help them through. Grated cheese, chopped nuts, breadcrumbs and a scattering of currants, it's so easy and the reward is so great?

Carolyn Ramsey MSSCH MBChIA
CHIROPODIST

HOME VISITS

TEL: 0295 670719

1 PERKINS CLOSE,
HORNTON, BANBURY,
OXON OX15 6BP

thankyou...

After the V.E. day 50th Anniversary celebrations in May, we were very surprised to discover that there was still nearly £300 in the kitty.

V.J. 50th Anniversary was still to be celebrated and it had been decided to have a church service for this. With £300 to spend, the Pavilion fundraising team were put in charge of organising this event. It was decided to have a free barbeque supper after Church and letters were sent to the rest of the village to see how many would like to attend. There was a brilliant response and approx. 250 villagers and friends attended the celebration.

The official order of service written for the Queen was used and this included an Anthem.

After much discussion with Tom Pratt (Choirmaster) and Chas Fox (Organist) it was decided that the one written especially for the occasion had been written for choirboys and would be too high for adult voices. Chas Fox remembered an Anthem by Steigner called "What are these that are arrayed in white robes" and several village singers were invited to form a choir to sing it at the service.

With only 2 weeks to go, Jean Puddle (nee Wheeler) was asked to coach the novice choir. More tenors were needed and Paul Burden and father-in-law John Bonham were asked to join. Eventually there were 24 members including old Horntonians, John and Mary Jarvis. Everyone took it very seriously and tapes were made of the singing parts so that they could be reminded, while washing up or driving to work in the car etc.

On Sunday the bells were chimed at 12 noon and at 5.45 p.m. everyone met at the flagpole. The flag was raised by a Hornton Cub. Harold Hart carrying the cross, led the procession of Cubs, Brownies and villagers to the Church where Rev. Allan Lancashire led the service.

John Bridgeman (High Sheriff of Oxfordshire) having rushed back from an official engagement in Oxford, read the lesson. The Choir sang their Anthem. Eric Turner and Frank Jarrett (British Legion members) led the two minute silence, marked by "The last Post" and "Reveille" played by Julie Hancock of Shutford. Calum Harris, Susan Palmer, Brown Owl, (Anne Simpkins), Don Wain, Margaret Hale, Lindy Bridgeman and Miss Dimelow led the prayers. It was truly a service to remember and brought home what V.E. and V.J. days were all about.

Everyone then went to the Pavilion for a barbeque supper and were entertained by Phil Lucas on his Organ.

So many people did their bit from Philip, Ron and Audrey who cleaned the Church and did such fantastic flower arrangements in white and yellow, Eric and David who found enough seating, Malcolm, Bill and Liz who cooked the barbeque and nearly cooked themselves, Liz, Eileen, Sandra, Ann and Karen who prepared and served the food and washed up, Ian, Les and David who ran the bar, Mike who looked after the music etc. etc.

It was a marvellous occasion and Hornton's community spirit shone through. Thank you everyone and after all expenses we still have £87.98 left! What shall we do with it?

Julie Stanley

What a Scoop!

By John Wright

Following complaints on dog fouling within the village, your Parish Council has launched a campaign to eradicate all pet fouling. Previous articles in 'The Gossip' have sought to bring the issue to everyone's attention, and hope that animal owners in particular consider their social responsibilities and make the necessary provisions to clean up after their animals.

Access to open areas outside the village is but minutes walk for all of us. Equally most people have their own gardens. So, in theory, there should not be a fouling problem. Unfortunately there is.

Identified faecal "Hot spots" are, the main greens, in and around the school, and the church grounds. Such concentrations can only be described as an awful mess, and quite unacceptable. Once again the appeal to all pet owners is please clean up for the good of all.

To assist in this campaign at the time of publication, there should be plastic bags and a limited supply of poop-a-scoops available free of charge. Please contact your Parish Clerk, Julie Stanley, Langway, Bell Street, Tel: 670507 or Cllr John Wright, West End, Tel: 670425 who will be pleased to help you.



Microwave Christmas Pudding

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 75g (3oz) plain flour | 75g (3oz) sultanas |
| pinch of salt | 100g (4oz) raisins |
| 75g (3oz) shredded suet | 40g (1½oz) chopped blanced almonds |
| ½ tsp. mixed spice | 50g (2oz) chopped apple |
| ½ tsp cinnamon | Juice of ½ lemon |
| 40g. (1½oz) white breadcrumbs | grated rind of ½ lemon |
| 50g. (2oz) caster sugar | 4 tbsp. brandy |
| 50g. (2oz) mixed peel | 2 eggs |
| 50g (2oz) molasses sugar | 50 ml (2fl.oz) milk |
| 50g (2oz) chopped glace cherries | 2 tsp. cane syrup |
| 75g (3oz) currants | 2 tsp. gravy browning |

METHOD

1. Mix all the dry ingredients together, then stir in the liquids.
2. Place the mixture in a 1kg (2lb) greased pudding basin. Cover the basin and cook for 5 minutes.
3. Leave to stand for 5 minutes, then cook for a further 5 minutes.
4. Allow the pudding to stand for 5 minutes before serving. This pudding tastes best when freshly made. As it only takes 10 minutes to cook, it is easily fitted into the Christmas lunch schedule. Do not put silver pieces or coins into the mixture and be careful not to overcook.

CARPENTER

JOINER & BUILDER

Tel: 0295 670550



DAVID MILES