

The Gossip

HORNTON

Issue Number 40

WINTER



HORNTON

*An Extract from Recollections of an Oxfordshire Village and Its People
By Arthur Miles*

Final Gleanings

Now I have gathered my gleanings in this account of village life and events over the last century or so. As the gleaner steps forward to gather another ear of corn, and then another, so the pace of village life has moved onward along the road of progress. One step has led to another and scientific discoveries in the last fifty years have altered our way of life beyond recognition.

Fifty years and more ago, many aspects of life in the village had been unchanged for generations. Life was more leisurely, a pound was a pound and the cost of things less important. The simple candle, so essential in the dark days of winter, and the bath tub in front of the kitchen fire, are distance memories of that time. Values, too, have changed, as illustrated by this story about my wife's grandmother, Eliza Webb. Eliza walked the six miles by footpath to Banbury to purchase material for a dress. When she reached home, she found she had forgotten the matching sewing cotton, so she immediately retracted her steps to rectify the matter!

Today, the pace of life, and the effects on us all of discoveries in the fields of science and technology, leave us wondering. "What next?" Motorways, road and air travel, probes into outer space, world-wide telephone and radio communication, television in every home and advances in medicine, all present us with unavoidable responsibilities in our democratic society. Perhaps we would do well to remember we are but the guardians of a wonderful world.

Hornton Allsorts
present
**VALENTINE
THEME NIGHT**
at
Hornton Pavilion
On Saturday 17th February
2001
7.30 for 8.00
Ticket £6 Includes Meal
From A. Turner 670304

**MAY DAY
CELEBRATIONS**
7 MAY 2001
ON THE VILLAGE GREENS
*Maypole Dancing
Morris Dancing
Stalls*

POST OFFICE UPDATE

Hornton Post Office is going computerised.... Some of you may not know that Hornton does have a Post Office which is held in Julie Stanley's kitchen at Langway every Tuesday morning between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Pensions and Benefits are paid out there and Electric, Telephone and various other bills can be paid along with T.V. licences. Postage stamps are on sale too. The computer to be installed at Langway will be linked to the Post Office network and hopefully more Post Office products and services will be available in the future.

HORNTON CHURCHES TOGETHER

*Invite you to a series of
Monthly Shared Village Services*

*A joint initiative to bring some
different patterns of worship to our
community*

*Time and place:
St John the Baptist 11 a.m.
11 March, 13 May, 8 July
Methodist Church 11 a.m.
8 April, 3 June*

*Services will be varied, each one will
last for approximately 40 minutes and
be followed by refreshments*

May Day will soon be here. Plans are now being made to make this a wonderful day again this year. If you can offer help in any way, we would be pleased to hear from you.

We hope to have a village craft stall so start making your crafts for us to sell - 80% of the money to you and 20% to the Pavilion fund. Stalls for village organisations welcome. Of course, we also need other stalls and games. Please telephone Liz Jeffs on 670529 to book.



MUSICAL CORNER

"Lullaby Of Birdland"

By Mike Webber

This song-title can only ever be associated with one musician, and that is pianist **George Shearing**.

Although George Shearing wrote the music for "Lullaby of Birdland" in 1952 (with lyrics by B.A. Forster), he had been musically active for some 15 years prior to that.

He was born on 13th August 1919 in Battersea, London, and was blind from birth. His father was a coalman, and with eight other children in the family, his mother had to be very careful with family finances. Because of his blindness he had to attend various special schools and then left school at the prescribed age (probably aged 14) and earn some money to help the family. His first job was playing in a pub, and soon after in clubs as well. At this time Claude Bampton was looking for musicians for an orchestra to tour the UK and signed up George. It was an all-blind band. After this tour George was back in London, and whilst playing at the old "Number One Rhythm Club" in 1937, he met the American jazz-music critic/writer Leonard Feather, who fixed him up with his first recordings. These, plus the recordings in January 1939 were solo-piano, and were in the "boogie-woogie" style, albeit with a crisp sophistication to the playing. At this time, thanks to Leonard Feather, he also began broadcast on BBC Radio. By the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, George was amongst the top-rank of British musicians.

In August 1939 the "QUINTETTE DU HOT CLUB DE FRANCE" were touring the UK. With the declaration of War on 3rd September all the group except violist Stephane Grappelly returned back to France. (This "Quintette was co-led by Stephane and the great guitarist Diargo Reinhardt), Stephane remained here for the duration of the War, and first recorded with George Shearing in July 1940. later on during the War-period they had a residency together at "Hatchett's Restaurant" in Londons West End, and also made further recordings together.

Also in 1940 clarinettist Harry Parry had landed a residency at the "St. Regis Hotel" in Mayfair, opening on Whit Monday 1940 with George Shearing on piano. By October 1940 Harry Parry and his "Rhythm Club

Sextet" were making regular radio broadcasts and in January 1941 made their first recordings. George remained with Harry Parry until September 1941.

George's style by this time had acquired more of the Teddy Wilson influence (He was also influenced by Fats Waller). However, in March 1941 he made some further solo-piano recordings, again in the "boogie" style.

As the war-period progressed, George's musical sophistication was gradually more evident. There are some interesting "transitional" recordings of June 1944, with the late Carlo Krahmer on drums. Between 1944 and 1946 George was playing with the Ambrose Octet and the Frank Weir "Astor Club Seven".

In December 1946 George decided to make a 3 month trip to the USA. He then returned to London as an Accordionist(!) with the Frank Weir Orchestra until December 1947, when he finally decided to emigrate to America.

This seems to be an appropriate point at which to leave the George Shearing story, part two of "Lullaby of Birdland" to follow.

HORNTON ALLSORTS BULLETIN

Membership: we want to keep in touch with 'old' and new members! Jenny Bowes is collecting a nominal fee of £1 to register all interested parties, both 'actors' and 'helpers'. We will try to ensure members are kept up to date with future activities and events. Please see Jenny or contact her on 670633.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

EASTER SERVICES

Ash Wednesday - 28 February at Methodist Church, 7 p.m.

Palm Sunday - 8 April at Methodist Church, 11 a.m.

Good Friday - 13 April at Methodist Church, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday - 15 April at Parish Church, 11 a.m.

United services - 1st Sunday in the month at Methodist Church, 11 a.m.

2nd Sunday in the month at Parish Church, 11 a.m.

HORNTON SCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year! We welcome three children to Mrs Pettit's class this term. Our roll is now 67. The topic theme for this term is "Communications".

Year 6 boys took part in the Warriner Schools indoor football tournament last week and played very well, only just missing a place in the final.

Mrs. Childs and Mrs. Clifford have just returned from a study visit to Athens, where we met with our international partners from Greece, Sweden and Holland. A website is being set up by the Dutch school, promoting the work of the partnership. We will also be creating a school website in the near future. The international website address is: <http://www.schointgens.homepage.com/>

We are collecting the following tokens this term:

Free Books for Schools. These are found on Walkers Crisp packets, and in the Sun and News of the World. This promotion has now begun and lasts until 8 April.

Tesco Computer for Schools. We are hoping to add to our last years total of 8672 tokens in order to get a camcorder - a further 4320 tokens are needed for this. Tokens are available with every £10 spent in a single transaction at any Tesco store or petrol station. The scheme starts on Monday 29 January.

Free software for Schools. Vouchers are available from Time Computer Stores (when a purchase is made), and in the Daily & Sunday Telegraph.

The School Association are planning A Family Quiz will be launched on 1 March to coincide with World Book Day. They will be sold at £1 each. Please encourage your friends, families, work colleagues to purchase one. Last year we raised £180 from this event.

Stalls/competitions will be held during the May Day celebrations on 7 May. Look out for further details.

The Summer Fete is fixed for Saturday 30 June Please keep that date free - further details later.

The Christmas Bazaar raised £350. Thanks to everyone who supported us.

Finally - A **paper recycling bin** has been placed in the playground by the school gates. All paper, newspapers and magazines will be accepted, but not card. **If anyone wishes to use this, please do so.** The school is paid per ton of paper collected. Please do not put any plastic bags used for carrying the paper in the bin.

TURKEY, PASTA & LEEK CRISP

Serves 4

2 carrots, sliced
400 g leeks, sliced
450 ml vegetable or chicken stock
300 ml white wine or extra stock
300 g fluted pasta shells or spirals
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
400 g turkey breast, skin removed &
cut into strips
300 ml semi-skimmed milk
45 g plain flour
Salt and pepper
TOPPING
50 g fresh wholemeal breadcrumbs
2 tbsp grated cheddar cheese
2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley

Cook carrots and leeks in the stock and wine, if using, and bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover pan and simmer for about 15 minutes. Drain vegetables, reserving stock, and place in large ovenproof dish. Return stock to pan and boil until reduced to about 300 ml. Set aside to cool.

Cook pasta in boiling water for 10-12 minutes until al dente. Drain well and add to vegetables, mix together. Preheat oven to 190 C (375 F, gas mark 5)

Heat oil in saucepan. Add turkey and cook, stirring, for 5-10 minutes. Use a draining spoon to remove the turkey from pan and mix it with the pasta and vegetables.

Remove the pan from the heat, pour in the milk and cooled stock. Whisking constantly, sprinkle the flour into the liquid. Return the pan to heat and bring sauce to the boil, still whisking. Reduce heat and simmer for 3 minutes until the sauce is thick and smooth. Add seasoning to taste.

Pour the sauce over the pasta mixture coating it evenly. Mix together the breadcrumbs, cheese and parsley and sprinkle evenly over the top. Bake for about 15 minutes until crisp and golden.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (INTERDENOMINATIONAL)

*The Christian women of Samoa
invite you to join them in prayer
on*

**FRIDAY, 2 MARCH 2001
AT 2 P.M.**

**IN ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
CHURCH,
HORNTON**

A WEBSITE FOR HORNTON?

It's official – we are now definitely in the new Millennium. So what, if anything, are we going to do about the new (or not so new?) methods of communication? I'm not a computer whizz and we don't even have a computer at home at the moment but we must all be aware of "e-mail us at" and "visit our website at www...."

So should Hornton be there too? It might seem a long way off for some of us who haven't got computers but one day, in the not too distant future, everybody will get e-mails at home through their TVs and every organisation, however small, will communicate through a website. And that day is not very far off: the website name www.hornton.com has already been bought, along with hundreds of other place names, by a company who wants to start a whole load of place-related websites for its own commercial advantage. Wouldn't we want to be in control of our website rather than have someone outside the village in control of its use and content? There are lots of other names still available. What about www.hornton.net or even www.theresonlyonehornton? We could start a website right now for very little money – around £30 a year – to register the name. The village could use a website as an electronic noticeboard with things like notices of meetings, services and events, as well as small ads. This would not replace the noticeboard on the Green but would be an additional way of passing on information which could include some permanent items (possibly including pictures). Perhaps most importantly there could be a message board – this could be an instant way of doing things like arranging lifts for teenagers or for those without transport who need shopping or prescriptions.

Even if we don't want to go ahead with a website now (possibly because not enough people have computers at home), it might be useful to develop an e-mail address book – many people now have e-mail at work if not at home.

In writing this I really want to promote some thought and debate about whether/how/what to do. To take a website forward would need someone to do the web design and after that someone to look after the site contents (a webmaster, apparently). Can anyone who has any views or is interested in getting involved please give me a call on 670673 or drop a note through our door at the Cottage in Church Lane. I would see my role as "lighting the blue touch paper" for those with the equipment and skills to take forward the action the village collectively wants.

Lynne Corke

Arthur Miles

Arthur departed this life on January 16th, aged 84, after a very long illness. He lived in Hornton all of his life and spent his childhood at Sunnyside where

he lived with his parents and his sister Gladys. His mother died when he was 7 years old. Gladys looked after him with the help of Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles. On leaving Hornton School at the age of 14, Arthur went into the family business at Jubilee House with his Uncles and Father who taught him the building trade, Blacksmithing, Painting, Carpentry, Wheelwrighting and Undertaking.

Arthur was 18 years old when he was converted to our Lord Jesus Christ by a Mission at the Chapel, conducted by Missioners from Cliff College. He then went to Rivercourt, a Mission in London with his cousin Frank Robbins where they took meetings, the Minister being Rev. Norman Dunning. During this time he was called up to the war and was sent to Leicester to learn Acetylene Welding. After training he was sent to various airfields across the country to keep a fleet of lorries running which carried materials to re-build the runways when they were destroyed by bombs.

After the war he was offered a good job by Wimpy's but decided to return home to Hornton to look after his ageing Uncles, Aunts, Father and Sister and to revive the family business. This he did for about 20 years and then took a job with the Ironstone Company which later closed. He then worked at Hornton Quarries until his retirement.

Arthur was always a prominent figure in Hornton, being a Parish Councillor for 36 years, a School Governor and a leading light in Hornton Methodist Church. In the 1950s he was Sunday School Superintendent and ran a Youth Club with the young probation Minister Rev. David Clarkson. He was also a Trustee and steward at the Chapel and a local Preacher for 60 years.

In 1947 he married Phyllis Stanley from Edgehill and they made their home at Jubilee House where they brought up their five children whom he always helped whenever he could.

In 1953 (the Queen's Coronation) he negotiated with the Ironstone Company to give the land for the Village Children's playground and was Chairman of the playground committee for many years. He helped to build the Sports Pavilion and the Sports Field.

In 1960 when the sewage system was brought to Hornton, he was the main contractor for laying the pipes.

Arthur always helped people who were in trouble and when new people came to the village he made it his business to visit them and welcome them into the community. He started the Ecumenical movement in Hornton which was always very close to his heart.

Hornton was always a very special place for Arthur and he wrote down some of his memories in a book – *Hornton, Memories of an Oxfordshire Village*.

Ice and Lemon?

By Roger Corke

**Abigail's Party,
Hornton Pavilion,
January 11, 12 & 13**

Picture the scene: a couple are at each other's throats all night, their neighbour throws up in the toilet, another collapses on the floor with cramp and someone dies of a heart attack. The evening might not sound like a roaring success...unless you'd just been to *Abigail's Party*, of course.

When the play first performed on BBC TV 25 years ago, it summed up the 1970s every bit as much as flared trousers, kipper ties and Abba. It also made the career of the now famous Alison Steadman, who played the man-eating Beverley, so Jan Newman had some particularly difficult shoes to step into when she took on Bev's role for this performance in Hornton Pavilion. But the audience had no need to worry. Resplendent in tasteless gold jewellery and an auburn wig, Jan even out-Alisoned her predecessor in one or two places forcing gin and tonics ("ice and lemon?") on her party guests.

They included David Miles and Jane Wain, as Tony and Sue, who arguably had the toughest jobs of all, because both characters are deliberately downbeat – the "straightmen" to the other over-the-top members of the cast. In fact, Jane said in the programme that she wished her character had more of a sense of humour but both she and David carried off the roles superbly.

Pete Whitehead, as Bev's irascible estate agent husband, Lawrence, was giving his first performance on the Hornton boards but on this showing it certainly shouldn't be his last. His background in the Cambridge University *Footlights* quickly came to the fore and he and Jan batted barbs and insults back and forth as though they had been married for years.

But that *laugh* was the star of the show – from Caroline Pearce, playing Tony's rather dim wife, Angela. It punctured the silence at just about every inappropriate moment and had the audience in stitches.

Producer Anne Joyner did a remarkable job in putting the play on

from scratch in just eight weeks – particularly when you consider that her original leading man had to drop out with a bad back with only five weeks to go *and* there was Christmas in between. She also adeptly updated the script – for Demis Roussos (remember him?) in the original there was Ricky Martin, for Ford Escort read Ford Mondeo and a £21,000 house had shot up in price to £138,000.

The Pavilion was cunningly transformed into a 1970s suburban sitting room – complete with leatherette sofa and leopard-print cushions – by set builder Bob Hawley and sound/lighting man Harry Stanley. And front-of-house organisation, by Julie Stanley and Audrey Turner, was spot on – the audience sat around tables with a glass of wine, so they felt as much a part of the party as those on stage! Their cheers, clapping and whistles of approval said it all and the whole event made a whopping £740 clear profit for the Millennium Fund. Well done to all!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED...

Adults willing to give a little time, or be on 'stand by', to help with the running of a new Hornton Youth Club. Discussions have been taking place with Oxfordshire County Council Youth Service and the Oxfordshire Association for Young People and the Club could now be opened at any time.

The club will meet on Thursday evenings at the Pavilion. Ian Harris and Les England will normally run the club during term time, but may need help from time to time if either are unable to attend.

The aim of the club is to teach a range of life skills, both indoor and outdoor, as well as sports, games and recreational activities. No specific skills are required from helpers but free training as well as a range of other support is on offer from both the above organisations, if required.

Please contact Ian (Tel: 670541) if you would like more information. A meeting will be held at the Pavilion on Thursday 1st March 2001 to finalise plans before the opening of the club.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

If we look at old photos of Hornton and compare it with the way it looks today, one of the first things you notice is – the number of cars! Years ago Horntonians moved about by Sumners' horsepower – a weekly visit to market on the carriers cart. Then came the bus, and until recently people went to work on it. Now we've all got cars and they have become a necessary part of living in the country. However, the village roads are narrow and the situation is exacerbated by the number of cars that have to be parked in them. It is increasingly dangerous for pedestrians, particularly as there are several places where there is no pavement. The worst times are during the 'rush hours' in the morning and mid-afternoon when people go to work and, particularly, when parents deliver and collect their children from school.

Following concerns expressed by people of the village and the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Watch, we have been distributing letters to parents who bring their children to school by car asking if they would try to keep to a self-imposed speed limit of 20 mph. Statistics show that reducing speed from 30 to 20 mph gives a pedestrian a 40% increase in their chance of survival if they are hit – a worthwhile difference!

The response from the parents has been very positive. But it is up to us as well! Could we all try, difficult as it is, to do the same, and all reduce our speed limit to 20 mph during the 'rush hours'? That way we can instil a culture of slower driving and make Hornton a safer place for all – especially the village children!

Dogberry

BINGO

12 MARCH 2001
IN THE CHURCH ROOM
EYES DOWN 7.30 P.M.

For Small Playing Field