

The Gossip



HORNTON

Issue Number 34

SUMMER 1999

MILLENNIUM

There is likely to be a choice of events in the village to see in the New Year. A note of the final place will be circulated to each house in the village either in the next edition of 'The Gossip' or as a separate flier. If you want more information or have suggestions in the meantime, please contact the organisers who will be pleased to hear from interested parties as this will help them to plan the events.

A Family disco is being planned at the Pavilion. There will be a bar and food will be available. The cost of tickets has not been finalised and will depend to some extent on the numbers attending, but will probably be £7.50 for adults and £5.00 for children. The contact for this event is Liz Jeffs (670529).

A Traditional Scottish style 'Ceilidh' will be held at the Church Room. Some food and drink is provided and guests are invited to bring extra provisions to add to the basic supplies. Tickets will be £5.00. For more information contact Ian Harris (670541) or John Wright (670425).

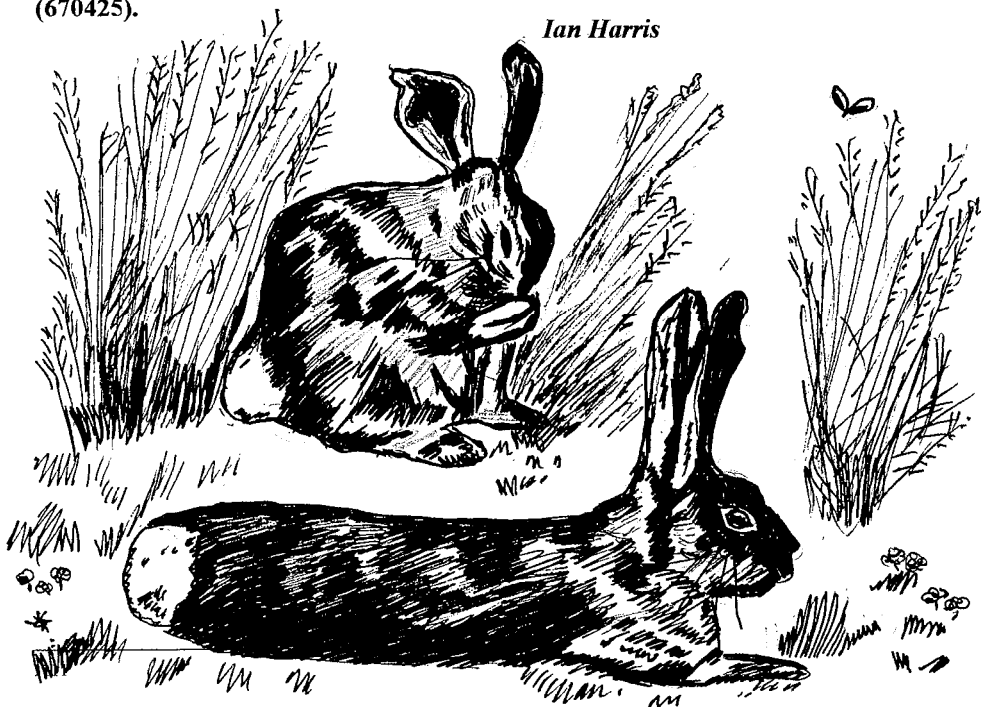
New Year Festivities

The Dun Cow will probably not open during the evening, however the bar may be opened from about midnight till the early hours with breakfast available in the morning. Please speak to Terry or Doreen if you are interested in this option so that they can make the necessary plans.

The Millennium Committee are planning to have a lighted Christmas Tree at the site of the flagpole on the Green over the Christmas period. It has been suggested that people may like to congregate there at midnight to see the New Year in. Please speak to any member of the committee if you are interested in this idea.

As stated above, more details at the above events will be circulated before too long. All of the organisers would value your ideas or feedback on these proposals so that we can make the Millennium New Year in Hornton a memorable one!

Ian Harris



SONGS OF PRAISE

IN
THE PARISH CHURCH

ON
Sunday August 15th

6 p.m.

I thought it would be nice to say.... THANKYOU to everyone who voluntarily mow and tidy the village greens and grass verges.

A Special THANKYOU to Philip Brooks who has made such a good job and spent many hard working hours making the centre greens look something to be proud of!!

It is good to see the village looking neat and tidy once again, after all the building work which took place at the beginning of this year

Elisabeth Jeffs

MUSIC FESTIVAL

ON

AUGUST BANK
HOLIDAY MONDAY

FROM MIDDAY
AT

HORNTON SPORTS FIELD

Musical Corner

By Mike Webber

'Love is the Sweetest Thing' The Story of Al Bowly

To those of you who can remember the 1930's the name of singer Al Bowly will no doubt strike a chord! although Al recorded in the 1920's too, and also in the early 1940's (until his untimely death in 1941), the 1930's were really "his decade".

His life-history is certainly very chequered. His father was a Greek who fell in love with his Lebanese mother on a boat going to Australia. They married and later moved to Lorenzo Marques, which was then in Portuguese East Africa (now re-named Maputo, in the re-named Mozambique) where Al was born on 7th January 1898, being the fourth oldest of ten children. When he was a year old, Al's family settled in South Africa.

At school in Johannesburg, Al had some excellent music teachers who helped him develop his voice. He also sang in the church choir. He left school at 14 and worked in his bother-in-law's barber shop. He loved to sing as he worked. He also took up banjo and guitar, playing with local bands. In 1923 a band called Edgar Adeler and his Syncopaters came to Johannesburg and Al plucked up courage to ask for a job, was given an audition, and joined the band. They went off to tour the Far East, but whilst out there he quarrelled with some band members and left the band. He then got another singing job with the band of American Jimmy Lequine at the famous "Raffles Hotel" in Singapore for a year. In the Spring of 1927 he then went to Germany where he sung with various visiting British and American bands, recording with some of them. A friend of the famous British band leader Fred Elizalde had heard some of Al's Berlin recordings and subsequently sent them to him, whereupon Al then got a job singing with his band. Back in London, Fred Elizalde had secured a residency at the famous

"Savoy Hotel" and also made several records (with Al). Shortly after this though, Fred Elizalde left the Savoy, putting Al out of work, whereupon he "busked" in the London streets with his guitar. This would have been in 1930. A drummer called Bill Harty happened to drive by one day whilst Al was "busking" and mentioned that the American, Roy Fox, had just arrived in England to form a band. Al took the gamble and auditioned for Roy Fox, which he passed and was hired as singer. The Fox Band with Al was an immediate success, with a nightly appearance at the "Monseigneur Restaurant", plus weekly radio broadcasts. However, Roy Fox was soon taken ill and Lew Stone took over the band, which went from strength to strength.

In 1932 Al appeared in several films. In 1934 he went to the U.S.A. with band-leader Ray Noble. On his return in 1937 he formed his own band. However, soon afterwards he needed a difficult operation on his throat. Fortunately this didn't jeopardise his singing and he was soon in great demand again with many top bands, including Geraldo, Ken "Snakehips" Johnson, and Billy Cotton, with many broadcasts on the B.B.C. and other European radio stations.

Al's voice had a pleasing, light-tone; perhaps he was the first "crooner" on this side of the Atlantic (Bing Crosby being on the other side). To my mind his throat operation in 1937 gave his voice a slightly more "burnished" edge afterwards. He made hundreds of recordings, including songs such as "Time on my hands", "I'll string along with you" and "Love is the sweetest thing" to name but a few.

On March 8th 1941 his band-leader friend Ken "Snakehips" Johnson had been killed by a direct hit when the Cafe-de-Paris was bombed in that Second World War-time London. Just over a month later, on 17th April 1941, a land mine exploded outside Al's London flat and he was killed by the blast. Strangely, one of his last recordings, made approximately three weeks earlier,

was entitled "When that man is dead and gone".

Al was the big name of the 1930's British popular music scene, on the scale of today's "mega-stars", but without the "pop music hype"; and certainly in no way "manufactured" like a lot of today's "pop" stars. I am sure that he would have gone on through the 1940's and into the 1950's had he lived. Whether the 1950's "Rock and Roll" era would have treated him any more kindly than any other vocalists from that period can only be a matter of conjecture.

Some 25 years or so after Al's death, the singer Peter Skellern to my mind took up Al's musical baton, his voice having many similarities with Al's. Coincidentally, Peter Skellern had quite a big "hit" with the song "Love is the Sweetest thing".

Al Bowly -born 7th January, 1898.
died 17th April, 1941.

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

United Sunday School
will resume at the
beginning of September
meeting in the Sunday
School Room, Methodist
Church at 11.00 a.m.

**OXFORDSHIRE HISTORIC
CHURCHES
SPONSORED BIKE
RIDE
ON
SATURDAY SEPT 11TH
(Sponsor forms from J. Stanley)**

A GOOD JOB DONE

By Bill Freeman

The new footpaths have been set-up because several complaints were made about the previous ones. The long one from Church Lane corner to the Red Lion had become worn and some slabs cracked and broken through misuse of trucks, lorries and motor vehicles being driven and parked on them. A repair job would have lasted thirty or forty years. There was much criticism of the length of time to do the job of renewal but this has been justified.

The workmen are talented and capable and have done a very good job. Mr. Robert Malin of Murcott has had a lengthy journey each day to get here and back again. Mr. Peter Mole of Warwick Road, Banbury and Mr. Michael Tompkins of Enstone have done much hard work to load and unload the materials needed.

The long paving was previously laid by Mr. Ernest French of Ratley in 1934. The one prior to this was of local stone and very badly worn, unsafe to walk on and probably two or three hundred years old.

Mr. Fred Hines a very big man who weighed about 17 stones or more, on his way home at about 10 p.m. one Sunday evening in the Autumn of 1933 was walking in the road because the path was too rugged, when a girl coming home on her bicycle ran into him from behind. He lay there injured until a Parish Councillor came out of his house and took one look and went back in again. Three or four of us helped him home and he immediately said, "go out of my house, I don't want you here, all of you". His house was full of smoke. We didn't need telling twice. His skull was fractured. He died two days later. I have always regarded the footpath as a memorial to him, he has no other.

Mr. Hines was the village milkman. He was nicknamed 'Duck-foot' being 'ten to two' footwise. His wife came from Deddington, formerly Sue Jarrett. A rhyme about her was:-

Duck-Foot Sue,
Your eyes are blue,
How do you do.

Mr. Hines cows grazed the field above the present-day children's playfield (Holloway Bank), also the local village greens. Mr Harry Simms was the cow minder when they were on the village greens.

QUICK & EASY FRUIT CAKE

INGREDIENTS

12OZ MIXED FRUIT
4 OZ DARK BROWN SUGAR
4 OZ BUTTER
8 OZ S.R. FLOUR
½ PINT WATER
1 LARGE EGG

METHOD

Place water, butter, sugar and fruit into a pan. Simmer for 20 minutes. Allow to cool. Add beaten egg and flour. Stir in. Line a 7" cake tin and put mixture into it. Sprinkle with brown sugar (optional) and place in oven at 300F. or 150C. Bake for 1¼ hours or until cooked.

T. SHIRTS

If you would like a Hornton Millennium T. shirt for your child - contact Jenny Holt 670544 as soon as possible.

Cost £5.00 each

3 H'S GARDENING CLUB
FLOWER & VEGETABLE
SHOW
SAT. 21 AUGUST
AT
HORNTON SPORTS PAVILION

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Security Measures

Take steps to safeguard your own home and property.

1. Shut windows and lock up when you go out, even for only a few minutes.
2. Keep your car locked and keep handbags, keys etc. out of sight even in the house.
3. Consider having security chains fitted to external doors and locks on windows. Security lights and alarms are effective.
4. Keep garden tools and ladders under lock and key.
5. Mark your possessions. Make a note of serial numbers on such things as T.V.'s Stereos, Computers and keep receipts.
6. Photograph antiques and jewellery.
7. Write your post code on your possessions with an ultra-violet security pen and larger items with an engraver.
8. If you go away, ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your house, clear away the mail and any tell-tale signs of your absence.

Carers Emergency Scheme

Carers can feel very anxious about 'nipping out' for a while, to the shops or surgery etc. This is because although the person they care for may not necessarily be at risk on their own, if the carer had an accident or is taken ill - who will realise that someone is at home who may need help?

The Carers Centre has produced a wallet-sized **Emergency Card** which can be carried at all times, and also a **Personal Information File**, which can be kept at home.

Carers can complete the file with information about the person they care for, which will help those who take on the caring role in their absence.

For information about the

Carers Emergency Scheme
ring
Carers Centre (North & West
Oxfordshire)
on
0345 125546

HORNTON SCHOOL NEWS

We have been very busy this term. The new classroom is now fully occupied and the surrounding grass reinstated. Joan Crouch, Principal Education Officer, conducted the opening ceremony, while Year 1 entertained everyone with songs and thoughts on their new classroom.

The relatives of Miss Dimelow donated £250 to the school. Thesaurus and Atlases have been purchased for each class and a 'plate' put in each book in her memory. We are also planning to plant a tree for her by the new building in the Autumn.

All Year 2 and Year 6 children took their SATS tests - we have achieved 100% of children gaining Level 4 and above at Year 6. We congratulate all those children. They will all be starting Warriner School in September. We wish them every success.

In June a highly successful Arts Week was held. Diana Bell, a visiting sculptress, worked with the children creating 'totems' and 'special places'. Please look into the school garden to see the finished pieces.

The school is due for its second Ofsted Inspection which will be during the last week of September.

Children have been involved in various sporting events. Partnership Sports and a quick cricket tournament, as well as a Day of Dance and our own Sports Activity Day.

Ten children also are to have their Millennium poems published in the Autumn - the result of a competition run by W.H. Smith.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us with their donations of Tesco Vouchers, Sainsburys School Rewards and Books for Schools Tokens. We have been able to order a new TV and video for the new classroom as well as two radio cassette recorders for the children's use (Tesco's), 35 books and 5 audio tapes (Books for Schools), classroom equipment (Sainsburys). Thank you to everyone who supported our annual fete. A grand total of £802 was raised which will go towards the purchase of another multimedia computer.

CAN YOU HELP?

Brownies The Brownies are looking for a helper to assist Ann Simpkins (Brown Owl) as Irene Harwood has decided to give up as Tawny due to other commitments. The Brownies will miss her and her music which I'm sure you will agree was a great asset to the Pack as demonstrated at the recent Variety Show. Thank you, Irene for giving your time for so long and helping to make Hornton Brownie Pack one of the best.

The Brownies meet in the Church Room on Monday's at 4.30 p.m. If you are interested in helping Ann, please contact her on 670620.

Parish Clerk The Parish Council need a Parish Clerk as Mr. D. Merritt has now left the village. This position has a small salary. If interested contact Parish Council Chairman, Eric Turner 670304.

Pavilion Committee Secretary The Pavilion Committee are looking for a Secretary to take minutes of the meetings and to deal with any correspondence. If you can help contact Committee Chairman Ian Harris 670541.

DAVID MILES

Carpenter
Joiner and
Builder

☎ 01295 670550



The next issue of 'The Gossip' will be the first week in November. If you have any articles or items of interest please send them to Julie Stanley, Bell Street, or Ann Hemmings, The Green

CLUBS TO JOIN

BROWNIES - Monday 4.30 pm in the Church Room. Brown Owl, Mrs. A. Simpkins, Tel. 670620

CUBS - Thursday 6.45 pm in the Pavilion. Akela, Les England

KEEP FIT - Wednesday 7 pm in the Pavilion. Just come along!

DRAMA - Hornton Allsorts. Contact Linda Cross, Tel. 670562

FOOTBALL - Hornton United F.C. Contact Malcolm Cross, Tel. 670562

3 H's GARDENING CLUB - 2nd Tuesday in the month. 7.30 p.m. Membership Sec. Phyllis Miles, Tel. 670550

COFFEE MORNING

IN AID OF HORNTON
METHODIST CHURCH
ON SAT. AUGUST 14TH
AT
3 SYCAMORE CLOSE,
SIBFORD GOWER
(Home of Jean Puddle)

The members of Hornton Methodist Church wish to thank everyone for their continued support of the Coffee Mornings and fundraising events which are enabling our church to remain open.

HARVEST SUPPER

FRIDAY OCT. 8TH

AT THE SPORTS
PAVILION

7.30 P.M. FOR 8.00 P.M.