

# HORNINGSHAM

## NEWS

ISSUE 215

September 2018





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**EDITORIAL**

I know . . . it's an unusual photo for this month's cover but some of us have dreamed for years of seeing the Hall floor sanded and sealed and now it has been done and the effect is spectacular and transforms the whole appearance of the Hall. Congratulations to the Hall Committee for getting this done. It certainly makes the Hall a much more attractive venue for functions and events. They have also solved the problem of having to heat the entire building when any part of it is in use which makes bookings so much more financially viable. All of this just in time for the return of Pip Utton for another of his excellent one man shows: "William Shakespeare at Home".

Inside you will find most of our regular features are back and you can read about what has been going on at Mill Farm, the success of our cricket team, the School preparing for the new school year, the Luncheon Club annual outing and much more. We also celebrate Bunny Pollitt's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday this month.

There is, alas, no Parish Council report since they have also taken a summer break but they are appealing for relatives of the men on our War Memorial to get in touch so they can be invited to the Parish Council's commemorative reception on Remembrance Day. Our long series remembering those men in the month that they died is drawing to a close with no fewer than 3 deaths in September 1918. There is just one more to come but that is not until February next year.

**Tim Hill**

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Email: [horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Editorial Team**

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## CHURCH NEWS



As I write this there has been a distinct change in the weather and the nights are drawing in, which reminds us that we are approaching the final third of the year. However, Pauline is back from her sabbatical, physically and spiritually refreshed, ready for a busy few months in the church. Horningsham has a service every month from now until January; do make a note of the dates and hopefully you will be able to join us.

We start with a communion service at the end of September. This will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday which means it will be a Benefice service, when we hope to be joined by some of our friends in the Deverills and Corsley. Harvest this year is back to its normal date of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in October, followed by the very popular auction of produce. Remembrance Sunday this year falls on the 11<sup>th</sup>, which is appropriate for such a significant year. The service will be at the War Memorial as usual. November is also the month for the All Souls service, a poignant and reflective occasion when we remember those special to us who are no longer with us. In December we will have our usual communion service on Christmas Day and January will be Plough Sunday and Morris Dancers, one of the most popular services of the year at Horningsham when the church is full of people. We hope to welcome you to these services.

Finally, our neighbours in Maiden Bradley will be holding their Flower Festival on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, which will be in Maiden Bradley House. Do come along and enjoy some beautiful flower arrangements set in the Duke and Duchess of Somerset's family home.

**Helen Taylor**

### Church Dates

30 <sup>th</sup> September	Eucharist at 10.30am
7 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival at <u>5.00pm</u>

Dear Friends,

Here we are again in September and however many years pass - my youngest child is now 31 - it will always be associated in my thoughts with new beginnings; with new, pristine school uniforms, with the nervous anticipation of getting to know a new teacher, and the sadness that comes with the end of the long summer holidays with the luxury of not having to abide by the regime of the school day. But the thing that I associate with September more than anything else, and which still gives me a slight lurch of panic when I think about it, is the purchase of new shoes.



Having to buy four children a new pair of shoes was a huge expense not to mention the actual awfulness of trying to find shoes that both fitted and did not offend the sensibilities of the aforementioned children, who had, I may say, precise and exacting standards. Being a good mummy I did what was advised and bought my children *good* shoes, namely leather Startrite ones and had them properly fitted at a proper shoe shop. Of course this was all well and good when they were little and still thought I was the fount of all knowledge. Sadly, by the time they reached their mid-teens these children with beautiful unmarked feet refused to kowtow to the dictates of their mother and chose their own footwear; need I say more. A couple of years ago I happened to notice my youngest daughter's feet which sadly, bore the marks of many an ill-fitting shoe and I could have cried when I remembered the trouble I went to in caring for those feet. And it got me thinking . . .

We are all born with beautiful, unmarked feet and there is something infinitely moving, is there not, about a newborn baby's, so tiny and perfect, so unmarked by the necessities of life and its demands. All of us are born as brand spanking new human beings into lives that will mould us and mark us. Sometimes we will make good and healthy choices; sometimes we will make choices that scar us, that twist us, to go back to the image of new shoes: that give us blisters or bunions. Sometimes through no fault of our own life itself bends us in ways that cause us to cry out at the unfairness of it all. But in there somewhere is still that beautiful, unique, divinely formed person. I like to think that when God looks at us her precious children - and yes she may weep at the terrible choices we make sometimes and the damage we inflict on ourselves and our fellow human beings - she sees us, really sees us, with all the mess and mucked upness of our lives, and in her eyes we are perfect and beautiful still. In my experience it is actually really hard for us to see ourselves the way God sees us, it is much easier to beat ourselves up as terrible failures than see ourselves as precious, beautiful and loved.

All this makes me think of George Herbert's wonderful, wonderful poem, 'Love (111)' which starts 'Love bade me welcome' I haven't got room to write it out here but do go and read it, it is exquisite.

So enjoy September! And good luck with shoe buying and the start of a new term.

With love and prayers,

**Pauline Reid [revpauline@btinternet.com](mailto:revpauline@btinternet.com)**



## HORNINGSHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



We have been busy since our last News with two Christenings. In June Thirza Snook whose parents, Gayle and Simon, were married at our Chapel and who are friends of the Chapel. And in July Evelina Meek with parents Laura and Kevin Meek, whose big brother Ivor Meek was christened in 2016. It is lovely to meet both families at our Chapel again.

We are holding our Harvest Festival service on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 4pm and hope to have many friends join us.

**Carol Cox [horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk](mailto:horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk)**

### ARE YOU A CALLIGRAPHER?

The church is looking for someone who would be happy to maintain our Book of Remembrance. This was started about 20 years ago as a way of keeping alive the memory of villagers who are no longer with us. All the names currently in the book have been written by Jane Yates, who has moved away. We have some names waiting to go in, but I need to find someone who has a similar writing style (definitely not me!). Please contact me if you think you might be able to help.

**Helen Taylor  
215906**

**[helen@pottlepress.plus.com](mailto:helen@pottlepress.plus.com)**

## HALL NEWS



We've had a fantastic company in renovating the Hall floor and what a fabulous job they have done. It looks so great, nice and shiny! We've had more new heaters fitted in the main Hall so hopefully we can regulate the temperature in the winter months better now. We are hoping to continue improvements over the next few months, updating the décor, sprucing the place up a bit! It's such a lovely building that deserves a bit of TLC.

October sees the return of Pip Utton performing, "Shakespeare At Home", a comedy he has written himself. Come along & bring your friends on Thursday 11th October at 7pm, doors open from 6:15 for refreshments. Tickets are £12 from James Osborne [jamesoborne@btinternet.com](mailto:jamesoborne@btinternet.com) or at the Bath Arms, we love to see you all at the Hall.

Hall meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7.30pm, please do come join us.

**Louisa Cruikshank**

## **“NO MEAN FEET”**

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## LUNCHEON CLUB

Thursday August 2<sup>nd</sup> was the Luncheon Club outing to the National Botanic Gardens of Wales in Carmarthenshire.

Our coach left Maiden Bradley at 9am and we drove off in the misty morning to Wales, stopping for refreshment at the Chepstow Garden Centre on the way.

We reached the Botanic Gardens at 1 O'clock, just in time for lunch and set off for the Stable Yard Restaurant or picnicked outside.

The garden spreads over 568 acres in the beautiful Tywi valley. It was originally developed around a stately home, Middleton Hall in the 1780s, and was one of the most fashionable developments of its day with intricate water features and landscaping, taking advantage of the lovely setting.



After two centuries of mixed fortunes, it was entirely derelict and the mansion had burnt down. It was taken over by the County Council and some of the original features were discovered. With a series of grants and Millennium funding it has now become a recognised centre for research and development into biodiversity and plant management with education facilities for children and adults.





The garden we saw included: the largest glass dome in the world housing Mediterranean climate plants; a restored flower garden in front of the only remaining bit of the old house, the servants quarters; and the huge double walled garden with many rare plants as well as beautiful herbaceous borders. This also contained a large butterfly house and a section devoted to ornamental vegetable growing.



Nearby is the old Regency ice house, with its huge sunken brickwork cone still intact. Many of the water features are flowing again, Work is still in progress, with the development of a huge rockery, a Japanese garden and a medicinal garden which complements the Museum of Apothecary in the stable block.

Despite a continuation of the misty, slightly damp weather, we happily explored as much of this beautiful and intriguing garden as we could, before setting off home.

We stopped in Chepstow for an hour on a perfect sunny evening and had time to drink a pint outside the pub looking up at the impressive keep of Chepstow Castle towering above us.



After the raffle, organised by Bill Lucas, we reached home at 8.30 after a really lovely day out.

Thank you to Pearl who organised it so smoothly.

**Carole Hill**

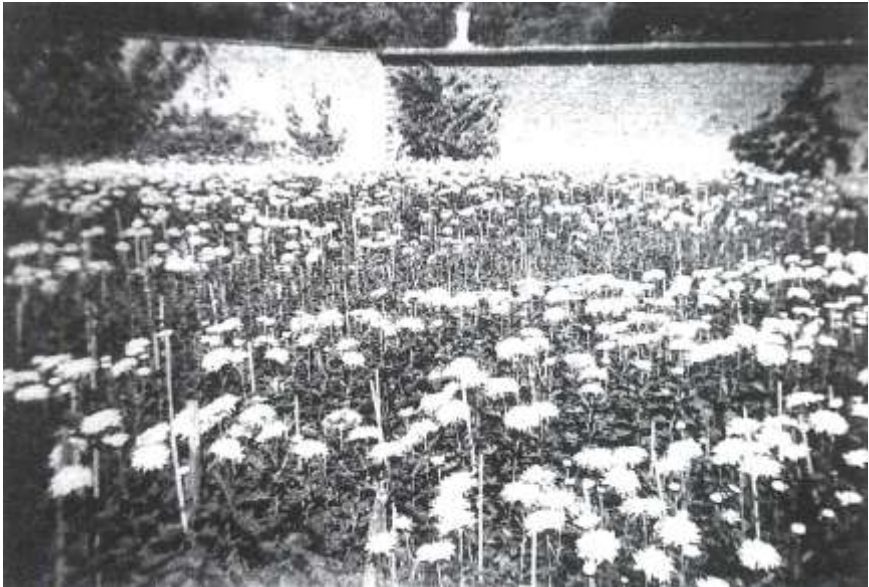


## HORNINGSHAM MEMORIES

Sitting in the garden on a lovely summer day, having coffee with John and Pat Gooding, we were watching the bees (sadly not many about) and the butterflies. Seeing a cabbage white, John, who is 91, was reminded of his childhood in Horningsham when his father was head gardener at the walled garden.

Gardeners will know that cabbage white butterflies can destroy a brassica crop, and John was paid 6d (2½ new pence) for every 100 butterflies he could catch, to prevent them laying their eggs on the crop. He could also earn 6d for any wasps' nest he could find, which his father then destroyed. This was to help protect the fruit crop, as all the fruit was grown for Longleat House. In the 1930s there were 17 gardeners employed in the walled garden, keeping Longleat supplied with fresh produce. At the age of 15 John pushed a handcart loaded with flowers, fruit and vegetables down Highwood to the kitchens at the House. Happy memories.

**Leonie Taylor**





## WELCOME CLUB

Now that we have had our August break, I can write of past events.

In June we played Prize Bingo at our Thursday meeting and on the following Tuesday we had a terrific day out when we went by coach to Dartmouth. Fortunately there was a very good air conditioning system on board, making the journey most comfortable. We stopped at Ottery Garden centre for coffee and arrived at Dartmouth at 1.15 pm ready for lunch, boat rides and exploring the town. We left at 4.30 pm stopping at Podimore Services for a comfort stop and the raffle, arriving home at 7.30 pm tired but happy, having had a wonderful day out.

A group from the Aster Company visited us in July and explained their business: doing jobs in the home, arranging for larger home improvements, showers, rails etc and supplying various items to help make life easier as required. All at a cost!

The July coach trip was to Corfe and Swanage. It was great to stop at Compton Abbas Airfield for coffee – always a favourite stop. Then on to Corfe where some members decided to get off the coach and rejoin the rest later in the day in Swanage by using the train. I hear some travelled First Class for this run!

Now for September! There will be a quiz on Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup> and a trip to Sidmouth on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> – let me know if you are coming on the trip if you haven't already done so – thanks!

Chris Short 01985 847373

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## **Bunny Pollitt**

Bunny, who lived in Horningsham from 1972 to 2014 will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Bunny was born in Wellow, near Bath, just before the First World War ended. Her family moved to a farm in Steeple Ashton, near Trowbridge, in 1936 and both her parents died before the outbreak of war. She was left to run the 350 acre farm and to bring up her 14 year old brother and 11 year old sister. During the war she would take Italian prisoners of war by horse and cart to work in the fields.



After her marriage to Harry, an RAF pilot, in 1943, she followed him through many postings before eventually settling in Beanacre, near Melksham. She eventually joined her sister Joan in Frome in 1960 and worked for a while in a couple of jobs in Frome. Eventually in 1971 she became a guide at Longleat House and later became Head Guide. She worked at Longleat House for over 35 years, retiring when she was well into her eighties.

In 2014, now suffering with vascular dementia, she moved nearer to her son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Rita in West Oxfordshire. Bunny is still her happy self but sadly has lost her memory now but does recognise her friends from the past when they visit. Michael and Rita would like to offer all who remember Bunny their very best wishes for the future.



# Horningsham Primary School

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What a fantastic year it has been at Horningsham School with so many wonderful trips, events and of course our big Take One exhibition. We were very sad to say goodbye to Mr Edwards as he and his family move back to Australia – but hope to keep in touch! We welcome Miss Young to the staff as the new teacher in Owls Class and congratulate Miss Evans on her marriage over the holidays – she is now Mrs Dorgan! Here's to a really successful and happy new academic year. As always we hope that we can work with the whole community as much as possible and are grateful for all your continuing support. [Please do contact the office if you want to be involved in any school events, clubs or activities.](#)

## JEREMY STRONG VISITS HORNINGSHAM

The well-known author, Jeremy Strong visited the school following one of our pupils, Alex, winning a national story writing competition. He ran a great session with each class and left everybody feeling like they should put their pencils to paper. Congratulations also to Finn, Polly and Jack S from Woodpeckers who are published authors as GWR published their stories/setting descriptions and illustrated them too.



## GREEN FINGERS



We had a very generous plant donation via the Spriggs family planting some and holding a sale. We are proud to announce that we have achieved our Level 2 and 3 RHS School Gardening Award. The plant sale works very nicely towards our level 4, which involves fundraising. A huge thank you to Carole Hill who does so much to keep our school grounds lovely and for supporting Mrs Perett in leading our very popular gardening club.

# MEET OUR POP UP PANDA!



We were thrilled to be asked to design a panda for Longleat's Pop up Panda Exhibition. The Arts Council did a great job with their design, which includes our fimo characters, Longleat animals and the school in the Horningsham countryside. Artist and former parent, Charlotte Stowell (Osborne) very generously transformed the children's design into the finished painted panda. She did fantastic work and the children were absolutely thrilled to see their ideas come to life in such a vibrant and professional finished piece. You can see our panda at Longleat by the Long House. The children named him Hugo and our very proud of him!



## Summer Party

We had a wonderful end of term community event with lots of families and villagers joining us for a BBQ and live jazz from Iain Ballamy. There was a great atmosphere, with lovely food and great music. Thank you to all of the Friends of the School for your support this year.



## Mill Farm Chronicles June – August 2018

Much as it's been lovely to have days and days of long, hot sunny weather, it's also made life on the farm rather challenging to say the least.

The hot weather has had an adverse effect on the corn crops. The grain has dried too much in the head and yields are down and the stems are stunted so there has been less straw produced. Because it's a case of supply and demand the price of straw has increased from £20 a tonne last year to £80 or more this year. We have a small amount of our own straw but always need to buy in loads more to bed down the cattle in the winter.

The grass stopped growing due to lack of rain and by early July the cattle literally had nothing to eat so we had to supplement feed them with the hay that we should have been keeping for feeding over the winter. We also only managed to get one cut of silage this year instead of the two or three that we usually get. This means that we will be going into winter with much less food for the cows than we usually do, so if it's a long cold winter then we may have to, like every other farmer, buy in extra feed which will be mega expensive (see supply and demand above).

The cattle have obviously been drinking more water, so the troughs have been running constantly trying to keep up with consumption. 40 thirsty cows all trying to drink at the same time means that there's a fair bit pushing and shoving going on which leads to troughs being broken, which leads to frantic cows trying to drink, which leads to more pushing etc etc . . . The average cow can drink up to 50 gallons of water a day and this can double in very hot weather! Anyone want to pay our water bill this quarter?

The good news for us over the summer was going clear of TB in July. This is great because it means that we don't need another test for a year, but the down side is that there was no point selling calves at market because no one was buying cattle due to the problem of feeding them as I said above.

I know it sounds as if farmers are never happy but honestly the weather can make or break us and extremes of weather such as we've had last winter, and this summer stretch us, our resources and finances to the limit. A 9-5 job with a steady income can look very appealing sometimes. That's me speaking not Steve I hasten to add!

The sludge has arrived and is spread over some of our fields near the park rendering them unusable for the next few month/years. Basically, it now needs to settle and dry out and then either be ploughed or worked down and then re seeded, which all takes time. Now we are receiving loads of stone that was used to make access roads. Huge lorries are dumping it behind our barn and we now have a mini mountain. This week one lorry driver had an 'oops' moment when he accidentally tipped over his empty trailer. It took a couple of diggers and a bit of swearing before it was upright again but nobody was hurt and the equipment wasn't damaged.

Socially this summer we've had Theo's christening (on the only wet day of the summer, but that's par for the course if it's a Crossman event!). Amy's birthday which was very quiet and consisted of me and her having fish and chips in the car while the children slept then a good run about at the farm shop play area. An afternoon walk along the sea front from Sandbanks to Bournemouth and back again with Mark and Jo (we walked miles and really earned that ice cream) and we had Jochem, a Dutch friend, stay with us for 10 days which was really lovely because we haven't seen him for about 15 years.



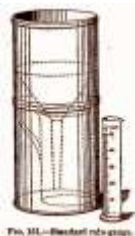
Bed and breakfast has been steady. We've seen, several weekends of wedding guests and one couple, Pete and Tanya, had their 'hand binding ceremony' and reception in our donkey paddock and very lovely it was too.

Talking about donkeys, Poppy 'the Alpaca' is hairy no more, her dreadlocks gradually fell off over the summer and she is now as sleek and smooth coated as the other two. On doing some research about her we believe that her dad might have been a Poitou donkey which is a breed that originated from France and its characteristics are: a distinctive shaggy coat, really large ears and a tail with a wispy end, all of which Poppy has. It will be interesting to see if her winter coat is as hairy as last year.

The summer is coming to an end now, sunrise is getting later, and sunset getting earlier and the good TV programmes are soon starting again. I do love a bit of Bake Off, Masterchef, The Apprentice and Strictly. We haven't succumbed to a fire in the evenings yet but don't think it will be long!

**Margaret Crossman**

### PARSONAGE FARM RAINFALL



June was the start of the heatwave. On the first we had 0.67 inches, and that Ladies and Gentlemen, was it, for the whole of June! As every day we had glorious warm days some being very hot. July continued to be very warm and by mid-month it became muggy and sticky, and so on the 28<sup>th</sup> we started with a shower or two which became harder rain and continued overnight dropping over an inch of rain. By the end of July we had 1.33 inches. So the total for the year up to July was 16.59 inches, compared to 21.00 last year.

August started hot which eventually broke on Friday evening with over 0.53 of an inch.

**John Whatley**



**HORNINGSHAM W.I.**

Since last writing we have had a successful evening making our own floral creations and been challenged by Vicky's extremely interesting quiz.





Our plans for the rest of the year are now in place and are as follows:

September – The history of chocolate

October – Autumn recipes with seasonal produce

November – Christmas craft

December – Christmas fun

Meetings are free for WI members, Guests are £3 per meeting

If you are interested in joining us and would like to come along to a meeting then please get in touch. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at Horningsham Village Hall, normally at 7.30pm. You can reach us at [wihorningsham@gmail.com](mailto:wihorningsham@gmail.com) or on 01985 844801. Please let us know if you are planning to come along so we can confirm the time for you as this does vary slightly.

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## Notable Trees in Horningsham



Growing up in an urban realm in the 1950s the abundance of ‘Conker’ trees was, looking back, a luxury taken for granted. Then as now they continue to provide interest in every season. Hand-like leaves, candle-like flowers and ooh yes sticky buds. Shuffling through deep leaf litter was and is of course obligatory! I also remember summer family picnics in the countryside under the accommodatingly broad spread of branches and leaves.

In an interview with Jeremy Coles from BBC Earth in 2015, Pauline Buchanan Black, then director general of The Tree Council, suggests that children grow fond of the horse chestnut from an early age. “One of the great things it has going for it is that it’s an easy tree for children to connect with because of the seeds, using them to play conkers or stringing them together into necklaces. There are lots of different things that can be done in terms of art and science, even just watching the germination of a conker’.



It is at this time of the year then that we look forward to those inimitable conkers, those rich polished seeds that already feel as though they are made of wood.

“A national inventory estimated there to be approximately half a million horse chestnut trees in Great Britain, whether they all live up to their potential height of 30 metres and 300 years old is currently difficult to predict. The problem for horse chestnut trees, explains Ms Buchanan Black, is that it is beset by an awful lot of diseases at the moment. The particular one that everyone knows about, and is threatening large numbers of trees, is the **leaf mining moth**, whose larvae feed on the trees’ leaves. And the amount the leaf miner is affecting them is quite significant. “It starts off in the full flush of spring with loads of leaves and those lovely conical flower bracts and very quickly starts to fall prey to the leaf miner and the leaves turn brown, crumble and fall off,” says Buchanan Black. But that’s not the only thing these trees have going against them at the moment.

The bacterial infection **bleeding canker** occurs when a tree is weakened by the leaf miner and becomes infected with these bacteria, which can be fatal. There is also leaf blotch and wood rotting fungi, as well as the horse chestnut scale insect. (Jeremy Coles in BBC Earth, 2015.)

‘One of the most worrying things is that such an iconic tree is looking so unhappy.’  
Pauline Buchanan Black

This Spring I paid particular homage to our Horse chestnuts in Horningsham knowing full well that very quickly the damage caused by these viral, bacterial, fungal and mechanical invasions would soon become evident.

### 10 Things you may or may not know about *Aesculus hippocastanum*

1. Mature horse-chestnut trees grow to a height of around 40m, and can live for up to 300 years. The bark is smooth and pinky grey when young, which darkens and develops scaly plates with age. Twigs are hairless and stout, buds are oval, dark red, shiny and sticky. (Woodland Trust)
2. The tree is non-native, originally introduced in the 17th century as an ornamental species of flowering plant in the same family as the soapberry and the lychee family *Sapindaceae*.
3. The Horse Chestnut tree (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) was crowned the UK's Favourite Tree, having won a public poll of over 2,500 votes in Biology Week 2017.
4. The flowers provide a rich source of nectar and pollen to insects, particularly bees. Caterpillars of the triangle moth feed on its leaves, as well as the horse chestnut leaf miner moth, whose caterpillars provide food for blue tits. Deer and other mammals eat the conkers.
5. The most famous use of horse-chestnut is in the game of conkers. The first record of the game is from the Isle of Wight in 1848
6. Horse-chestnut timber is a pale creamy white to light brown with a smooth, soft, fine texture. It's not very strong and is therefore not used commercially, but its soft texture makes it ideal for carving.
7. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species in assessing *Aesculus hippocastanum* places it in the category - Vulnerable with populations decreasing and attributes this to the leaf miner moth *Cameraria ohridella*. The moth was described in Macedonia where the species was discovered in 1984 but took 18 years to reach Britain.
8. Set within the picturesque county of Northamptonshire, the World Conker Championships takes place each year on the 2nd Sunday of October, in the beautiful village of Southwick near Oundle. Hosted in the grounds of the local pub, the Shuckburgh Arms, and supported by the villagers. The next championships take place on the 14th of October 2018 starting at 9:30 and finishing at around 16:00. [www.worldconkerchampionships.com](http://www.worldconkerchampionships.com)
9. A recent Cochrane Review found the evidence suggests that Horse Chestnut Seed Extract is an efficacious and safe short-term treatment for chronic venous insufficiency, but definitive randomized controlled trials are required to confirm the efficacy. (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* **11**: CD003230.)
10. Raw Horse Chestnut seed, leaf, bark and flower are toxic due to the presence of esculin and should not be ingested by man nor beast, however deer and wild boar seem to tolerate them. Not to be confused with *Castanea sativa* the Sweet Chestnut !

Check out :- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=sobEaRpag6Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sobEaRpag6Y)

**Jayne Glover**

## HORNINGSHAM CRICKET CLUB



Our league season has had ups and downs. Two months ago we were unbeaten, and in second place. We had overcome all the strongest teams in the league once, at home, but still had to play each of them away.

First up was Cranmore, league champions in 2017, who were still smarting from losing to us in May. On that occasion, their undoing was overconfidence and hangovers, rather than anything we did. This time they took to the field with steel in their eyes and their strongest possible team, which included a few lads who play only a couple of levels below professional. Anticipating this, most of our best players found they had sick notes, or pressing reasons to be elsewhere, fishing in Scotland or, on a Sunday afternoon, 'at work'. We were grateful to be able to call up a friend of someone who no one knew, and also Josh Cruikshank, our former star all-rounder who went missing a few years ago. Josh has kept his beard in good order but has work to do on his fitness: he pulled a hamstring in the second over, fielded for thirty-seven overs in the slips, without touching the ball, and then limped home half way through the game at tea. Cranmore thrashed us.

Our second test was away at Milborne Port, who famously deliver live commentaries of their games in broad Anglo Saxon. They did this when losing to us in Horningsham and even more impressively while beating us at Milborne Port.

Despite these two defeats, our league standing mysteriously improved. We rose to the top of the table with one game to play, away at Queen Camel, who were in second place, with a game in hand over us. It was set up to be a cracking final game with everything hanging on the result. Unfortunately, we played poorly and suffered yet another heavy defeat. Fortunately, Queen Camel's other game was rained off, and so it did not matter. Horningsham sneaked home and won our division of the league.

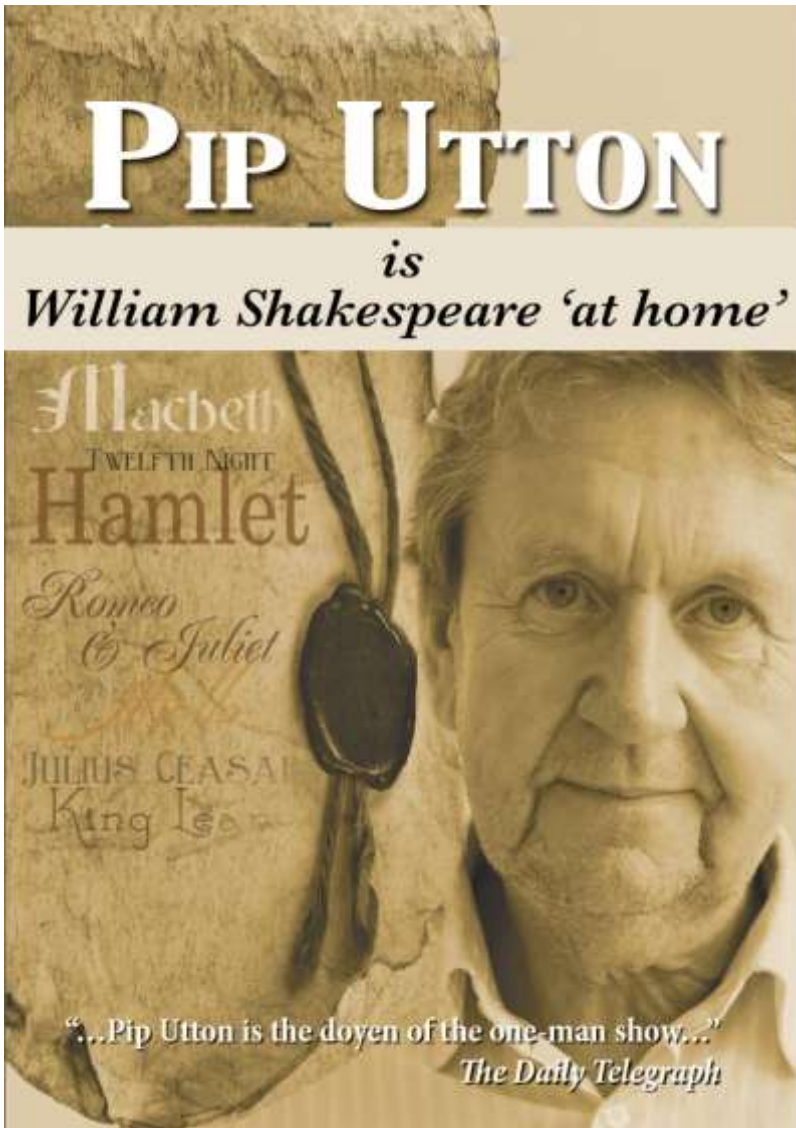
We are not champions, though. We face a play-off against Broadwindsor, the winners of the league's west division, to determine the overall champion. This is in Yeovil on 16<sup>th</sup> September. Please wish us well. Your correspondent will be away that day, up a hill in Sri Lanka, so with luck someone else will write about it in the Horningsham News.

**James Osborne**



Welcome to Amanda Abbott who has moved to No 75 The Almshouses. She is a nurse working for the Care Management Group for young people with autism. She is a very keen gardener, also a keen traveller mainly in the Far East.

**Maggie Osborne**



Horningsham Village Hall is delighted to welcome Pip Utton back to  
Horningsham to perform his newest comedy

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October, at Horningsham Village Hall**

**Refreshments from 6:15, Curtain Rises 7pm**

**Tickets £12 available from James Osborne  
([jamesosborne@btinternet.com](mailto:jamesosborne@btinternet.com)), and at the Bath Arms**



## MAIDEN BRADLEY HALL



### **Quiz Night at the Hall**

Friday 28th September at 7.30pm.

Bring a team or join a team - all welcome.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning 10-12noon**

### **Film Night Friday 5th October at 7.30pm**

showing "*Finding Your Feet*" starring Imelda Staunton & Timothy Spall

Watch this space for details of a musical evening with talented classical guitarists on the 1st December at Bradley House.

**The Old Kitchen Community Store** now open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays selling basic grocery items e.g. milk, cream, butter, biscuits, crisps, chocolate, tea, coffee etc. Opening times: 9am – 11.30am. Please note CASH ONLY.

Alongside the shop there is also a range of books to borrow from the Community Book Lending Library that has recently acquired a wide range of crime thrillers.

## **FLOWER FESTIVAL**

### **“NATURES BOUNTY”**

### **BRADLEY HOUSE, MAIDEN BRADLEY**

*Home of the Duke and Duchess of Somerset*

**SEPT 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am to 4.30pm**

Refreshments Available

Plant Stall

Entry £4 per adult, accompanied children 12 and under free

Proceeds for All Saints Church

## MONTHLY RECIPE

Finding a recipe in the back of a novel always piques my interest because mayhap you might not find it anywhere else. I am an avid fan of a writer named Deborah Rodriguez the author of “The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul” and I have just finished her fifth book “The Zanzibar Wife”. The recipe in the back of the book is for the ‘real’ Spice Island Spice Cake. (Zanzibar is known as the Spice Island) by Vanessa Arena. Right here, right now, I am making it and observing my experience.

### **Here are the Ingredients:**

170g butter cubed at room temperature  
170g soft brown sugar  
3 free range eggs  
170g self-raising flour  
2 tsps baking powder  
1 tsp ground cinnamon  
½ tsp cloves  
2 cardamom pods  
1 vanilla pod  
3 tablespoons of milk



### **Method**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 deg.fahrenheit /180 deg. Celsius
2. Line a loaf tin with baking parchment - cut a rectangle as wide as the base of the tin and the long sides and leave an overhang of about 2” / 5 cms. This will help to lift the cake out after cooking.
3. Cream the butter and the sugar together, add the eggs one at a time and incorporate well. Stir in the flour and BP.
4. Using a mortar and pestle grind the whole cloves to a fine powder, I found this easier said than done and Shirley Conran’s 1978 statement sprang to mind that ‘life’s too short to stuff a mushroom’ or maybe I could buy ground cloves but I persevered. Equally I had never ground cardamom seeds before only infused them. (it’s easy to remove the seeds from the pods) I can only tell you that it was worth it! The aroma was tantalizing. I then added the cinnamon to the mortar and this helped to create a well-blended spice.
5. Next add the spices to the batter, I confess to using a teaspoon measure of vanilla bean paste instead of a pod. Finally add the three tablespoons of milk to slacken the batter and mix gently to distribute the spices.
6. Pour into the prepared tin and bake for 35 - 40 minutes. I tested with a skewer and mine took 40 minutes as I adjusted the temperature for fan. Again the smell whilst cooking was mouth watering

### The Taste test

Wow! Everything about this cake was beyond my expectations. It turned out beautifully, the texture was perfect and the flavour is unexpected, different and a complete delight. Mr G is very impressed!

For more details check out Vanessa Arena, [www.olivesandlucinda.com](http://www.olivesandlucinda.com)

**Jayne Glover**

## LONGLEAT NEWS



An African wildlife photographer has used a miniature off-road buggy to take stunning close-up images of some of Longleat's biggest and fiercest animals.



Professional photographer Will Burrard-Lucas used his own invention – an armoured remote controlled buggy with a high quality camera mounted inside called 'BeetleCam' to get the images.

As well as incredible shots of Longleat lions and tigers, Will also used the mobile camera to get incredible close-ups of the Wiltshire safari park's rhinos and wolves.

“By being so low to the ground and appearing so non-threatening the camera allows me to get some really unusual and unique images of a variety of different species you cannot normally approach,” said Will. “The angle of the camera also provides a new perspective and allows the viewer to get to feel the individual animal’s personality much more clearly,” he added.



Will first came up with the idea for the remote controlled camera during a photographic assignment in Tanzania. “I started thinking about how I could get unique, close-up, ground level photographs of African wildlife without risking my life,” said Will. “The first project resulted in ground-breaking photographs of elephants and buffalo. However, I lost a camera in an encounter with a lion and BeetleCam was almost destroyed. On returning to the UK in 2013, I developed a new version of BeetleCam, five years in the making, with a stronger, lighter protective shell and more advanced capabilities,” he added.

BeetleCam has proved so successful Will has now launched an online company to produce bespoke RC camera vehicles for other photographers.



## FROM THE PAPERS SPECIAL

The sad downwards saga of Elizabeth Doel of Horningsham and her encounters with the Victorian criminal justice system.

**IMPUDENT ROBBERY** – At the police court, Frome, on Friday, a miserable-looking girl named Elizabeth Doel was brought up on remand charged with the following impudent robbery. On Tuesday evening last, about six o'clock, Mr Harris, draper of this town, noticed a person walking up and down before his shop and thinking there was something suspicious in her manner, he directed his daughter to watch her. Miss Harris did so, and saw the girl look in at the shop window, go away a short distance and then return. The shop was closed at seven o'clock and nothing was then missed. The next morning, however, it was discovered that a shirt that had been hanging in the doorway on the previous day was gone and, of course, suspicion immediately fell upon the girl who had been seen hovering around the shop the previous evening and was known to be, or have been, in the service of the Rev W. Williams of Park Hill House. The Misses Williams called at the shop on Wednesday to make some purchases and afterwards spoke about a dress which the prisoner had brought home on the previous night, and which she said she had bought at the shop. A warrant was issued for the apprehension of the prisoner who was arrested at Mr Williams' residence where also the stolen property was found. The prisoner had told her fellow servant that her father had bought the dress for her. Mr Dunn, the solicitor, who appeared for the prisoner at the request of the Rev. Mr Williams appealed to the bench to deal leniently with her as it was another of those unfortunate cases in which temptation and grasping love of dress had proved too strong for honesty and he thought it was wrong in shopkeepers to expose young girls to temptation by leaving the attractive goods on the outside of the shops after dark. The bench concurred with Mr Dunn in his latter remark, and after sentencing the prisoner to one month's imprisonment with hard labour, instructed the Superintendent to summon all persons who obstructed the thoroughfare by exposing their goods outside their premises.

*Wells Journal* 15 December 1860

**Elizabeth Doel** was summoned for having on the 13<sup>th</sup> April at Horningsham, unlawfully assaulted and beaten one Ann Doel. The affair arose out of defendant's donkey having trampled on prosecutor's onion bed. Dismissed, upon paying 5s 6d expenses.

*Frome Times* 11 May 1864

Elizabeth Doel, 18, servant, after a previous conviction, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment for stealing a coat at Marston Bigot, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, 1865 the property of George Wheeler.

*Shepton Mallet Journal* 5 Jan 1866




Henry Carter was summoned for assaulting Elizabeth Doel, of Horningsham. There was much conflicting evidence but the Bench considered the case fully proved against the prisoner, and sentenced him to a month's hard labour.

*Western Gazette* 11 Sept 1868



A young woman named Elizabeth Doel, of Horningsham, was brought in under the vagrancy act, charged with having been found lying about in other people's gardens, outhouses, &c. The accused who is a fine young woman, and but for a coating of filth would be of pleasing appearances, is a bad one. She has thrice been convicted of felony, and has only recently completed a term of twelve months' imprisonment. Her friends, who are respectable, have been obliged to discard her, and she has lived for the past two months on the proceeds of her prostitution and what she has been able to lay her hands on belonging to other people. She has been sleeping about in outhouses and under hedges, living in a manner that would try the hardihood of a horse. The police have tried to induce her to go into the Union, and have behaved with great forbearance towards her. She is now far advanced in pregnancy. Police Sergeant Titt deposed to having found her, on Sunday morning last, at 3 o'clock, sleeping under a hedge at Horningsham. There had just been a very heavy and cold shower and she was wet through. He took her into custody. Her friends had all discarded her, because she robbed them, and behaved in such a disgraceful manner. She had been guilty of many sorts of plunder, but people would not proceed against her. Mr Barton very forcefully and kindly addressed the prisoner, urging her to amend her course of life while it would avail her, and assuring her that she would most certainly be transported if any further charge of theft were proved against her. Mr Abbott said the judge who last sentenced her strongly impressed that upon her, but it had had no effect. The bench sentenced her to the nominal imprisonment of 21 days, trusting that at the expiration of that time she would do as she promised them namely at once enter the Union and try to reform the course of her life.

Apart from these press reports of Elizabeth Doel's criminal career no further records of her could be found. It appears that her father was a sawyer and that she grew up in Little Scotland. Maybe she did "enter the Union" – that would have been the workhouse at Sambourne in Warminster, later a hospital and now a small housing estate. Maybe that enabled her to avoid further criminality, we will never know.



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## **Are you related to any of these men on our War Memorial?**

### **Do you know someone who is?**

As part of the country's commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Great War, the Parish Council is organising a reception at the Village Hall following the service at the War Memorial on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

We are especially keen to invite people who are related to the men from Horningsham who died in the 1914-1918 War.

If you are related to any of them or know someone who is who may not see the Horningsham News please contact us:

Tim Hill (Chairman of the Parish Council) 01985 844365

Or: [horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk)

Lord Alexander Thynne

Viscount Weymouth

John Bothwell

James Carpenter

John Carpenter

Jesse Carrier

Percy Carter

Ernest Chapman

Dennis Curtis

Frederick Curtis

Henry Curtis

Wilfred Duff

Charles Froude

Ernest Garrett

William Houlton

Edwin Lewer

John Lewer

Henry Marsh

Walter Miller

Reginald Moore

Russell Prowse

Sidney Tancock

Wyndham Trollope

Sidney Wheeler

Charles Wyman

### **Paul Wharton**

Some of our readers will remember the evening at Horningsham Hall when Paul gave a talk on the men on our War Memorial who died in the Great War. This was many years before the current wave of interest stimulated by the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Paul had attended many of the Remembrance Day services at the Memorial and was curious to know more about the men whose names were carved there. Thus began many years of research that involved Paul in visiting many Commonwealth Grave Commission cemeteries, consulting their records and writing to Regimental Associations and museums. All of this was done before the arrival of the wealth of information now available online. Paul did it all the hard way. His notes have proved invaluable when writing the stories we have been publishing in Horningsham News in the month that each man died.

Now, his wife has taken his notes, photos and letters and compiled them into a book. In this way, the fruits of Paul's dedicated labours will endure.



## World War 1: 100 Years Ago This Month

We know that by September 1918 the Great War would soon be over but the men still fighting and their families at home did not. September 1918 was a dreadful month for Horningsham with three deaths, exceeded only by July 1916 when four men died on the Somme. This was part of the Hundred Days Offensive beginning with the Battle of Amiens that finally drove the Germans out of France and ended the war with the Armistice on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

### *Harry Curtis*

Harry was born in early 1890 to Joseph and Annie Curtis when the couple lived at 6 Hitcombe Bottom. They already had 4 daughters and 4 sons with a fifth daughter to follow in 1893 making a total of 10 offspring. Joseph worked as a “General Labourer” so the family must have been very poor. The family later moved to a larger cottage at 96 Lodge Fields. Harry’s older brother, Frederick died on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1916 of his wounds received on the First Day of the Somme. (*We told his story in our issue of July 2016.*)



Harry attended school in Horningsham and we find him aged 20 in 1911, lodging at 20 West End in Bruton and working as a “Labourer on Farm”. His father Joseph, now widowed, was still living in Horningsham with his youngest daughter Annie (18) and gave his occupation as “Labourer Drainer” to the Marquess of Bath. On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1914 Harry married Mabel Curtis a dressmaker who at 32 was 7 years his senior. The couple lived with Mabel’s parents at 10 St Catherine’s Hill, just around the corner from where Harry had been lodging.

Harry had clearly been an early responder to the call for recruits because, at his wedding at the Parish Church in Bruton, he gave his occupation as “Soldier in the Devonshire Regiment”. Unfortunately we know little of Harry’s service in the army. We do know from his medal card that he started serving in France on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1915 and so received the 1915 Star.

The next pieces of information relate to Harry’s death. He is recorded as having “Died of Wounds” on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. At





this stage in the war he was in the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Devonshires and they were involved in intense fighting from the 24<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September as they were engaged in pushing the Germans back towards Cambrai. His colonel reports that casualties were heavy with 120 men killed, wounded or missing. Harry would have been one of the 89 other ranks wounded. He would have been evacuated to one of the casualty clearing stations around Gézaincourt where he was buried in Bagneux British Cemetery. On 20<sup>th</sup> January 1919 his widow Mabel received his back pay of £12.70 and a week later a War Gratuity of £19. Mabel did not remarry and died in 1974 aged 92.

### *Lt.Col. Lord Alexander Thynne*

Death in the Great War touched families across the social spectrum. Both Lord Bath and his “labourer drainer” Joseph Curtis, lost a second close family member this month. The Fifth Marquess had lost his son and heir in February 1916 and in September 1918 his younger brother was killed. After Eton and Oxford he fought in the Boer War in the Imperial Yeomanry. In 1910 he was elected as Conservative MP for Bath.

In 1916 he was commanding the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment when he was seriously wounded in the chest on the Somme. In 1917 he was back in France and was again wounded, this time in the arm. He received the DSO and the Croix de Guerre.



The Bath Chronicle printed an eyewitness account by a Bath soldier of how Alexander Thynne met his death:

“I saw several officers walking up and thought one was Lord Alec. I looked again after they had gone on a few yards and then recognised him, for he turned half round and the setting sun just caught his face. Shells were coming over and Lord Alexander and his party got into a ditch for shelter. A few seconds after there was an explosion, and I heard cries. Many ran to the spot where the dead and injured lay, including several men of Lord Alec’s own Wilts Regiment. I saw him die very soon after he was struck. He passed away without a murmur. I helped to carry some of the injured, but Lord Alec was borne away by his own men. They thought a lot of him, and all spoke well of him. He was one of those who never ducked for a shell.”

He was buried at Bethune Town Cemetery. His brother Thomas the Fifth Marquess issued a memorial card to relatives, friends and tenants. Alexander never married and at probate his estate was valued at £331,310 12s. 7d. – around £18 million in today’s money.



## LT COLONEL LORD ALEXANDER THYNNE D. S. O.

Born February 17<sup>th</sup> 1873

Served in the SOUTH AFRICAN WAR 1900-1902  
In the SOMALILAND CAMPAIGN 1903-1904  
Served with the Wiltshire Yeomanry in  
FRANCE from 1915 to 1916

Commanded the Wiltshire Regiment  
from 1916 until he was killed, on  
September 14<sup>th</sup> 1918  
near BETHUNE.

He was twice wounded — 1916 and 1918  
Mentioned in Despatches

He was Secretary to the Lieut. Governor  
of the Orange River Colony 1902-1905  
He was Member for the City of Bath  
and the London County Council.



### *Jesse Carrier*

Jesse was born in 1890 to Frederick and Ellen Carrier who were living at Hollies Lodge, East Woodlands. Frederick was working as a Gamekeeper on the Longleat Estate. Jesse was the second of four sons and had three sisters. By 1901, the family had moved to Keeper's Cottage at Park Hill. We next find Jesse in 1911 age 20 following in his father's footsteps as an "Under Gamekeeper". He was lodging with the Head Gamekeeper on the Manor Estate at West Tisted near Alresford, Hampshire. By the outbreak of war, Jesse had moved on to live in Findon near Worthing. It was here that here that he enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment.



According to the West Sussex Record Office, Jesse served with the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Egypt and Palestine. On May 1<sup>st</sup> the battalion sailed from Alexandria for Marseille and then by train to northern France to join the Hundred Days Offensive near the Somme. In September his battalion was involved in particularly heavy fighting as they tried to take German advanced positions before the heavily fortified Hindenburg Line. This was the Battle of Epéhy. During that month the 16<sup>th</sup> Sussex lost 352 men, killed, wounded or missing. We know that Jesse died of wounds in a hospital at Rouen on 19<sup>th</sup> September so he was probably one of the 10 men listed in the War Diary as "since died of wounds". He was buried at St Sever Cemetery Extension. As well as appearing on the Horningsham War Memorial, Jesse's name is also on the Findon Parish Church Memorial.

In February 1919 his father Frederick received Jesse's back pay of £11.20 and in December a War Gratuity of £12.





### BUSES FROM BUS SHELTER AT THE COMMON

#### Salisbury every Tuesday **83**

Leaves Horningsham 09.35 *Holly Bush 09.37* Arrives Salisbury 10.30  
Departs Salisbury 13.45 Arrives Horningsham 14.45

#### Trowbridge every Thursday **81**

Leaves Horningsham 10.03 *Holly Bush 10.01* Arrives Trowbridge 10.55  
Departs Manvers St Trowbridge 13.10 Arrives Horningsham 14.04

#### Warminster every Friday **82**

Friday leaves Horningsham 09.45 *Holly Bush 09.48* Arrives Warminster 10.10  
Departs Warminster Coach Station 12.20

#### Frome every Wednesday & Thursday

Wednesday **80** leaves Horningsham 10.06 *Holly Bush 10.01*  
Departs Cork St. Car Park 12.15 and 13.45

Thursday **81** leaves Horningsham 10.03 *Holly Bush 10.01*  
Departs Frome Market Place 13.50

### ADVERTISING RATES

¼ page £4.00    ½ page £8.00    Full Page £16.00

*These apply to the inside pages of the magazine*





### **BLACK AND YELLOW PAGES**

Black Boxes	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> September Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> October
Grey Bins	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> September Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> October
Blue Bins	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> September Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> October
Mobile Library	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> September Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October <i>10.00 – 10.25 opposite the Hall</i>

Frome Hospital Minor Injuries		<b>01373 454740</b>
Community Police Officer	Vicky Howick	<b>726818 ext 817</b>
Wiltshire Police – non emergency		<b>101</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Shattock	<b>844197</b>
Horningsham School		<b>844342</b>
First Steps Nursery		<b>844942</b>
Village Hall Hire		<b>07541 211732</b>
Longleat Property Department		<b>845535</b>
Parish Council	Sarah Jeffries	<b>213436</b>
Congregational Chapel	Carol Cox	<b>horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk</b>
Horningsham Church Rector	Rev Pauline Reid	<b>841290</b>
Warminster District Link Scheme		<b>211655</b>
Mere Link Scheme		<b>01747 860096</b>
<b>Stray or Fouling Dogs</b>		<b>0300 456 0100</b>

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September *Parish Council Meeting* 7.30pm at the Hall
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September *Harvest Festival* 4.00pm at the Chapel
- 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> September *Flower Festival* at Maiden Bradley House
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September *W.I. Meeting* 7.30pm at the Hall
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October *Harvest Festival* 5.00pm at the Church
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October *Pip Utton* 6.15 for 7.00pm at the Hall



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**THURS 11.45AM - 1.45PM**  
**FRI 11.45AM - 1.45PM**  
**SAT 11.45AM - 1.45PM**

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