

HORNINGSHAM

NEWS

ISSUE 239
October 2022





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EDITORIAL

I must start with an apology to all our loyal readers for the absence of the News. This was due to a succession of my health issues starting with heart surgery and then a fractured femur. However, we are now back and catching up with events since May. The biggest of these was of course the Fayre and we have a selection of Gill Courtney's photos.

We mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth with an account of her visit to Longleat in 1980 written by a 10 year old pupil at the School who was presented with her cousin to Her Majesty. A true child's eye view of the occasion.

When Gill wrote her piece on John Osborne for her series on Horningsham People, John remarked that it was "like an obituary without having to die". So, now seems an appropriate time to run the piece again as we remember this very active member of our community.

It has been a long wait but we think there is much for you to enjoy in this issue as you catch up with our various village groups and even reflect upon the rainfall, or lack of it, at Parsonage Farm.

Sadly, what you won't find is an advert from the Bath Arms. Successive regimes have supported us from the very beginning but now the Head of Marketing at the Beckford Group has decided to stop their regular advert so she can "try out different forms of advertising". We shall miss their support.

Tim Hill

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Saturday 15th October 2022

Email: horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk

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We now have 1,484 "Page Follows" – over eight times the number of printed copies!

Printed by Parish Magazine Printing (01288 341617) printers of community magazines.



WELCOME CLUB

On Thursday 4th August the Luncheon Club held their Annual Outing for members, cooks, helpers and guests. This year we went to Exmouth, we set off on a lovely morning our coffee stop was Otter Garden Centre but it was Honiton Show so on the A30 they were queuing to come off at the junction we should come off at. So our driver had to take us a longer way round but we got there in the end. After the coffee stop we proceeded to Exmouth getting there about 12.20. People had to be back where we were dropped off for 2.50 so the bus could take us to catch the boat for our cruise up the river. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves in Exmouth getting lunch, going for a paddle. We even had two young members of the community who came with their grandparents. I think they enjoyed the beach and an ice cream, they were very well behaved. We had 1 hour and 15 minutes on our cruise which was really enjoyable and the Club paid for everyone to have a tea or coffee on the boat. Everyone came off the boat happy and enjoyed the trip. We stopped at Cartgate for a comfort stop and the raffle. Lionel our driver did a good job once again. Luncheon Club restarts on 1st September at 12.30pm at Horningsham Hall.

On Tuesday 23rd August we held our monthly outing. This month it was to Henley on Thames. We set off in light drizzly rain hoping for better weather to come. We headed up the A303 got just past Winterbourne Stoke when we got held up in traffic thinking it was the usual traffic jams on the A303 but no! When we got to the roundabout before Stonehenge there were two lorries on their sides and the A303 closed. So we got sent through Larkhill. Luckily our driver Lionel knew a way up to the A303 without following traffic to Countess roundabout. He went through Durrington and Bulford and we were soon on our way to Andover for our coffee stop only 1 hour late. We arrived in Henley on Thames at 1pm and stayed till 4.30. After people had their lunch they either wandered around the town but a lot of us made our way down to the riverbank and walked along and found a seat watching people, boats and ducks go by. Some people went on a boat ride which they enjoyed. The weather came out really warm in the afternoon, so I think once again people enjoyed themselves. We stopped at the M4 services for a comfort stop and the raffle coming back on a different route. Thank you Lionel for another lovely trip out.

*If anyone is interested in joining one of our trips, please contact
Pearl 844779 or Lesley 211355*

Pearl Hudson

HORNINGSHAM LUNCHEON CLUB



Our annual Luncheon Club outing this year was to Exmouth in August. This is an outing for members, cooks and helpers. Our coffee stop was at Otter Garden Centre and then on to Exmouth. We had time for lunch, a paddle and an ice-cream and then we were taken by coach to the quay for a cruise up the river with a cup of tea or coffee on board. Everyone had an enjoyable day and thanked Pearl for organising the outing.

Luncheon Club opened after the summer break on 1st September. Our members have increased to 36. We open every Thursday from 12 noon for members to have a chat before lunch starts at 12.30. We have managed to keep the price at £3.50, but will monitor the increasing costs of ingredients and hire to see if we will need to put up the price in the New Year. Please remember the club is open to anyone over 60 and we are always pleased to see new faces. We can also deliver a meal to anyone in Horningsham who is housebound; just get in touch with Margaret or me.

Next year will be the 40th anniversary of the club which was started by Hazel Gillingham and Brenda Mackintosh in 1983. To keep a club like this going which relies on volunteer helpers and cooks for 40 years is quite an achievement. We will be organising a suitable celebration to mark this occasion.

Lesley Trollope 211355 Margaret Long 844756

Parsonage Farm Rainfall

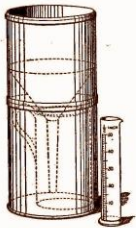


FIG. 151.—Standard rain-gauge.

What a summer we have had! It really started in June with a little hiccup that lasted a day, it was pleasantly warm and enjoyable, we had 1.3 inches. Then July, what a lovely month, very warm and dry, we started harvest early with winter barley on the 11th a good 2 weeks early, then winter wheat at the end of the month. We did have one really heavy downpour on the 22nd dropping 1.05 inches, which mainly washed away down the drains as the ground could not absorb it quickly enough. That was all we had in July. It then became really worrying as we could see grass growth was stopping and burning off. We could see lots of heavy smoke rising from the flinty downs, where combines, tractors and bailers struck a flint and sparks set the fields on fire. Meanwhile here at home we had 2 fires in my combine, luckily Martin Moore and my nephew Toby acted really quickly and managed to put them out before fire took hold on both occasions, resulting in wires being burned but they were mendable.

August was also extremely hot, which brought thunder and lightning on the 15th and we had 1.69 inches. This ended the hot period and all settled down to a normal weather pattern.

September so far has been cooler with a frost here on the 14th and 15th and quite strong winds that affected the Longleat balloons.

John Whatley

HALL NEWS



What's on at the Hall?

Events planned this Autumn / Winter

Bonfire Night Saturday 5th November

A small, village Bonfire Night, just for villagers.

We will not post on social media this year!

Village Dinner: in November, date to be confirmed.

Christmas Bingo: date to be confirmed

Our next meeting to discuss the running of the Hall for the benefit of the village is on Thursday 6th October at 7pm. All welcome.

James Osborne

CHURCH NEWS



The life of our church continues its reassuringly familiar pattern. We are unable to offer regular services, but the church is open and a new signature frequently appears in the visitors' book. We have had two weddings during the summer and also two memorial services. Lucy-Anne Bates grew up in the village; Alex Yates visited his grandparents Richard and Jane as a child and has always wanted to get married here. We wish both couples every happiness in their future lives together.

The memorial services were for Beryl and Joseph Lovatt who ran the Bath Arms with their son Paul for many years; we also said farewell to John Osborne, a Horningsham resident with his wife Maggie since the 1970s. John and Maggie both played an active part in the life of the church and John was a member of the PCC for many years. Whenever someone new came to a service, John was always the first person to talk to them and make them feel welcome. He will be greatly missed by us all and it was good to see so many people at both services, gathering together to give thanks and remember their long and happy lives.

There is no service in Horningsham during October. Please see the noticeboard for details of services in the Deverills.

Helen Taylor

HORNINGSHAM CRICKET CLUB



Our season is over, and what a season it has been. We finished 57 games, winning 44, losing 12, with 1 tied. We played four games in Scotland, two on the Isle of Wight, three in Devon, and the rest closer to home. One game was played from start to finish in a rainstorm, but for much of the summer we enjoyed blue skies and the heat wave. Two thrilling games went down to the last ball. Your correspondent has reached the age where he is mostly invited to play out of pity, and in the expectation he will write some match reports. Even in that regard his performance was poor. He only wrote three. To give a flavour of our season, here is one.

Babington House

After the match we drank outside on Babington's bar terrace, those of us who had not quickly made excuses and gone. To the west of us, tables of yummy mummies, DFLs, a couple snogging discreetly on a lounge in the far distance, reminding Ollie Smith that it is not only cricketing success that is missing from his life, then the lake and the sun setting behind the trees beyond. To the north and east, parkland and fields. To the south, was that a camera crew setting up an aspirational Range Rover advert? No, it was just some Babington regulars getting into their car. The gentle background ambience of the live jazz band added a certain premium to the experience. We were there an hour or two, realising too late that the beers cost £6.50 a pint.

By that stage only Mark Cadbury was still with us, and his labrador Heyhoe-Flint. Mark who had used a meat cleaver to carve the largest richest round carrot cake we had ever seen at tea.

At tea, the match was not poised (poise suggests balance) so much as in a heap. A Japanese Emperor assessing our chances might have mentioned that the match situation had developed not necessarily to Horningsham's advantage. He might have suggested we ponder actual conditions and effect a settlement. Our batting had self destructed, yet again at this ground, and we were 123 all out. 20 more than last year (he chuckles bitterly).

Ducks, slogs, top edges, air shots. As we slunk off the field one by one, loathing ourselves and hating cricket, all that we missed was David O'Connor asking 'what did he do that for?'. Let's not revisit it. Enough to say that the top scoring Horningsham batsman of the day was Dan Edmunds, with 21, and he was playing for the opposition. At least we lasted 35 overs.

Perhaps the famous Babington Tea would cheer us up. Perhaps we might catch sight of someone famous.

At least the opposition were in a genial mood as they sipped from their elegant patterned bone china tea cups. They relived their success in the field, wondered how many overs it would take to polish us off, changed the batting order, took the opportunity to give so-and-so a bat. They entertained themselves, in their uninhibited way, describing the amusing ways our batsmen had got out.

Did we hear them? Were we quietly more determined to take revenge? We concentrated on eating the tea : that gigantic cake, the rather hard scones, the perfectly rectangular sandwiches (5cm by 2) with the crusts removed and not much added.

If we spoke, it was not about cricket. Our conversation was about sandwich fillings and the search for jam. We followed that solitary bowl of strawberry jam, as it moved around the table, with the intensity of batsmen watching the cricket ball. Or in truth with more intensity but no more effect. It kept approaching us then disappearing back up the table the other way before we could get a spoon. In the end, people who had jam shared it with teammates. Such is the team spirit in our side.

When the game restarted, the opposition's confidence rose further. Connor Widdows had the bad luck to have to bowl up hill, burdened by two slices of triple decker carrot cake and several scones. He struggled to land the ball on the right length and went for 27 off 4 overs. Pat from the easier downhill end bowled with good pace and prodigious swing, giving away few runs but without making a breakthrough, some of his outswingers being called wides.

After 9 overs, the score was 40. They needed 84 off 26 overs with 10 wickets on hand. To unity of purpose we needed to add inspiration. It was Harry who provided it. Harry came on first change to bowl his left arm spin out of the trees that adorn the drive, and he quickly removed both openers. Then he bowled the ball of the season, that turned and exploded off the surface, flying at the batsman's glove as he jerked it up vainly towards his neck. Sausage James took the catch. The guys who had scored the bulk of their 238 against us last year were now out.

After that shock the wheels fell off their Range Rover. Callum and James O combined for 12 overs, 5 wickets for 24. Ollie Smith and Geoff Lodge finished it off. Everyone bowled well, good catches were held, Sausage James had an incredible afternoon as wicket keeper. Ollie gave a send off to 12 year old boy batting 10 who was bowled by Callum for a duck second ball. How many fines can you fit in one sentence? We had put on a squeeze and they folded. 10 wickets fell in 21 overs and they were all out for 99. Low scoring games are always the best.

Afterwards Babington were great hosts, we drank quite a few of those expensive jugs, and we look forward to playing them next year.

We expect they will have a strong team.

James Osborne



Horningsham Primary School

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A New School Year



We have had a great start to our new academic year! Our new reception have all settled in really well and it's been lovely welcoming some new families to two of our classes in other year groups. Our new Y6 children have all been assigned their leadership roles and are set to build on the great work and legacy of their predecessors, with all eight of them this year becoming Team Captains. They have already had their first leadership training session to establish their vision and aims for their roles, their teams and in developing themselves as young leaders – it's very clear to see that they are very passionate about making a difference and have lots of amazing ideas and areas to develop over the year. We are very proud of them and have great confidence that they will do an outstanding job!



Platinum Sportsmark

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that we have been awarded the 'Platinum School Games' mark. This is something we have been working towards for over five years now so is a great milestone for the school. It marks our continuing passion and participation in PE and sports. Well done Team Horningsham!



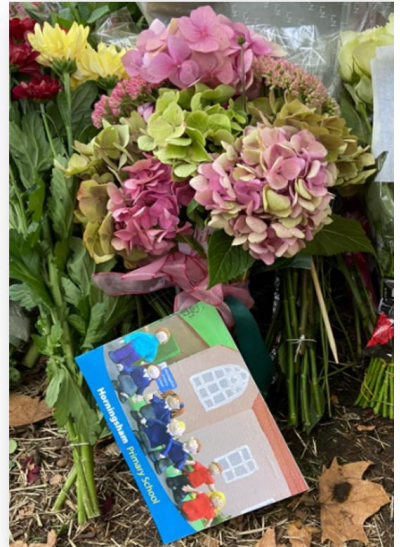
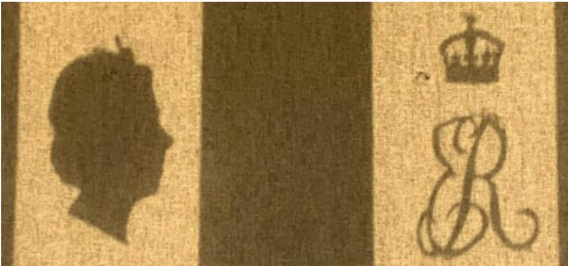
Sunflowers

Last years Woodpeckers' Class grew sunflowers to display at this year's Cheese Show. They each took home their small plant at the end of term and then returned their fully grown flowers in September. We are impressed with how well they did – particularly with such a hot and dry summer!

Honouring our Queen

Along with the rest of the nation and world, the children and staff of the school were all deeply saddened by the death of our Queen. We held a special day remembering her life and work and the values that she inspired and instilled in us all and sang one of her favourite songs, 'Sing', something we had sung for her Platinum Jubilee. It was very moving and we were very proud of how the children performed it with such dignity.

A card from the school and flowers from a Horningsham garden were taken to St James' Park by the palace and left with the other tributes. We were amazed when we received an email from one of the volunteers who are organising all the tributes letting us know that they were now safely in Hyde Park. All of the children wrote prayers or thoughts for a book of condolences and watched the proclamations of our new King.



'I have always respected and cherished the Queen, but now more than ever. I realise how amazing she really was and I say thank you for everything that she has done for this country'. Y6 child

'Your Majesty, thank you for leading our country for 70 years. I am really proud of you. You have been brilliant at leading our country and I want to thank you for your service'. Y3 child



It's a very warm, slightly delayed welcome to all the new Horningsham residents this month. As far as I know there are 3 families who've moved in recently; your long-serving correspondent, Maggie Osborne, left big boots for me to fill and I'm sure I'm not as diligent or timely as she was. Please do let me or Tim know if you're new to Horningsham and would like a welcome from me!

We have 2 new arrivals in Newbury: Alice & Simon moved into Prospect House around February time and Rod & Jan followed not long after into 22 Newbury. I'm yet to pin them down for a proper welcome but hope to have something for the November issue.

I have managed to meet Adrian and Victoria who moved into The Old Vicarage at the end of June. They arrived from Crystal Palace, SE London, with Lola their 7 year old cocker spaniel and together they are exploring the village and beyond.

Both are enjoying the change of pace after careers in the music industry at EMI; Victoria in Marketing & Promotions, Adrian in General Management. Artists Victoria worked with included Pink Floyd, Paul McCartney and Bruce Dickinson, who apparently insisted on piloting his own plane on a European promo tour. Victoria survived but I feel there are stories to be spilled about that adventure.....

Adrian once had the wonderful title "President of the Rest of the World" after he got tired of picking up new business cards every time his geographical responsibilities were changed. He managed artists for the Dubai office of EMI for a while before taking on the rest of the world and despite being semi-retired, still manages a couple of up and coming artists.

The couple have 3 adult children in various stages of fledging and are hoping to settle in the area as they have friends in Nunney and Mells. A trained hypnotherapist, Victoria is considering retraining as a counsellor or psychotherapist after surviving the Covid years with 3 kids under 25. She is also looking to find a drama group and is interested in life drawing classes. Adrian is also putting his business knowledge into helping green start-ups get funding whilst nurturing his vinyl collection. Raves from the Grave has proved a treasure trove as have the record collectors' markets at The Cheese and Grain.

Adrian was once part of an EMI cricket team called The Abbey Road when, during a match versus The Artists, he accidentally caught David Gilmour out. This sounds exactly like the sort of incident Horningsham Cricket Club are famous for so I hope we'll see his talent and misplaced enthusiasm on the pitch next year.

Adrian, Victoria and Lola can often be found in the pub or walking the streets. Do say hello.

Caroline Dykes chb.bristol@gmail.com

Dowager Marchioness of Bath 1943 - 2022



Anna Abigail Gyarmathy was born in Budapest in 1943, the daughter of Laszlo Izsak Gyarmathy, a mathematician, and his wife, a poet.

Living most of the time in Paris, she had serial careers in modelling, acting and finally journalism.

She married Alexander, Viscount Weymouth, in 1969 and subsequently gave birth to a daughter, Lenka and a son, Ceawlin.

She died in Paris on 17th September, 10 days short of her 79th birthday.



Horningsham Fayre 2022

Although our Annual Fayre was back in June we would like to take this opportunity now we have the Horningsham News back in print to thank everyone who helped in any way to make it so successful. After having to cancel for two years due to covid we were not sure what the response would be. However we were very busy and had the usual large crowd, which was very rewarding for all the hard work and planning that goes into putting it all together. Special thanks to the Bath Arms that took over the running of the bar and gave the profit to the Fayre fund. We had many helpers who do not even live in the village, but travelled some distance to help on several stalls during the day, for which we are very grateful. From the profit we were able to give the School, Church, Chapel, Village Hall, Luncheon Club and Cricket Club £800 each, leaving a good reserve to fund a further fayre.

Lesley Trollope

FAYRE NEWS

The Fayre Committee met at the end of September to discuss next year's Fayre. The 2023 Horningsham Fayre will take place on **Sunday 11th June from 12-4pm**. Save the date now!

We are in the planning stages and would love any ideas or suggestions from residents for things you'd like to see or do at the Fayre. Its success brings visitors from well beyond Horningsham but ultimately, it's your village fayre, and we really would like to hear from you.

Suggestions can be sent to chb.bristol@gmail.com, you could speak to the Chairman Steve Crossman at Mill Farm (844333) or to someone else on the committee or come to the next meeting on:

Wednesday 2nd November, Village Hall 6:30pm.

Caroline Dykes











Brigadier John Osborne OBE 1928 - 2022



John's father was stationed in Malta where John was born in 1928 and he spent his first 4 years there before the family returned to England. John remembers his grandfather well - he had been a civil engineer in the Sudan and when he came back he ran "a couple of family farms not far from Fareham". In his youth John would stay to help on the farm, driving the tractors and learned to drive the farm vehicle, a 1924 Chrysler car, at the age of 12. "My father was an instructor at Sandhurst when the war broke out and went into active service in France commanding a Royal Engineer regiment building bridges'. He was awarded a DSO. John was educated at Wellington College and joined the army aged 17 in 1946. "I was in the Royal Armoured Corps regiment in Yorkshire where I started training on tanks - when training was completed I was advised to hold on for Sandhurst to reopen for its first course after the war." Upon passing out of Sandhurst John "found himself" a Second Lieutenant in 4th/7th Dragoon Guards. "I was immediately posted out to the Middle East, we were a tank regiment so we were 50 miles outside Tripoli in the desert. The regiment had served right through the European war and was sent straight out to Egypt, from there to Palestine and then to Libya. Britain was very poor at the time (1948) and had little money and we ended up in a camp with very sparse furniture which had been an Italian POW camp. Things improved - John's love of riding was indulged as horses had been bought from Tunis and he was able to take part in races and steeplechases. After 3 years in Tripoli, John was sent to the Canal zone and spent some time living in a tent beside the Great Bitter Lake, "After I'd been there for 6 months or so I was sent back to the UK again to be adjutant of a Territorial Army regiment in Scotland. It was incredible and at 24 I entered into the most amazing social life. There were balls and reels. It was there, at a tennis party, that I met a wonderful girl called Margaret Brown. We got married in 1954. When I finished my tour of duty in Scotland and was going to be sent to Germany it was with great difficulty that I persuaded her to marry me. We came home and got married in Scotland." We went to Germany for 3 years and from there I was posted back to England to be a Tank Gunnery instructor at Lulworth. Maggie found a charming old rectory to rent in Dorset. It turned out to be Kimmeridge just beyond Lulworth and the army ranges. It hadn't been lived in for 3 years but we loved it.. we were so happy in Dorset. Peter was born there and we were very sad to leave after 2 years. I went off to rejoin my regiment at Catterick and found a house up on the moors. By this time I was at an age that I needed to go to the Staff College - if you didn't do this it

limited your career. I was selected to go to Camberley from where the course was run and later I was placed into the War Office in Whitehall in London for 2 years - we rented a flat in Hampstead I loved it but I wasn't keen on a desk job. I used to go to work in the morning on the No.24 bus - in those days an army officer at the War Office wore a bowler hat and carried an umbrella! Then back out to Germany again and subsequently to the Middle East for active service in Aden. Maggie remained in a cottage in Scotland with the 3 children. I was living up in the hills in a tent with my helicopter parked outside the tent! Out of the blue a message came telling me that I was to be Brigade Major of 20th Armoured Brigade in Germany. It was a key job and it meant that if I did that well I wouldn't be stuck as a Major for ever”.

John was selected to go to the Joint Services Staff College and, on completion, was posted to America “where we were treated so well and we loved it. Unfortunately when we were on leave in New England a member of the Embassy got hold of me and told me that I was urgently needed as the Chief Instructor of the Junior Division of the Staff College at Warminster. Back we came and had to find somewhere to live. House prices had shot up while we'd been away and the only thing we could afford was a rather dilapidated cottage in a place called Horningsham So in 1971 we bought 202 Pottle Street.”

“Shortly after, President Numeri in the Sudan dispensed with the Russians who'd been virtually running the Sudan. He got hold of the British and asked if they would mind converting his army onto British lines again. So the British army phoned up and said “Oborne go out to Khartoum and change the Sudanese army onto British lines. There were hundreds of Russians there and some of them had to stay because most of the equipment was Russian. I took over their senior officers' staff courses – I was a full Colonel by then. We got it going extremely well to the extent that President Numeri held a conference with all his ambassadors from around the world and he sent them to me to teach them how to write better reports so I ran a week's course for them!”. Maggie was with me for those two years and we thoroughly enjoyed it. She was very keen to see more of the Sudan so she and one of the diplomat's wives hitchhiked all the way round the south of the Sudan.”

In 1975 John's next appointment was at Wilton. “I had been there a while when to everyone's surprise I was promoted brigadier and . . . would you mind going to India? We bought a Range Rover, loaded it up with all the family and drove from England to India. It took us a month to get there – it was a fabulous job and we travelled all over the country. We were there for three and a half years. It was only two years before I had to retire - the army was very kind and made me Vice-President of the Commissions Board at Westbury. After this I retired from the army and then for 5 years became Defence Attaché in Dublin. It was a super job! A team of 8 Garda Special Branch looked after us. In 1989 John was awarded an OBE. “When I came home the Foreign Office phoned - Parliament was starting a thing called the British Irish Assembly - 25 MPs from Britain and Ireland were to meet in committees discussing the problems in the two countries twice a year - they wanted someone to set it up as a British Secretary. It did a terrific amount of good as the politicians got to know each other. I did it for 14 years but aged 76 had a minor heart attack. Meanwhile I got caught up in things here in Horningsham– within a week of arriving back I was asked to run the village fair - I was chairman of the fair for 12 years, then Governor of the school and Chairman of Governors – and so it goes on!

Gill Courtney

THE DAY THE QUEEN CAME TO VISIT



It was on a Friday when the Queen came to visit. We were very excited. At about 11 O'clock we started to have a rehearsal of giving the bouquet. Dad was pretending to be the Queen and Christopher was Prince Philip. Prince Edward was not there. The rehearsal went like this. When the Queen got to the top step we had to walk 1 step, 2, 3, 4, curtsy, give her the bouquet and then curtsy again. Then step aside and let them go in. We had to wait quite a long time for her to come.



When she came everyone cheered. Me and Sophie were really nervous. She got to the top step, we walked, curtsied and so on. Then she asked us our names. We shook hands with Prince Philip and Prince Edward then stepped aside.



Inside, the Queen met the top staff then we went through to the seven course meal. It started with soup followed by fish. After came chicken then just a few snacks. Then pudding followed by cheese and lastly fruit. Then we went to the Red Library for a lovely coffee.

After that there was a grand tapestry, it had all the famous people that had come to visit Longleat. Then we unveiled a leaf on it which said Queen Elizabeth II. After that she had a tour of the house. Then she went up to the main library, it is really lovely there. They have a collection of Winston Churchill stamps. After that we went to the roof. I think Prince Edward liked it most. Then they went down. Sophie and I stayed up there. We heard people calling but we stayed. When we did go down we found the Queen had gone on a royal tour of the Safari Park. When she got back she had to go. We all said "Goodbye". After that I went to Stephanie's to go ice skating.

Lenka Thynn (Age 10)

Wild Horningsham

If you stand at the bottom of Pottle Street, and gaze upon the woodland in front of you, with the employment of a little imagination, it appears as if decorated in a multitude of bright green baubles. What with this and the nostalgia of roasting chestnuts over fire at Christmas time, I think that the sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa* trees may signal, I hesitate to say the run up to Christmas for fear of getting lynched, but at least the entry into autumn.



It is commonly thought that they were introduced to Britain by the Romans in circa AD 100, to provide a supply of chestnut flour or coarse meal for the legionnaires. The nuts being as high in starch as wheat and twice as high as the potato, it is also the only nut to be a good source of vitamin C. The sweet chestnut, though non-native to Britain, has become a naturalised species and is generally welcomed in the landscape as it behaves much like a native tree as opposed to an invasive species.

Sweet chestnut trees propagate mainly by seed, which are their nuts, a nut merely being a seed with a hard shell. All nuts are seeds, but not all seeds are nuts!

Each bright green and very spiky husk contains two or three nuts which start

to fall from late September, though the nuts at this time will not be mature. The best nuts will be those that hang on only to be brought down by frost.

The sweet chestnut is not to be confused with another species, the horse chestnut (conker tree) *Aesculus hippocastanum*, which was introduced to Britain as late as 1616 and is from a completely different family more closely related to the lychee, but horse chestnuts are not considered edible. The conker was not always their most famous attribute. They were introduced, for their size and stature but mainly for their impressive flowers and



have been used widely as avenue trees, a well renowned one being the mile long chestnut avenue at Bushy Park north of Hampton Court, which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1699. People still meet every year on Chestnut Day (the nearest Sunday to 11th May) to celebrate them. We also have our own avenue here from East Lodge gatehouse to Longleat house. You may notice that our horse chestnuts don't look very well these days, with brown blotches on their leaves, this is due to a leaf mining moth whose caterpillars mine inside the leaves, this was first identified in Wimbledon in 2002 and spread across the country at a rate of 30km a year. Another lesser issue they have is leaf blotch fungus, neither of these are fatal but will reduce photosynthesis and so possibly weaken the trees own resources.

Interestingly, sweet chestnut is a cousin of both the beech tree *Fagus sylvatica* and the oak tree *Quercus robur*. Each of which have nuts of their own.

Looking at the nuts on the beech trees, I wonder if we might be having a beechmast year this year, where once every 5 years or so all of the beech trees drop a heavy crop of seed. The seeds being a desirable food source to animals such as mice and squirrels and young saplings being very attractive to deer, this is done so that through sheer number, some seeds and saplings may grow to maturity. If you can gather enough of these nuts and have the equipment to press them, then it is said that they make a very fine cooking oil.



Oaks also have mast years as acorns are of course nuts too and though technically edible are very bitter and high in tannin that requires leaching in order to make palatable. Perhaps the most well known use for acorns, apart from animal fodder, is coffee, something promoted during the war when supply chains for real coffee were limited, but once processed acorns can be roasted or ground into flour for a multitude of uses. I recently

saw a recipe for acorn brittle that I'm interested to try!

NB, remember that it's illegal to dig up any wild plant and always make double sure that the plant is what you think it is if you're going to eat it.

Andy Dean

Longleat News



A rare pair of adorable red panda twins have made their first public appearance at Longleat. The 10-week-old cubs were born earlier in the summer but are only now beginning to venture outside. The pair are the first to have been born to new parents Emma and Lionel as part of a successful breeding programme for the endangered species.

Mum Emma only arrived at Longleat earlier this year but is proving to be an exceptional first-time parent. “Both cubs are doing really well, Emma is a great mum and she has been looking after them fantastically,” said Keeper Sam Allworthy. “Although we have yet to name them, we have been able to do their first health checks and can confirm they’re both females. These are the seventh and eighth red pandas to have been born here at Longleat. Previous cubs have gone on to collections all over Europe and have even had cubs of their own,” she added.

Red pandas are increasingly under threat due to habitat loss, deforestation and poaching. It is thought there may be as few as 2,500 living in the wild. The species was officially designated as ‘Endangered’ by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2008 when the global population was estimated at about 10,000 individuals.



Found in Nepal, Bhutan and China, they live among bamboo forests and spend much of their time in trees. In the wild red pandas are solitary animals, and they only really ever come together to breed.



Like giant pandas about two-thirds of their food intake is made up of bamboo. As it is relatively low in calories, red pandas tend to spend much of their time either eating or sleeping. As well as plain bamboo, keepers supplement their diet with a mix of fruits, eggs and the occasional insects. They also make a special type of bamboo cake which the pandas are especially fond of.

In addition to being part of the European Endangered Species Programme for the Red Panda, Longleat is also helping to fund habitat restoration and replanting programmes in Nepal.

THEN AND NOW



C. 1912



This month we are on The Common looking along Anchor Barton towards the Village Hall. Barton, from the Old English, means a large farmhouse with an enclosure around it. Though why this one is called “Anchor” is not known. Around 101 years separates the two photographs. Sadly, the evergreen tree obscures the view of the gardens in 2013, otherwise we would be able to see the dramatic difference in the front gardens. By this year when trying to replicate the postcard the buildings are hidden by overgrown hedges.

Over the 100 years, cottage gardens have changed their function from being essential sources of food to leisure areas. In the earlier picture the neat lines of vegetables are clearly visible. In the later picture one of those gardens has actually been dramatically lowered to produce a much lower but level leisure area.

On the original postcard one can also see the child with the pram more clearly which adds to the pre-World War One atmosphere. The building in the foreground (Numbers 108 & 107 + 109 Anchor Barton) used to be a Public House called “The George and Dragon”, one of four pubs or beer houses in Horningsham in 1850. By the time of the photo it had become the Police House where a Sergeant was stationed.

Surprisingly, one of the things that has hardly changed is the position of the telegraph pole – the telegraph having first come to Horningsham in 1892.



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October events....

Saturday 8th October – Ceilidh Band & Dancing

Friday 14th October – Film Night – Operation Mincemeat

Friday 4th November – Jon Kenzie

Please see www.maidenbradleyhall.co.uk for further details

Regular events

Mondays	10.30am-11.30am	Yoga
Mondays	5.00pm-6.00pm	Dr's Surgery
Tuesday	1.00pm-3.00pm	Post Office Service
Wednesdays	6.15pm-7.15pm	Yoga Flow
Fridays	10am-12pm	Coffee Morning

Book library available during hall opening Friday mornings



HORNINGSHAM

TELEPHONE FACILITIES.—Telephone kiosks have recently been opened at Horningsham and at Kingston Deverill and are available day and night for the purpose of making telephone calls or dictating telegrams for onward transmission.

Wiltshire Times 15 October 1938

Still there after 84 years!

Freshly repaired and painted by Horningsham Parish Council but with no phone!

The Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette.

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 1919.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1852.

PRICE 5d.

Robbery at Horningsham.—On Sunday night or early in the morning of the Monday the 11th inst., some thieves effected an entrance into the back premises of Mr. Trollop, of Horningsham, and stole therefrom four slices of bacon, and four hams. A searching investigation was forthwith made by Superintendent Abbott and the police under his charge, and in the course of the following day three sacks were found buried in the garden of a person named Rowe. Suspicion, however, fell on Charles James Trollop, a son of the shopkeeper on whom the deprecation was committed, inasmuch as he resides away from his father, but was observed loitering about the premises.—Trollop and Rowe were accordingly taken into custody, and on Saturday last, in company with a third prisoner were examined on a charge of felony before J. Everett, W. Temple, and J. Ravenhill, esqrs., but owing to the insufficiency of the evidence, they were discharged from custody on entering into their own recognizances to appear when called upon. Within the last few days the greater part of the bacon has been recovered, under circumstances which induce the inference that the robbery was committed by persons residing in the neighbourhood, who were alarmed by the activity of the police and strict search they have instituted.

THE SALISBURY AND WINCHESTER JOURNAL,

AND GENERAL ADVERTISER OF WILTS, HANTS, DORSET, AND SOMERSET.

NUMBER 401.—VOLUME LXXXII.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1817.

PRICE SEVEN PENCE. PRINTED BY J. B. G. & CO. ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

George Robins was indicted for obtaining 9s. 9d. by false pretences, at Horningsham. Mr. Snowden prosecuted. The prisoner went into the Bath Arms, at Horningsham, one evening, and called for a pint of beer, for which he tendered a farthing. Mrs. Collings, the landlady, thought it was a half sovereign, and gave him 9s. 9d. change. When apprehended nearly the amount was found upon him. He was found guilty, and was sentenced to two calendar months' imprisonment with hard labour.



**Services suspended
until further notice**



As a partial replacement, from 13 October a special shared taxi service will be provided for pre-booked passengers from Maiden Bradley and Horningsham to Frome on Wednesday mornings and to Warminster on Friday mornings, allowing approximately 1½ hours shopping in each town.

Normal bus fares will be charged on the shared taxi and holders of concessionary bus passes will be able to travel free of charge. To book a place on the shared taxi, please ring A&G minibuses between 9am and 5pm **the day before you need to travel** on 01985 218754.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience that these temporary arrangements may cause you. For further details about them, please ring the Wiltshire Council's Transport Unit on 01225 718080.

ADVERTISING RATES

½ page £8.00 Full Page £16.00

These apply to the inside pages of the magazine



BLACK AND YELLOW PAGES

Waste Collections

The recent change means there are now three different patterns around the village so it is no longer possible to list them all here. The only point in common is that they are all on a Wednesday. Some have all three on the same day, most have blue bin and black box on one day and the grey bin on another. However, even those differ in which week the pattern applies. For example, Rowe's Hill, White Street and Church Lane are all different! The only solution is to check your own dates on the Wiltshire Waste Collection Calendar at:

<https://ilforms.wiltshire.gov.uk/WasteCollectionDays/index>

Mobile Library Tuesday 3rd & 17th May
10.00 – 10.25 opposite the Hall

Frome Hospital Minor Injuries		01373 454740
Community Police Officer	Vicky Howick	0726818 ext 817
Wiltshire Police – non emergency		101
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Shattock	844197
Horningsham School		844342
Village Hall Hire		07541 211732
Longleat Property Department		845433
Parish Council	Sarah Jeffries	213436
Congregational Chapel	CarolCox	horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk
Horningsham Church Rector	Rev Pauline Reid	841290
Warminster District Link Scheme		211655
Mere Link Scheme		01747 860096
Stray or Fouling Dogs		0300 456 0100

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 6th October **Hall Meeting** 7.00 at the Village Hall

Thursday 20th October **Parish Council** 7.30 at the Village Hall

Wednesday 2nd November **Fayre Meeting** 6.30 at the Village Hall

Saturday 5th November **Bonfire Night** at the Village Hall

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SAT 11.45AM - 1.45PM

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TUES 4.45PM - 9.00PM
WEDS 4.45PM - 9.00PM
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