

From the Horse's Mouth

The Horspath
Magazine
December '25
January '26

Issue 20

Scarecrow Winner by the Green Family

The 2025 Horspath Scarecrow Trail



Horspath Scarecrow Trail returned for its 6th year this October. Who saw that coming in year one? I know Maureen and I didn't! We started it in 2020 during a very difficult pandemic; to welcome people of Horspath out of their homes to once again safely engage with their surrounding friends and neighbours. People had been stuck home, with little to do so the idea was born. What a great idea we thought it was.

So by popular demand here we were back for another year. We always guarantee a solid good few hours of half term fun for Oxfordshire's families to follow the map and find the scarecrows. This year the scarecrows created were on another level, year after year houses are stepping up what they create and this year was

outstanding. No Worzel Gummidge hall of fame here!

This year's winner was Gru and the Minions, once again a prominent creation from the Green family in Gately. But hot on their heels with lots of votes were Stitch, Shrek, the Headless Horseman and Hocus Pocus. Every one of the 40 Scarecrows took families hours of work to create and the result, a lively stomp around the village! So thank you to all, without you it would not be possible.

With the support of *Minuteman Press, Oxford* printing our maps, we were able to greet over 1000 families this year across the 9 days. Many of whom were returning for their annual autumn holiday activity ritual.

But do we go for another year? Or try something new? We'd love to hear from you if you have an idea for a theme or a new village activity or if you would like to volunteer your time. Please email horspathevents@hotmail.com



Natalie

Merry Christmas and Happy 2026 from Art Club

Yes, we're still at it. Every Monday afternoon between 2.30 and 4.30 (except the first Monday of the month) we gather in The Hub with our paper, paints, pencils, crayon sinks or anything else we can make marks with and take some time for ourselves. The club has been running for about 5 years now but most people who come would not call themselves artists, in fact quite a few of us hadn't done any art since school. That's the joy of it. We have a go. As you know, The Hub is a welcoming place to hold a group and it gives us all time out of our crowded week when we can concentrate on doing something creative. Even if it doesn't turn out quite as we planned...



If you would like to discover, or rediscover, your artistic side, come along, we love having new members of the group. Just bring yourself and any arty stuff you have. We are not a 'taught' group but people in the group are very supportive and will be pleased to help with anything. (We've already made and solved a few mistakes so you don't have to!) Sometimes we all try something someone found online but mostly we just please ourselves. We like new ideas too. Oh, and did I mention, we also get a cup of tea at half-time for a break and chat. If you want more information you can e-mail lindiepink@gmail.com or jocliff61@gmail.com or just pop in on a Monday afternoon.

Lindie Pink

+++++

ABC Gas and Plumbing Limited are proud to sponsor
The Horspath Magazine.

We are a local Gas Safe and plumbing engineering company
based in Wheatley.

Please contact us for a free quote on 07849116805
or email us on abcgasandpm@gmail.com. Thank you

Horspath Church of England Primary School

It's hard to believe that the start of term was only eight weeks ago — so much has happened in such a short time! The children returned after the summer break full of energy and ready to take on the challenges of a new school year. Our new Reception pupils have settled beautifully into school life, engaging in their learning with great curiosity and enthusiasm.

This half term has been filled with wonderful moments that have brought our school community together. We celebrated our Harvest Festival at the church, sharing gratitude and reflection, and we were delighted to welcome so many families to our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon — thank you for your generous support for such a worthwhile cause.

We are soon embarking on a new project to improve playtimes for our children and we will need help with sourcing crates, pallets, tyres, planks and old sheets/duvet covers. We also have a large project in the pipeline to create a quiet, sensory area outside. If you know anyone who can help us with any resources or expertise, please contact the school. We would be very grateful for your help.

Our sporting calendar is now well underway, with teams already taking part in the first events of the year. The clear highlight of the term, however, has been the fantastic Year 5 and 6 residential trip to Yenworthy. The children threw themselves into every challenge with determination, teamwork, and smiles all round — an unforgettable week that perfectly captured the spirit of our school.

Throughout the week, the children developed a whole host of personal skills — from independence and teamwork to perseverance and resilience. They were an absolute pleasure to spend time with, tackling every challenge with enthusiasm and a fantastic sense of adventure. It was heartwarming to see how they encouraged and supported one another, whatever the activity.

The trip offered a rich variety of experiences: the quiet wonder of lying on our backs in the heather on Exmoor at night for a moment of spiritual

reflection, the thrill of catching waves while surfing, and the exhilaration of climbing up a waterfall. We scrambled over the dramatic rocks at the Valley of Rocks, explored the fascinating world of crabs and other rock pool creatures, and took on orienteering challenges that tested both body and mind. Evenings brought the warmth and camaraderie of a campfire, with plenty of laughter and storytelling.

Our final morning was no less exciting — with river dipping, mini raft building, and a raft race to round things off! Add in the on-site ropes course, climbing wall, and zip line, and it's fair to say that every child (and adult!) returned home tired but fulfilled.

This week wasn't just about adventure; it was about growth. The children showed courage, cooperation, and a real zest for learning — qualities that will serve them well in and out of school. A huge thank you to the staff who accompanied the trip and to families for their support in making such a memorable experience possible.

We are already looking forward to the next adventure!



THE BEST £4 YOU WILL EVER SPEND

We are 12 people who meet at the Hub every Tuesday from 2:00 to 3:00. Some people come a little early to have a bit of a chat before the class. We are very lucky to have a fantastic teacher, Keilee Sharkey, who keeps us always moving. We use different pieces of equipment: large blue balls, dumbbells, rubber strips to stretch and bean bags to throw and catch. We have a lot of fun. And for all of this we each pay £4.00 per class. (We pay Keilee in advance for a block of 5 or 6 classes.) and **the first class is free** so people have a chance to see if this class is right for them. We also have the most cooperative, supportive group of students who help hand out and collect the equipment every class. Recently Keilee had a very infected toe and couldn't teach for two weeks. There was never a word about cancelling the class. Everyone worked together remembering the exercises we had done before. We had two Keilee-ish classes. Some of the students had this to say about the class:

"Seated Pilates exercises every bit of your body and it's really fun."

"I feel much better when I leave than when I arrive."

"A fun (and full on) way to keep our muscles working thanks to Keilee, our lively teacher."

We do "great exercises with lovely people."

This class gives us "exercise that keeps us feeling uplifted and motivated."

All in all, we think Seated Pilates at the Hub is 'the best thing since sliced bread.'

Sally Humphrey



Ross Gurden's talk about Wildlife in Australia on 20th November was a real treat for all those who braved the cold night air. Many thanks.

His Instagram account is:
[@rossgurdenphotography](https://www.instagram.com/rossgurdenphotography)

And his email is:
rossgurdenphotography@gmail.com

Classes and Activities at the Horspath Hub

Below are all the classes and activities we run at the Hub, but for more information, contact emails and phone numbers for each class, please visit our website at horspathhub.co.uk or call John on 07825615735. You can book the Hub here too with discounted rates for Horspath residents.

Mondays

Pilates – Weekly	0915 – 1015
Babies 1 st – Weekly	0900 – 1000
Making Time – First Monday of the month	1400 – 1600
Art at the Hub – Weekly except first Monday of the month	1430 – 1630

Tuesdays

Table Tennis – Weekly	1000 – 1200
Seated Pilates – Weekly	1400 – 1500
Vinyasa Flow Yoga – Weekly	1900 – 2015

Wednesdays

Pilates – Weekly	0815 – 0915
Senior Residents' Club – First Wednesday of the month	1400 – 1600
Horspath Hub Film Club – Second Wednesday of the month	1400 – 1600
One-to-One Yoga & Massage – Once a month by appointment	1300 – 1730

Thursdays

One-to-One Yoga & Massage (as above)	0900 – 1400
Yoga Class – Weekly from 15 th January 2026	1200 – 1300
Line Dancing – Weekly	1400 – 1530
Creative Writing – Flexible	1600 – 1730

Fridays

Coffee Mornings – Weekly	1030 – 1200
Age UK Information and Advice – First Friday of the month	1030 – 1200
Horspath Wine Club – Third Friday of the month	1930 – 2130

Sundays

Sunday Fun Time – First Sunday of the month	1100 -1200
--	------------

For more information, please contact:
Sheila at horspathhub@gmail.com

Dear Lady with Pink Hair

Thank you so much for taking a leap of faith and helping out a total stranger. I was getting into a complete tizzy with that horrible machine. I had no idea what I was going to do when the machine would not take money. I expect you thought I was a silly old woman for getting into such a state. I still don't understand what the instructions, 'download the app' mean. I don't think the barrier would have let me out of the carpark and I would have had to stay there all night. Oh, why wasn't there anybody to ask? Surely, I'm not the only person not to have a mobile phone. It was so embarrassing with that huge queue that was building up behind me, it made everything so much worse. No wonder I dropped my purse and all my coins went all over the place. Anyway, thanks for your kindness in explaining what they wanted me to do and then doing it on your own phone for me. I was able to leave the carpark (it was amazing, the barrier lifted as if by magic) and get home in time for the dog. I'm so sorry I didn't have enough money to pay you yesterday. I have enclosed a cheque; I hope that's ok. I hope you get this letter safely; I didn't get your name but I remembered you said you worked in the Britannia pub round the corner so I am sure your boss will pass it on to you. I'm afraid I've addressed it to 'the lady with the pink hair'

Yours sincerely Mary (JR carpark)

This was written by Lindie Pink, one of our Creative Writers. We meet in the Hub for 11/2 hours approximately every 6 weeks and have tackled a variety of subjects in the last 6 months: Twins, Festivals, mystery, favourite music(amongst others.) Would you like to join us? We welcome new talent (even no talent!) It's a group where we get to know each other and really enjoy both writing and reading other peoples creations. Anna Radcliffe annaradcliffe@gmail.com

GT Insurance Services are proud to sponsor The Horspath Magazine.

We are your local insurance broker based in Wheatley.

Specialising in both personal and commercial insurance.

Please contact Keith or Remmy on 01865 570970

or email info@gtinsuranceservices.co.uk

Unit 19 Wheatley Business Centre, Old London Road, OX33 1XW.

Rough Roads, Wild Rides: A Cyclist's Journey East



Wendy, my wife at the time and I were devoted cyclists, the kind who didn't just talk about it but pedalled the length of Britain, from John O' Groats to Land's End, on custom-built bikes. We were also seasoned travellers with a particular fondness for heading "Out East." In the late 1970s, the mountain bike made its debut in the USA and soon found its way to the UK. We were quick to see its potential, not just for weekend trails, but for serious travel. Chas Roberts of Croydon built us a pair of rugged off-road bikes, perfectly suited to the rough roads of Asia. With them, we spent six months exploring India, Nepal, and Pakistan, covering far more ground than we ever could on foot or by bus. By 1989, our passion had found its way into print. In Volume 2, Issue 1 of *'Mountain Biking UK'*, Wendy and I joined the

magazine's newly formed bike test team. I served as photo-journalist, capturing both the words and images. Later that year, in Issue 9, I expanded my role: not only did I write and photograph the bike test, but I also travelled to the Haute Pyrenees in France with a fellow contributor to cover the emerging world of overseas cycling holidays. He wrote the article on Borderline Holidays; I took the pictures. That same issue featured another piece, *Nepal for All*, spotlighting Himalayan Mountain Bikes in Kathmandu. I travelled solo for that one, so the story and photos were entirely mine. Over the next few years, I contributed several more overseas articles, often combining travel with bike testing. These included two more trips to France, a journey through Norway, and a visit to the Greek island of Lefkas. For that last one, I wrote the piece but someone else handled the photography. One standout article, *Conquest of the Grande Randonnee 5*, was penned by John Phillips. Its introduction reads: "As it turned out, I didn't go it alone. After a chance meeting in a Canterbury pub, I was joined by my old friend, M.B.U.K. test editor Nigel." That kind of serendipity was typical of the era. Beyond travel, I also wrote and photographed reviews regarding lights, bike computers, helmets, shoes and anything that helped riders go further, safer, and smarter. As some of you may know, all of this came to an abrupt end in 1992, following a near-death experience just across the border from California into Mexico. Life changed dramatically after that, but the road we travelled, and the stories we told, remain. **Nigel Jackson**

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

Advent, which begins on Sunday 30th November, is a season for watching and waiting, as we wait and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. At Carol Services, and Midnight Mass, we often hear the beautiful prologue, or beginning, of John's Gospel:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world..."

Those words send shivers down my spine, especially when read by candlelight, in a darkened church. In Advent, we wait for the coming of the Lord, who brings both life and light. We watch, expectantly – like a sentry, on a rooftop, watching for the first glimmer of light from a distant beacon. This idea of the light of Christ appearing gradually, like the light from beacons spreading from one hill-top to another, is picked up in Malcolm Guite's sonnet *O Oriens*:

E vidi lume in forme de riviera Paradiso XXX; 61

First light and then first lines along the east
To touch and brush a sheen of light on water
As though behind the sky itself they traced

The shift and shimmer of another river
Flowing unbidden from its hidden source;
The Day-Spring, the eternal Prima Vera.

Blake saw it too. Dante and Beatrice
Are bathing in it now, away upstream...
So every trace of light begins a grace

In me, a beckoning. The smallest gleam
Is somehow a beginning and a calling;
"Sleeper awake, the darkness was a dream

For you will see the Dayspring at your waking,
Beyond your long last line the dawn is breaking".

I hope and pray that, this Advent, you might see signs of light in the darkness, to remind you of the coming of Emmanuel – God with us – the God who left his heavenly throne to pitch his tent among us, so that we might know God, and might know his great love for us and for the world.

Wishing you a peaceful and blessed Advent, a joyful Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year.

Revd Tom x



Services in St Giles Church and Benefice Services December 2025 and January 2026

7th December The Second Sunday of Advent

11.00am Morning Worship

14th December The Third Sunday of Advent

11.00am Parish Communion

11.00am to 12 noon Sunday Funtime in the Hub

3.00pm Storytime in the Forest Church at Ripon College Cuddesdon

21st December The Fourth Sunday of Advent

11.00am Christingle Family Time

3.00pm Village Carol Service

Followed by the Blessing of the Christmas Tree on the Village Green

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

11.00am Christmas Communion

28th December The First Sunday of Christmas

10.00am Benefice Eucharist at St Giles' Horspath

4th January The Feast of Epiphany

11.00am Morning Worship

11.00am - 12noon Sunday Funtime in the Hub

11th January The Baptism of Christ

11.00am Parish Communion

3.00pm Story-Time in the Forest Church at Ripon College Cuddesdon

18th January The Second Sunday of Epiphany

11.00am Family Time

25th January The Third Sunday of Epiphany

11.00am Parish Communion

SeeSaw Grief Support

For children and young
people in Oxfordshire

Tree of Light 2025

If you would like to remember a loved one, write a prayer, or share a word of hope this Christmas by writing a message to hang on the village Christmas tree, please email horspathtreeoflight@gmail.com by 18th December. Your message will be printed and



hung on the tree by 21st December. We welcome charitable donations to accompany messages. You can visit our fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/page/tree-of-light-2025 Our chosen charity this year is Oxford-based SeeSaw, who provide grief support for children and young people who have been bereaved or are experiencing the terminal illness of somebody close to them. Thank you for helping us shine a bit of light, bringing comfort to those that need it most. If accessing the internet is difficult, messages and donations can be placed in an envelope and posted through the door of 9 Blenheim Road or 94 Gidley Way.

Many Thanks



ELECTRIC 88



SOLAR 88

Horspath's Independent Electrical Company!

- Domestic & Commercial
- Electrical Inspection & Testing
- Consumer Unit Upgrades
- Reactive & Planned Maintenance
- Smart Home & Audio Visual installations

All installations are fully certified and insured

Contact us today to book a FREE no obligation home assessment via the contact section on our website

- Reduce your rising energy bills
- Reduce your carbon footprint
- Increase your property value

We offer a custom designed solar solution for every property type and budget, all installed by professional certified experts

Don't have room for solar panels?
Why not save money by installing a home battery instead

www.electric88.com



Saint John Henry Newman

As you may well have heard in the media recently, on the 1st November 2025, Saint John Henry Newman became a Doctor of the Roman Catholic Church. This recognised this English cardinal and theologian as one of the most influential converts from Anglicanism as a towering figure and intellect in modern Catholicism. Born as an Anglican, ordained into the Church of England, before converting to the Catholic Church and being ordained in Rome, Newman has now not merely been declared a saint, but also been raised to the distinct honour of becoming a Doctor of the Church. In receiving this title, Newman joins just 37 other men and women whom the popes have thus designated as Doctors of the Church, testifying to the eminent and universal impact of his writings and teachings.

His connection to Horspath:



In 1829 when John was still a chaplain at Oriel College, his mother and three sisters came to live in Horspath renting a cottage here. Most evenings John would ride to Horspath on his mare, Klepper to stay with his family here and then ride back to Oriel each morning.¹

He campaigned and built the first parish church in Littlemore and founded a school there. In 1843 he formed a community called 'The College' in Littlemore where he lived and ultimately it was here he converted to Roman Catholicism in 1845. I

have had the immense privilege to have visited his 'college' in Littlemore on more than one occasion which is looked after by an order of sisters, to look around the library and to actually be in the room where he lived and wrote many of his papers.²

John Underdown

¹ 'St John Henry Newman - Horspath's Saint' - Brian Lowe

² The College at Littlemore <https://www.newmanfriendsinternational.org/>

Horspath Parish Council

The new benches and picnic table for the play area have been ordered, and will be delivered in the next 4-6 weeks. Please note:- Dogs are NOT permitted in the near play area. Thank you to the two families in Horspath that have very kindly offered to sponsor the purchasing of the benches.

After a year of negotiations, Mr Martin Harris has reported that the Wildlife Conservation Area, recently confirmed in its status as an important Local Wildlife Site, is shown on the Local Habitat Map published by Oxfordshire County Council as part of the Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Thank you to Mr Martin Harris for his help and for acting on behalf of HPC.

A big thank you to Mr Pettigrove & family for donating the Christmas tree for the Village Green again this year. And thanks to the Bennett family who have kindly offered to put up and decorate the tree.

(A date for your new diary, Christmas trees will be collected in the New Year from the Village Green, next to the bus shelter on Monday 19th January 2026. Please return your trees by Sunday 18th January 2026).

The refurbishment of the village hall project is still on-going and a planning application has been submitted to the District Council. As soon as planning permission is approved the project can move forward. More information to follow.

A second new dog bin has been installed at the bottom of Sandy Lane.

The Council is waiting for quotations for a brick built shelter to be built that matches the existing bus shelter on the Green.

Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department has confirmed that a Highway Inspector will carry out an inspection of the road surface in Manor Drive in December 2025.

As there is going to be a review of the current bus service, the Clerk will contact Oxford Bus Company again to request that an additional stop to Cowley Retail Park is added to the 46 service. Oxford Bus Company have previously stated that they are not able to accommodate this request due to the additional time that it would take to enter and exit the retail park.

The Parish Council is looking for contractors from all trades in the village who would like to register their details with the Council for any maintenance work required in the village, who would be willing to provide a quotation for works as and when required. If you would like to register, please email your details to the **Clerk:- clerk@horspathparishcouncil.org**

Any resident who is interested in joining the Horspath Village Hall Management Committee please contact the **Clerk – clerk@horspathparishcouncil.org**

If any resident wishes to raise issues with Horspath village please contact Hayley Kogel, Clerk to HPC via email - clerk@horspathparishcouncil.org .
Please note:- Horspath Parish Council will not take any further action on correspondence that is sent anonymously.

Horspath Parish Council would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas a Happy New Year.

@@

Horspath Stone Pit Charity

Organisation grants applications are now open again for organisations to apply. The next meeting of Horspath Stone Pit Charity will be held in December 2025 (date to be confirmed).
The closing date for applications to be considered at the December meeting is 1st December 2025.

Trustees would like to remind all residents who are successfully awarded a grant that receipts **must** be provided to the value of the grant within 3 months of receipt.

At the last meeting held in September 2025, the following grants were awarded:-

- 23 Individual applications were successful.
- 1 Individual application was not successful as it was not a valid application.
- 1 Individual application was not successful as it did not meet the criteria of the charity.
- 1 Organisation application was successful.

Organisation Grants		
Horspath Magazine		£1800.00
Individual Grants		
2 x School Trips		£400.00
10 x Yenworthy Trips		£2000.00
3 x Swimming Lessons		£600.00
5 x School Uniform		£920.50
1 x Armistice Day		£400.00
1 x School Transport		£200.00
Meal Voucher Scheme		£6000.00
Total		£12,320.50

A total of £12,320.50 was awarded.

A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, sitting on a colorful patterned rug. The boy, on the left, is wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, and is holding up one finger. The girl, on the right, is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, and is focused on playing with colorful blocks. They are both smiling and appear to be enjoying their playtime.

Come and join us for free coffee and cake and meet the mums whose children attend our village school. All welcome

*Friday is Coffee Morning at the Hub -
and you are very welcome!*



Bonuses are Beverley Oakley giving out Food vouchers for senior residents(not December though) , Kate Hart from Age Uk willing to discuss anything relating to older age and a group of friendly people who welcome anyone who can find their way to us. We are usually open every single Friday morning but this year will be shut on Boxing Day December 26th

PS our coffee and cakes are very reasonably priced, in fact they are an amazing bargain so “roll up” and meet with us very soon. Anna Radcliffe

+++++

thehorspathmagazine@gmail.com

The Benefice of Garsington, Cuddesdon and Horspath
Invites everyone to

Story-time Church

Sunday 14th December '25 & Sunday 11th January '26 **3pm start**

Meet in the Forest Church area of Ripon College Cuddesdon - from the main car park, look for the wooden gate heading towards the allotments



All are welcome for:

Stories and conversations round the campfire
Campfire songs Hot Chocolate
Marshmallows and other refreshments



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from Bob Surman
Prospect House and Garden Maintenance
Thank you for your continued support
throughout the year

Garage 873349	Queen's Head 875567
Gurkha Palace 634534	Sheps Cycle Shack 876771
Horspath Nursery 876750	St Giles' Church 07856 456363
Horspath School 872702	Sunnyhill Vineyard 361535
Community Hub 07591 933964	Tap Room (Brewery) 604620
Magazine Editor 07825 615735	Village Hall 07939 410762
Prospect Maintenance 07786 115516	Village Shop 872903



During Term 3 we will be looking at Classic Stories, Dinosaurs, Wild Animals, Music/Movement and Dance, Chinese New Year, Love/Feelings/Kindness/Our Families and Pancake Day. We are hoping to arrange for Zoolab to visit the Nursery bringing along exotic animals for the children to learn about.



During term 4 we will be taking part in World Book Day and Red Nose Day as well as Spring, Shrove Tuesday, Easter and Mother's Day. We are looking to arrange to hatch Chicks for the Chick Hatching Programme.

Our fundraising event for term 3 will be a Sponsored Bike Ride. We will also be looking to collect clothes for recycling to raise money for Horspath Nursery so please save any unwanted clothing and look out for the collection date on our Facebook page.

**Horspath Nursery, Blenheim Road, Horspath, Oxford, OX33 1RY
staff@horspathnursery.org.uk Tel: 01865 876750**

Look out for ... **Robin's Pincushion**

Getting through the winter can be a challenge for Shotover's wildlife. While some animals hibernate, certain small insects solve the problem by laying their eggs inside a particular plant, such as rose or oak. The presence of their eggs and young influences the plant's cells to grow around them, creating eye-catching galls. These galls provide food and protection for the developing insects, and do not usually harm the plant.



Where to look: on wild rose plants growing in thickets and hedgerows.

What to look for: a tangle of long, wiry formations, around 2.5cm diameter. They are reddish green in summer, becoming brown and woody in winter. Inside, the young insects feed, then become pupae.

Did you know? In past times, people believed the colourful galls had medicinal properties. Hanging the galls round a patient's neck was believed to bring relief from ailments such as whooping cough, toothache or rheumatism.

Compiled by Shotover Wildlife, an independent community organisation, founded to research and communicate the importance of Shotover's wildlife. Illustrated by Gail Gauron, film-maker, educator and Shotover Wildlife volunteer. Spotted anything? Tell us! enquiries@shotover-wildlife.org.uk

Stuck for a gift to buy someone this year?

...What better than...

a **Horspath Wine Club Gift Certificate**,

Providing:

- Lifetime membership to the club,
 - Their first tasting (worth £21), and
 - 12 wine glasses for use at the tastings,
- all for the amazing amount of just

£39.00



See 'Contact' at:

www.horspathwine.club

For Details

With over 60 members and regular monthly attendance of over 30 people, the Horspath Wine Club (now in its 7th year) is going from strength to strength. In 2025 we have tasted over 65 different wines, presented by expert wine resellers and members. Our 2026 tasting calendar is already bursting at the seams. To join in the fun, see www.horspathwine.club



Horspath Wine Club Tasting Dates - 2026

Month	Date	Day	Topic
January			Tasting Break
February	6th	Friday	South Africa - Edmond Wines
March	20th	Friday	Australia - Matt & Mates
April	24th	Friday	CEE - The Jolly Merchants
May	15th	Friday	New Zealand - Preet 2
June	26th	Friday	TBC - Eynsham Cellars
July			Tasting Break
August			Tasting Break
September	4th	Sunday	Members' BBQ
October	16th	Friday	Moravia (CZ) - Bohemia Wine
November	20th	Friday	Italy - WinesnVines
December	18th	Friday	End Of Year Tasting

WARNING TO Keyless Car Owners in Horspath

How it works & how to stop it!

The most common method is a **relay attack**, which typically involves two thieves working in tandem.

- **Signal Capture:** One thief stands near your home (often near the front door or windows where keys are typically kept) with a device that can detect and amplify the signal continuously emitted by your key fob.
- **Signal Relay:** This amplified signal is then transmitted to a second device held by an accomplice standing near the targeted vehicle.
- **Vehicle Deception:** The car is "tricked" into thinking the actual key fob is nearby. This allows the doors to unlock and, in many cases, the engine to be started without a physical key ever being present.

This entire process can take as little as 60 seconds, and because no physical damage is done, it can be hard to prove a theft occurred for insurance purposes.

Prevention Measures

Fortunately, several simple measures can help protect your vehicle from keyless car theft:

- **Use a Faraday Pouch:** Storing your key fob in a metallic-lined signal-blocking pouch (or even a metal tin/fridge) will prevent its signal from being intercepted by thieves. Make sure to treat spare keys the same way.
- **Store Keys Away from Doors/Windows:** Keep your key fobs in the center of your home, as far as possible from external walls, doors, and windows, to increase the distance between the key and your car.
- **Use Physical Deterrents:** Visual deterrents like a **steering wheel lock** or a wheel clamp can often cause a potential thief to move on to an easier target.

Christmas Wordsearch

H	V	R	B	T	B	Z	B	U	R	S	F	K	K	Y	K	Z	T	S	F	Z	R	Z
G	K	E	G	I	E	A	F	J	E	Q	N	S	E	C	A	E	P	T	K	W	M	C
C	Y	I	O	F	L	J	P	D	K	N	P	O	V	B	C	H	K	O	N	R	F	D
D	L	N	R	C	L	W	P	Z	A	W	Y	A	W	P	S	H	T	C	L	E	L	X
G	N	D	C	S	S	A	L	L	Q	E	I	N	M	S	S	U	K	N	A	C	F	
I	U	E	A	C	K	Q	V	P	F	O	N	T	H	G	A	A	N	I	O	T	E	J
F	T	E	R	D	T	C	F	H	W	R	M	T	J	O	M	N	A	N	R	H	O	E
T	C	R	O	N	I	G	I	K	O	N	I	E	O	N	T	T	M	G	T	U	T	G
S	R	V	L	A	N	V	R	W	N	A	H	S	Y	G	H	A	W	I	H	L	E	S
I	A	K	E	L	S	E	E	L	S	M	C	N	S	G	G	F	O	M	P	U	L	C
T	C	L	L	R	E	L	P	M	V	E	H	I	G	E	I	T	N	O	S	T	B	
M	K	F	V	A	L	S	L	I	J	N	L	O	U	P	N	M	S	G	L	Y	S	Q
V	E	C	E	G	R	C	A	O	T	T	K	P	A	V	D	Y	S	X	E	L	I	T
T	R	T	S	I	C	I	C	L	E	H	Y	R	V	Z	I	F	M	C	N	L	M	M
D	M	E	L	U	Y	N	E	R	P	S	F	O	N	M	M	T	N	Z	R	O	A	L
B	A	A	D	V	E	N	T	H	G	I	E	L	S	G	L	E	O	N	L	H	B	S

MIDNIGHT MASS NUTCRACKER POINSETTIA MISTLETOE SNOWFLAKE FIREPLACE
 NORTH POLE STOCKING REINDEER ORNAMENT GARLAND CHIMNEY SNOWMAN
 TINSEL SLEIGH EGGNOG WREATH ICICLE ADVENT HOLLY CAROL ELVES SANTA
 BELLS PEACE NOEL YULE GIFT JOY

Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

Surgery opening hours Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm Saturday (except Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, only for prebooked consultations. Enhanced access offered outside these times, speak to a care navigator on 01865 872448. When surgery closed, contact Out of Hours service on 111

Morland House Surgery (MHS) has a Facebook Page to keep patients up to date with surgery news and health issues. Visit Morland House Surgery Website: (www.morland-house.co.uk) for information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatments.

- Pharmacy First Service (PFS) - **pharmacies** can treat directly seven common health conditions: namely sinusitis, sore throat, earache, insect bites, impetigo, shingles, urinary tract infections.

On the website:

- Ordering Repeat Prescriptions
- Vaccinations and immunisations e.g. flu and COVID-19, measles, MMR
- Care Messages: via NHS app to your phone about your appointments, results etc. Much quicker than waiting for a letter or phone call.
- Stroke treatment and symptoms
- New NHS guide on your GP service
- Weight loss medication
- Online Resources for Clinical Help – self-referral for a range of conditions
- Accessing your medical records and test results
- Group Consultation Clinics – menopause and hypertension
- Breast screening to detect most common cancer in women
- Whooping Cough infections, symptoms and treatment
- Travelling abroad

CHARLES WOOD & SONS

International Removals & Storage are proud to sponsor

The Horspath Magazine

Peterley Road, Horspath Trading Estate, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2TY

Tel: 01865 747 555 Fax: 01865 748650

Email: enquiries@charles-wood.co.uk www.charles-wood.co.uk

Ann Passmore



Ann Newell was born in 1936 to Liz and Bill Newell. The youngest of three sisters. She, Jean and Beryl shared a happy childhood in Risinghurst, often dressed alike with bows in their hair. They enjoyed family holidays to Boscombe and visits to their grandmother Emily, whose kettle was always on, sparking Ann's lifelong love of tea. The sisters remained close throughout their lives. Boxing Day gatherings were legendary, with Twister and a feast prepared by Ann and David. Ann met David in Bury Knowle Park, and after a long courtship, they married in 1962 and settled in Spring Lane. Her first job was with Brooks Estate Agents, later Express Litho, and she especially cherished her NHS roles at Mary Marlborough Lodge and the Park Hospital for Children. With Alison and Andrew's arrival, Ann embraced village life. Her home was often filled with friends, cake, and laughter. She loved WI, Film Club, line dancing (well into her 80s), and coffee mornings at the Hub. She joined local protests and delighted in scarecrow trails, chatting with passersby. Ann's cooking was legendary, her lemon meringue pie and chicken casserole were family favourites, and her Sunday roasts deserved a Michelin star. She and David cared for their grandchildren Daniel, Emily, Joe and Tom, sharing bluebell walks and river trips. In her 70s, she even bounced on an inflatable behind a speedboat with them. She proudly celebrated graduations and passing out parades and then welcomed Oliver, Charlie, and great-granddaughter Saylor with joy. Her devotion to David never wavered, caring for him through illness with remarkable strength. Ann found solace in her garden during Covid, chatting with neighbours over the fence. She travelled widely, especially to California, marvelling at nature's wonders and enjoying coach holidays in later years. Her faith and Horspath Church were lifelong sources of comfort. Being in her own home in Horspath meant everything, right to the end. We will miss her positivity, wisdom, and unconditional love. She always knew how to lift your spirits, with a kind word, a warm smile, and the perfect cup of tea. We all loved her, and are proud that she was ours.

Rest eternal grant her Lord and let light perpetual shine upon her

Horspath CC delighted to raise £3,000 for Sobell House

Horspath Cricket Club were delighted to raise £3,000 for Sobell House Hospice after organising a charity tournament in the summer. Members gathered in the clubroom at the end of October to hand over a cheque to the Headington hospice, which provides specialist palliative and end-of-life care to adults living in Oxfordshire with a life-limiting illness plus support to their family and friends. Eleven teams consisting of men's and women's players, juniors, friends, supporters and families wearing coloured shirts generously donated by Newtrim UK took part in the Charity Tape Ball Cricket Six-a-side Competition at the Recreation Ground on August Bank Holiday Sunday. Sobell House was the chosen charity as the club lost three members over the past year in Stan Hawkeswood, Paul Headford and Paul Hicks, who received care from the hospice. Sobell ambassador and trustee Greg Birdseye said: "I was delighted to offer Sobell House profound thanks for the donation and give a short talk on why this generosity is so welcome." Horspath have continued their charity work by launching a Jamaica Hurricane Relief Appeal in aid of overseas star Derval Green and his family. The all-rounder's community was in the eye of Hurricane Melissa when it made landfall near New Hope in late October. His front door and windows were blown out and he now has 13 people, consisting of family and

friends, who all lost their houses, living with him. Club members are making donations to help provide provisions.

Moving forward, Horspath are seeking a principal sponsor. For more information email hcc.secretary@live.co.uk



Members of Horspath Cricket Club at the cheque presentation to Sobell House Hospice with ambassador and trustee Greg Birdseye (far right).

Picture: Helen Messenger



Wheatley RUFC are looking to recruit new players

If you are interested, whether you want to start playing rugby, have just moved to the area or looking for something new to try and get fitter, join Wheatley RUFC today!

The Club was formed in 1971 and competes in the local Berks, Bucks and Oxon leagues. Training and coaching takes place on Tuesday evenings at 7pm on Wheatley Playing Field, Holton. (Opposite the entrance to Wheatley Park School) All levels are welcome.

The Club has a friendly atmosphere and organises social activities throughout the year. Game time is guaranteed at minimal cost to players.

The Club prides itself on being fully inclusive and all are welcome whatever your ability.



If you are interested, please contact us at info@wheatleyrufc.com
We look forward to seeing you soon. Paul Willmott, President

The electrifying truth is out there somewhere.....

A drama has been unfolding in Horspath over the past few months with SSEN (Southern Scottish Electricity Network) digging up Sandy Lane and part of Gidley Way. Imagine getting up one morning and finding a trench dug outside your house and not being able to get your car off the drive to go to work and with no warning! And what was the solution? Fill in the trench, of course, to let the car out and then dig it again! Equally baffling were the two contradictory signs that appeared at the top of Gidley Way. The Freedom (company doing the work) engineer declared that neither would happen. "Have you had a letter?" he said. "I told them to deliver a letter" No-one seemed to have received a letter. There was a leaflet explaining that the electricity would be off one day for tree felling but no-one saw any trees being felled. We asked the Parish Council, who surely should be informed about such activities going on within their boundaries, but they hadn't been told either.

So, what's it all about? Conspiracy theories have abounded, especially since everyone who phoned SSEN got a different story. Is it beautification? Or are the cables being upgraded so that we can all have electric cars? No planning permissions, nothing on the internet so where to go for the truth? In the summer when men in yellow suits began to survey in the field behind, some of the plans were revealed. The overhead line down Sandy Lane and across Gidley Way was going underground and emerging at the back of the houses with a massive two pole structure with a transformer! A neighbour



did a sterling job to enlist the support of MP Freddie van Mierlo and Councillor Tim Bearder to persuade SSEN to move the pole 80 metres down the field. Meantime, the digging has started again – another big hole on Sandy Lane and the field has sprouted some rather large mole hills. What happens next is anybody's guess.

I phoned SSEN to point out that we were being kept in the dark and asked whether they might like to comment for the

magazine. I was told that they don't speak to the Media! Anyway, the lady said, "If you are complaining about Pylons, that's not us. We only deal with cables. It's transmissions you need to speak to". Says it all – cables don't speak to transmissions! What hope do us mere mortals have? One thing for sure, if you are not happy with something, try to find out what is happening. That is if you can find someone to give you an answer.

The truth is out there somewhere!

Sue Rowell

Father Christmas spreads goodwill in Horspath... in person!

From 1980 the village children of Horspath were all treated to their own special visit from Father Christmas in person – not from distant Lapland, but from Manor Farm ! These visits took place from 6pm every Christmas Eve, and were heralded by the ringing of a bell and a hearty “Ho-ho-ho” as the brightly illuminated Land Rover came round all the village roads, bringing much delight – and not a little chocolate – to the children. Thus this tradition, as it quickly became, continued for 39 years, until sadly curtailed by Covid. But where did this lovely custom come from? In true Horspath fashion, it all began quietly around 1980, with Jim Harrison visiting just family and friends as Father Christmas, wearing a home-made costume, and then from about 1983 transport was provided by Bob & Muriel Walker, and very soon the entire village was getting a personal visit, with chocolate for the children, and a friendly chat as well – the children loved it ! Initially an elf was also on board, (who later became Mr. Blobby, and eventually the Snowman). Jim Harrison had to sadly give up in 1994, but Pete & James Dobson carried on to continue mesmerising the children with anticipation and delight, the decorated Land Rover usually leaving Manor Farm about 5pm with Bob Walker, and later Denis



and Sarah driving on a journey that would take at least two hours; occasionally a house would ring to say they had missed Father Christmas, who naturally would return to avoid disappointment ! Horspath children soon got used to their expected, and very personal, visit on Christmas Eve – but the delightful surprise shown by newcomers to Horspath was a sight to behold! Everybody knew the Christmas spirit had truly begun when Father Christmas dispensed chocolate and bonhomie from his Land Rover on his merry way round the village.

*Thanks to Jane Dobson and Denis Walker for this information. **Brian Lowe.***