

From the **Horse's** Mouth

**The Horspath
Magazine**

February - March 2023



**Issue
no 2**

A Nativity Star and Two Angels Horspath C of E School



From Acorn Class December 2022

After listening to *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams, Year 2 and 3 pupils in Lime Class were inspired to write in a similar, early Twentieth-Century, style.

There was once a cheeky Monkey and in the beginning he was silky and cute. He was cuddly as a Monkey should be. His belly was brown and beige. He had small eyes and his ears were tiny. On Christmas morning, when he sat on the top of the boy's stocking with a fake banana, the effect was awesome.

By Luka aged 7

There was once a thoughtful snow leopard and in the beginning she was shy. She had golden spots as a leopard should have; her tail was black and fluffy and she had green, glistening eyes. On Christmas morning, when she sat wedged on the top of the boy's stocking with a pink present behind her, the effect was dazzling.

By Safa aged 8

Cover photograph was taken by Arek Duleba

A note from the editors:

We would like to thank you for all the many words of appreciation and encouragement we have received since the first edition of this Magazine was published. We will continue to try hard to reflect interest and life in Horspath with your help by sending us articles and pictures of the various events and activities which take place here.

The submission date for the next issue is **17th March 2023**.

All 'copy' **must only** be sent to our dedicated email address or given as a paper copy to one of our editors, John Underdown, Anna Radcliffe or Brian Lowe. **thehorspathmagazine@gmail.com**

Your Magazine:

- Is paid for by a grant from the Stone Pit Trust, The Hub and St Giles' Church.
- If you would like to become a sponsor as an individual or business then please email us for more information.
- This Magazine can also be downloaded from the Hub website - look for the 'magazine' tab on the Home page.
- COPIES are available in the Shop, Hub and Church
- If you would like to help our volunteer 'deliverers', please email Sheila at horspathhub@gmail.com

Thank you

Village Contact Information

(prefix for Horspath is 01865)

St Giles' C hurch	07856 456363
G arage: <i>(Horspath Service Station)</i>	87 3349
The G urkha Palace	63 4534
The H ub	07951 933 964
Horspath N ursery	87 6750
The Q ueens Head	87 5567
Horspath S chool	87 2702
S heps Cycle Shack	87 6771
The Village S hop	87 2903
The T ap Room	604620
The V illage Hall	<u>village.hall@horspath.org.uk</u>
Sunnyhill V ineyard	361535

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 for each class and phone numbers, please visit our website: horspathhub.co.uk or call Natalie on 07779 672163. You can book the Hub here too with discounted rates for residents.

Mondays

Pilates - Weekly	09.15 - 10.15
Babies 1st - Weekly	13.30 - 14.30
Making Time - first Monday in the month	14.00 - 16.00
Creative Writing - Flexible Mondays	15.00 - 16.30
Art at the Hub - except the first Monday in the month	14.00 - 16.00

Tuesdays

Table Tennis - Weekly	10.00 - 12.00
Art Matters (fortnightly - by appointment)	13.00 - 14.00
Seated Wellness (Seated Exercise) by appointment	14.00 - 15.00
Yoga - Weekly	19.00 - 20.15

Wednesdays

Senior Residents' Club - First Wednesday of the month	14.00 - 16.00
Age UK Film Club - Second Wednesday of the month	14.00 - 16.00
Computer Club - Third Wednesday of the month	13.00 - 15.00
One-to-One Yoga & Massage - Once a month by appointment	12.00 - 17.00
Yoga - once a month (flexible)	18.00 - 19.00

Thursdays

One-to-One Massage (as above)	08.00 - 16.00
Line Dancing - Weekly	14.00 - 15.30
Sculpture Class (by appointment)	18.00 - 20.00

Fridays

Post Office - Weekly (except Bank Holidays)	10.00 - 13.00
Coffee Mornings - Weekly	10.30 - 12.00
Age UK Information and Advice - First Friday of the month	10.30 - 12.00
Horspath Wine Club - Third Friday of the month	19.30 - 21.30

Saturdays

Community Dance Project	10.30 - 11.30
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For booking requirements and further information please email:

Sheila at horspathhub@gmail.com or Sally at sallylhumphrey@gmail.com

Hub Happenings.....



On the 2nd of December The Friends of Horspath were awarded a big cheque from the Asda Foundation. £500 was gifted to the Hub as the winner of the summer digital green token giving vote. Thanks to all the supporters who placed their votes, this money will help with running costs and family activities at the Hub.

HORSPATH SENIOR RESIDENTS CLUB

This club has been running for many years here in Horspath Village. We meet in the Hub on the first Wednesday of every month at 2pm for a cup of tea and a chat. Our programme is quite varied and normally someone comes to give us a talk, we have a raffle, quizzes and we arrange outings too. We could always do with new members, so why not come along and join us.

Please give me a call to find out more on **873107** or email leonoradeluc@icloud.com

Hope to see you at our next meeting. Leonora Richardson, Chairperson

KING'S CORONATION PARTY

The Hub will be hiring caterers to provide a free garden party on the afternoon of Monday 8th May 2023. If the weather is bad, we will put up gazebos in the garden. Everybody is welcome, so please join us for a celebration of the King's Coronation. The garden party we held for the Queen's Jubilee last year was so successful we are happy to hold another one.

SPRING MARKET

Our Spring Market will be on Saturday 20th May 2023 from 10.00am to 12.30pm. There will be plenty of stalls, including home-made cakes/bread, craft stalls, including one selling hand-made wooden items, raffle and many more. The café will be selling tea/coffee and home-made cakes.

Baby Group - Bonding with Baby

Bonding with my baby is a group suitable for parents/carers with a baby under one year. Parents/carers and their babies come together and share their experiences of being a parent and take joy in their

baby playing and interacting with others through planned activities.

Every Monday afternoon at the Hub from 1.30pm - 2.30pm

For more information call Corinne: 07852 719832 or Sarah: 07771 729851

corinnesbabies1st@gmail.com or sarahlbabies1st@gmail.com



Morland House Surgery News



Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre

Cowley is now host to the recently developed Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre. This site can provide blood tests, 'x-rays', ultrasounds, CTs, MRIs, echocardiograms and more. The Centre, which is not too far from the Eastern By-Pass and BMW Cowley Works:

- Will reduce waiting times and provide services nearer patient homes in a quieter location than the acute hospital sites
- Has free parking!!
- There is a drop-in x-ray service (for people aged 18 and over)
- Once your GP has requested your x-ray (electronically so no paperwork to take) please attend the Centre between 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday. As this is a drop-in service there is no need to book in advance.
- Blood tests (for people aged 16 years and over)

Once your GP has given you your test forms, please book an appointment Through <https://my.drdoctor.co.uk/clinic/OUH-Phleb-CDC>

You will need your NHS number from your request form.

If you don't use the internet, you can call 01865 222652

If you need to reschedule or require the blood test within the next 3 days and none are available on the website you can also call 01865 222652.

Please remember to take your blood forms!

Address: Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre, Perspectum Building, Gemini One, 5520 John Smith Drive, OX4 2LL.

Visit Morland House Website

For up-to-date information about services, the COVID-19 and flu vaccines, a link to the NHS App and opening hours, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk The website also provides access to a large amount of information and advice on managing your health and wellbeing, including a large range of conditions, symptoms, treatments, and medicines.

Many thanks to Morland House Surgery for contributing to our magazine. Editor



Shotover

A Jewel in Horspath's Crown

Shotover Country Park is a very special place to so many that live in Horspath, and for good reason. It is a magical natural world right alongside our village for all to enjoy, and yet at

the same time is a nature reserve of regional and national significance, well known by countless specialists across the country. Whenever you step onto the hill you are following in the footsteps of numerous eminent naturalists who, for over 200 years, have been inspired to study the wildlife of this fascinating sandy hill, just to the east of Oxford. It was through a growing recognition that Shotover was still an important place for wildlife, but in need of specialist care, that Horspath residents Jacqueline and Ivan Wright felt moved to do something more active. In 1999 they set up Shotover Wildlife to attract and enthuse other naturalists and local residents for the best possible conservation in the nature reserve. The organisation is run by volunteers to research and communicate the importance of Shotover for wildlife. In this respect we have achieved a wide range of public information leaflets, a Shotover Conference in 2014, and in 2018 the publication of 'Shotover: The Life of an Oxfordshire Hill'. Fundamental to the objectives of Shotover Wildlife is to ensure that the wildlife 'specialness' is protected through knowledge-based conservation work. This kind of active intervention keeps it in optimum health for wildlife, and without which scarce species die out and habitats can become impoverished. Shotover Wildlife has a large team of conservationists who regularly meet to maintain the habitats, mostly on the second Sunday of each month. Many of the glades and open spaces to be seen today are the carefully considered work of this team.

If you have been inspired to do something practical to help protect Shotover, you would be most welcomed to join us. Just get in touch with Shotover Wildlife: <http://www.shotover-wildlife.org.uk/>



Ivan Wright: 01865 874423 enquiries@shotover-wildlife.org.uk

I blame The Kids!!

The seasonal lights and inflatables at 96 Gidley Way have been on display each year for nearly two decades. I set them up originally as a bit of fun for our young children (now 30&25), but soon it took on a life of its own. Still, I blame them each year - particularly when it's cold and wet and I'm wrestling a dinosaur that's intent on escape. Today, I think we're up to 18 inflatables, plus thousands of lights, lasers, and other items. In 2016 we began collecting in support of The Alzheimer's Society. Each year we continue to run the display with some additions and replacements, and everything collected in the box or online goes to support Alzheimer's. We do not subtract costs from the collection. Since 2016 we have collected an amazing £3765.20 for which we are very grateful to everyone who donated. And so this year, end of 2022, we collected again. The display is widely popular among young and old and attracts visitors from over 50 miles away. It is even supported by friends internationally. I am very proud to say that this year we have collected an astounding **£542**. I would like to thank everyone for your incredible generosity. Thank You.

Nigel Montgomery

Line Dancing

I returned to Oxford in 2019 after 18 years in Dorset. Whilst it was good to be back nearer to family and friends I was concerned about rebuilding my life after so long away. I was determined not to rely on my family as they would be working during the week.

However Leonora, the Line Dancing teacher at The Hub has been a friend since we were at Junior School together. She invited me to join the class. I had started Line Dancing in my 40's but could remember very little about it but decided to give it a try. The first few weeks were quite difficult but great fun and I soon became totally involved. Where else can you get one and a half hours of good company, great exercise for the mind and body, time for a cup of tea and a chat for £4 a week?

Angela Munday

Community Dance Project:

Come dance with us! Equal opportunity, any dance style, no experience needed. Saturday mornings at The Horspath Hub, £3 per session. Fun physical & mental health activities. Great performance opportunities. For more information, please email JJ on jjformento@yahoo.com or phone 07925-504-888. Be part of building a community arts group that will work together to improve our local area, challenge environmental policies, and create positive social change.

JJ Formento

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

It's a privilege to be able to write to you, in the wonderful new village magazine. I really enjoyed the first edition, in December, and am looking forward to reading this edition, too. Many thanks to our editors, and to the Stonepit Trust, for making this village magazine possible. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year? I know, for many people, Christmas will seem a very long time ago. Many people take their decorations down on Boxing Day, or soon afterwards, and for most people the celebrations will now be well and truly over. But, in the Church, as I write this on 22nd January, we are still celebrating Christmas or, at least, Epiphany. In many churches, the Crib stays up until after the celebration of Candlemas (usually 2nd February, or the nearest Sunday), and in some churches the Christmas tree stays up until then, too. In my home, the tree is still up (though many of the baubles have fallen off), and I love seeing the lights on the tree. I enjoyed our Christmas celebrations this year. The Carols in the Churchyard, with the Shotover Singers, are always a highlight. And, this year, it was lovely to see the return of the Village Carol Service – the first year we've been able to hold large indoor carol services since I arrived here just before the pandemic. It was great to see so many village organisations represented, and I particularly enjoyed the contributions of our youth orchestra, and our bell-ringers. Thank you to all who participated, or came along. Christmas can be a difficult time for many of us, with bereavements, illness, family quarrels or relationship breakdowns, and this year I'm sure money-worries and the cost of living crisis will have caused anxiety too. January can be a difficult month, too, so I – and many Christians – enjoy the opportunity to prolong our celebrations and keep our crib, tree and lights up through the dark days of January, until we have celebrated the festival of Candlemas, or the Presentation in the Temple – when Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. There, the baby Jesus was greeted by Simeon and Anna, and recognised as “a light to lighten the nations (Gentiles), and to be the glory of God's people, Israel” – words sung in many Cathedrals and Churches across the land at choral Evensong most weeks. At Candlemas, we turn our gaze away from the crib, or stable, and begin looking towards the cross, with Simeon's prophetic words to Mary, “and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 22nd February, marking the beginning of Lent. The Parochial Council and I will be meeting shortly to discuss services for Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter, and details will be available shortly on church notice boards and social media.

With my prayers and very best wishes for a happy, healthy and holy 2023. **Karen x**



**Services at St Giles' Church
February and March 2023**

5th February The Third Sunday before Lent

11am Morning Worship in St Giles'

11am Sunday Fun-Time in the Horspath Hub

12th February The Second Sunday before Lent

11am Parish Communion

19th February The Sunday next before Lent

11.15am Family Time (refreshments served from 11am)

22nd February Ash Wednesday - service details to be confirmed

Please consult the weekly pew-sheet, or church notice boards, or contact the Vicar (01865 361 146) for details of services across the *Benefice.

26th February The First Sunday of Lent

11am Parish Communion

5th March The Second Sunday of Lent

11am Morning Worship at St Giles'

11am Sunday Fun-Time in the Horspath Hub

12th March The Third Sunday of Lent

11am Parish Communion

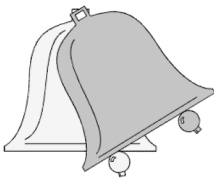
19th March The Fourth Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday

11:15am Family Time (refreshments served from 11am)

26th March The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)

11am Parish Communion

**Benefice: The Parish Churches of All Saints, Cuddesdon, St Giles', Horspath and St Mary's Garsington.*



The **BELLS** of St Giles' Ringing out the **News**

Chatter and Clatter

Come and join us, either drop in or stay all morning.

9 - 11am in St Giles' Church

8th & 22nd February, 8th & 22nd March

Your under 5 child or baby can make a **clatter** while you enjoy a **chatter** over coffee and cakes with other parents or carers.

We use the Church as it is a free space for socialising with fun and laughter.

We look forward to welcoming you.

For more information please contact the organisers on 07584 08066



Friends of St Giles'

We need your help..... Why not become a Friend of St Giles' and help towards both the fabric and renovations to the church.

With community activities arranged throughout the year we urgently require a toilet and kitchen facilities, including access to inside running water.

Please support this valuable asset at the centre of the village by becoming a member.

Membership:

**£15 for individuals, £25 for a joint membership
& £25 for corporate membership**

If you would like to offer your support by becoming a member, then please contact the Churchwarden, Maureen Underdown at 27a Manor Farm Road or pick up a leaflet from inside the church for joining details or call 07584 080661.

Thank you



Tree of Light

We raised £495 for Sobell House Hospice this Christmas thanks to the messages of remembrance that were submitted with donations and adorned the village tree, which was blessed on Sunday 11th December.

Many Thanks



Parish Council News - Update

- The coping stones on the burial ground wall will be repaired as soon as the weather allows.
- Two notice boards, one for replacement and one at Gateley have been ordered.
- A letter was delivered to all homes in Horspath asking residents if they are in favour of a new village hall.
- The present hall is very costly and inefficient to run.
- A meeting was also held on January 10th to discuss a new hall.
- A large gathering of residents asked questions regarding feasibility, costs, funding and usage of the new hall.
- Other requests were made for a new playpark, tennis courts, football pitches etc. All the comments will be investigated.
- The returned slips, emails and a show of hands at the meeting resulted in overwhelming support for a new village hall.
- Further meetings with residents will be held as transparency is paramount.
- The Horspath Stone Pit Charity have agreed to fully fund a complimentary meal voucher up to the value of £12.00 for all Horspath residents who receive the UK State Pension.
(see the Stone Pit Page for details >>>)

Parish Councils Meetings

Take place in the Morgan Room at the Village Hall

Tuesday 7th February @ 7.30pm

Tuesday 7th March @ 7.30pm

For all enquiries or matters relating to the Parish Council please contact Hayley Kogel: clerk@horspathparishcouncil.org

HORSPATH STONE PIT CHARITY

Senior
residents

Feb
2023

COMPLIMENTARY MEAL VOUCHER SCHEME

Horspath Stone Pit charity is pleased to offer all senior citizens that are resident in the parish of Horspath the option of a complimentary meal to the value of £12.00 by way of a voucher scheme.

Both our village pubs are taking part in the scheme so residents have the option of choosing either a Thai lunch or fish and chips or lunch time Sundays, a traditional roast at the Queen's Head.

The Chequers/Gurkha Palace is offering an evening curry Tuesday to Thursday evenings.

Please phone Beverley Oakley on 07917 968292 to collect your voucher.

For those parishioners that are housebound and unable to visit either of the above restaurants, a home delivery scheme may be possible.



Allotment Challenge

On moving to Horspath one of our priorities was to take on an allotment. We met lovely Fiona who asked if we were up for a challenge and when we saw the plot we realised what she meant!

The plot was on a seriously steep slope and until a year previous had been a rather large bramble and nettle patch. A kind soul had cleared the brambles and rotivated some of it but as we dug the heap of bramble roots grew. We tried the allotment rotivator and strimmer - neither were easy so we resorted to manual labour! Finally, the ground was cleared and we sowed the potatoes. We'd got a bit carried away with the number of bags of seed potatoes that we'd purchased, never thinking that the ground would be so productive. Then came the fruit cage, the squash patch, the sweet corn patch and the cabbage patch! Other allotment holders came and stood in wonder as we worked, saying, "Couldn't they have given you an easier patch?" and, "How are you going to manage to get water up this steep slope?" Our neighbour allotment holder, on the same steep slope, hatched a cunning plan - to rig up a solar powered pump to lift water up the slope into tanks and we seriously began to work out a system. As the summer drought took hold, we heaved water up the slope employing grandchildren as hard labour but it wasn't long before it dawned on us that the prolific nature of all the veg had to mean that somehow there had to be a natural water source - springs from the top of the slope that fed the plot! In short, the solar lift wasn't needed! Mirabilis!

The other challenge became the wildlife - the rabbits here are nothing short of cunning and, being Oxford, I think they've been to Bunny college! They chewed through the netting to get at my beans and broccoli and nothing short of steel wire dug into the ground would deter them. The muntjacs are brazen and the moles dig with gay abandon. Still, there's plenty for us all as we realised when we came to harvest the spuds - we were astounded at the quantity and size - the biggest tuber was nearly a kilogram and we've kept family and friends stocked for months. Everything that we've planted has done well and the middle grandchild was ecstatic with his sweet corn, melons and watermelon. Even his kohlrabi is a hit!

We're looking forward to the next season now and hope it takes less time to prepare. **Sue and Derek , moved to Horspath in December 2021**

Obituary for Mary Biggs



It is with sadness we announce Mary Biggs passed away peacefully at her home in Horspath on 19th December 2022, aged 89. Mary had worshipped at St Giles' Church since moving to Horspath from Cowley in 2004. Prior to becoming a member of our Horspath congregation she was a regular worshipper at St Francis in Cowley and in addition had a long association with St James' Church, also in Cowley, where, in 1956, she was married to Tony. Her marriage to Tony lasted 57 years, and ended when Tony passed away in 2013.

Mary contributed to a number of church-related groups at various times throughout her life and even knitted the nativity figures we use at St Giles' today. *(As shown in the picture here)* Professionally, Mary spent most of her working life in secretarial and administrative positions within the NHS, and after official retirement, pursued part-time medical and church administration work well into her eighties. Outside of work Mary was a keen gardener, and enjoyed playing the piano, knitting and dressmaking. Mary was very much a family person and is survived by her three children and their partners, ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Mary's ashes will be interred at St Giles' churchyard. **God bless, and rest in peace.**

oOo

Letters to the Editor *(only one this issue)*

Dear Sir, I recently asked Bob Surman to decorate two of my rooms, and what a good job of it he made. How fortunate Horspath is to have our very own local handyman. He brightens up our homes with his high standard of workmanship. He's the man for my next job, and yours too!

Leonora Richardson

Editor: Bob Surman - 07786 115516

Bus Photograph by Rob Judges

Our Seat on the Bus

The bus is back

Thank goodness for that!

The 46 Bus is here to stay

So let's be using it, day by day.

Going to town is now easier by far

Or out to Great Milton not using the car.



Enjoying the ride through country locations
With lunch at the Bull as our destination
Le Manoir too is at the end of our ride
With a glimpse through the gates of the gardens inside
Our seat on the bus gives us pleasure and more.
Workers, shoppers and pensioners all score.
So let's all applaud and smile every day
Now that the 46 Bus is here to stay.

S & S
Sept. 2022