



# **From the Horse's Mouth**

**The Horspath Magazine  
February - March 2025**

**Issue 14**

**Photograph: Kathryn Goodliffe**

# 'The trumpets shall sound.....'



At this year's Carol Service at St Giles, 3 former Horspath Primary School pupils formed a brass ensemble to play a Carol medley under the direction of Mary Pavlides. The boys, playing cornet and euphonium, began learning music at the school. Mary supported them playing the Tenor Horn. We have seen the boys play in the last few carol services with the standard improving year on year! They really enjoy playing together -

hopefully we will see them again next year! *Kathryn Goodliffe*

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

**Adam Bell - Bespoke Mobile Disco - 07840 939596**



**Providing Entertainment for Weddings, Birthdays etc.**

## Horspath C of E Primary School



Christmas was a busy time for us all at Horspath C of E Primary School. Following all our hard work learning and completing end of term assessments, a whole school trip to see *Sleeping Beauty* at the Oxford Playhouse was great fun and not without excitement, not only from

the shouting and cheering in the theatre, nor the ice creams kindly provided by the PTA but the fire engines and roads closed off by police, making us wonder if we would be able to reach the theatre. The fuss was all about The Randolph Hotel and, fortunately, the police allowed us to walk round on the opposite side of the road to reach the theatre and enjoy the show. We completed the final week with a candlelit Christingle service at school and 2 Nativity performances at St Giles Church, beautifully performed by our reception children with the singing from the rest of the school. Just to add to our busy week of completing our topics for the term and celebrations, we were visited by Ofsted in the final week before the holidays. They spent time in school talking to staff, children, observing lessons and speaking to parents in the playground. The report will take a few weeks to be completed. Once we receive the report, it will be available on our website. **A wreath making evening** for adults and a film night for the children were popular and enjoyable events organised by the PTA for the end of term. **The spring term** began cold and wet but with staff enthusiastic to see the children back in school and learning. The snow on the first day back caused some slipping and sliding on the way but we soon had everyone back in school and learning. **The PTA** have raised money for and designed new playground markings. Along with our new trolley of equipment and our play leaders, playtimes now have a wider range of fun activities on offer. Do have a look over the gate to see our new markings if you are passing. Hopefully, we will be seeing the **signs of spring** soon and will be looking forward to some better weather.



During term 3 We will be looking at Colours, Love, Music and Dance, Chinese New Year, People Who Help Us, Children's Mental Health Week and Sport. We have arranged 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 Storytelling, Spring, Shrove Tuesday, On the Farm, Easter and Mother's Day. We have arranged to hatch ducks for the Chick Hatching.

Our fundraising event for term 3 will be another Bingo. If you have any new, unwanted Christmas gifts that you would like to donate



please do get in touch. 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. **Look out for posters on the village noticeboard advertising our Bingo.**

Horspath Nursery, Blenheim Road, Horspath, Oxford, OX33 1RY

[staff@horspathnursery.org.uk](mailto:staff@horspathnursery.org.uk)

Tel: 01865 876750

**Services in St Giles' Church  
and Benefice Services -  
February and March 2025**



- 2<sup>nd</sup> February**      **Candlemas -The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**  
 11am      Morning Worship in church, and Sunday Fun-Time in  
             The Horspath Hub  
             **5pm**      ***Benefice Choral Evensong at St Giles' Horspath***
- 9<sup>th</sup> February**      **The Fourth Sunday before Lent**  
 11am      Parish Communion  
             **3pm**      ***Benefice Story-Time Church*** in the Forest Church at Ripon  
                     College Cuddesdon – see posters for details
- 16<sup>th</sup> February**      **The Third Sunday before Lent**  
 11am for 11:15 Family Time
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February**      **The Second Sunday before Lent**  
 11am      Parish Communion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March**      **The Sunday next Before Lent**  
 11am      Morning Worship in church, and Sunday Fun-Time in  
             The HorspathHub
- 5<sup>th</sup> March**      **Ash Wednesday (Venue to be confirmed)**  
 2pm      Benefice Communion with the Imposition of Ashes
- 9<sup>th</sup> March**      **The First Sunday of Lent**  
 11am      Parish Communion  
             **3pm**      ***Benefice Story-Time Church*** in the Forest Church at Ripon  
                     College Cuddesdon – see posters
- 16<sup>th</sup> March**      **The Second Sunday of Lent**  
 11am      Parish Communion
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March**      **The Third Sunday of Lent**  
 11am      Parish Communion
- 30<sup>th</sup> March**      **Mothering Sunday**  
 11 for 11:15      Family Time

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**VACANCY** : We have a vacancy for a Benefice Administrator for Cuddesdon, Garsington and Horspath. Fifteen hours a week including some evening work. Please contact: [gchbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:gchbenefice@gmail.com) leaving your name and telephone number for further information.

## *Vicar's Letter*

Dear Friends

I'd like to begin by wishing you a happy and healthy New Year. (As I am writing this on 9th January, a New Year greeting feels appropriate – though by the time you read this, in early February, it might seem less so!) I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. I really enjoyed the run up to Christmas, with its Carol Services, singing around the Christmas tree (in Cuddesdon), School Nativity (in Horspath), Crib Services, Christingle Services, etc. Advent and Christmas are one of my favourite times of year, and this year was no exception – although I was particularly pleased to enjoy a break in Northumberland immediately after Christmas. We arrived in Northumberland on Boxing Day, after a long drive through heavy fog, just as the sky cleared and the Milky Way lit a path across the night sky over our cottage. It reminded me of the carol, 'It was on a starry night,' which I sang many times in school services during Advent, and then, again, on Christmas Eve. Another favourite moment of Christmas was presiding at the Midnight Mass, with the baby Jesus, from the church nativity set, laying on the altar before me, then placing him in the stable, after distributing communion, shortly after midnight. I wonder what your abiding memories of Christmas 2024 are?

Many of you are already aware that I am now called Tom Wallis (or Thomas), having changed my name by deed poll in November 2024, as part of a process of social transitioning from the gender I was assigned at birth, to the gender which I feel to be correct. However, newsletter deadlines – and the desire to inform church officers before informing the wider parishes – meant that I couldn't announce and explain my change of name and pronouns / gender in my December 'From the Vicar,' as I would have liked. I'd therefore like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone across the village, and wider Benefice, who has welcomed, encouraged and supported me as Tom / the Revd Tom. Your kindness, love and support has meant a great deal to me and to Martin. Thank you to all who have sent Christmas cards, or messages of support and encouragement. And thank you to all who have prayed for Martin, for me, and for the churches of our Benefice.

For those who were not aware of this news, or who have found my transition difficult, I would like to reassure you that I am still a Christian – a disciple, deacon, priest and your Vicar. I still believe in Jesus, and in the Good News contained within the Holy Scriptures. I remain committed to serving God. I am still here for the people of Garsington, Cuddesdon and Horspath. I remain available for pastoral visits, conversations, prayer, worship, baptisms, weddings and funerals ... or just for a cup of coffee, or a pint in the pub, and a friendly chat. All that is changing, for the time being, are my name, pronouns and gender identity. I will also be discussing, and working through, the medical implications with my GP and others. I would also like to assure those in Benefice who – I have been informed – believe that I have known for many years that I am a transgender man, and have deliberately kept this information from you, and deceived you, that that is not the case. I only began to discern, in May 2024, that ‘she/her’ no longer seemed to fit. I shared this information with Martin, and with my bishop, as soon as I felt able to do so. Martin and I then both needed some time to explore and digest this very private, personal and surprising discovery, and to inform family and friends, before my bishop and I discerned that the time was right for me to tell my congregations. For me, it was a matter of integrity to tell you as soon as possible, and to begin social transitioning at the same time, so that I was not deceiving you, or living a lie. I assure you that I have shared the news with you within 6 months or so of my discovering that I was uncomfortable trying to live as a woman, and am happier as Tom.

Thank you, again, for your ongoing support, love and kindness. And, if you would like to chat – about my change of name, or about what is happening in your own life – do please get in touch. I am also discussing with senior colleagues the possibility of holding an open meeting, or a Question and Answer session, so that those with questions and concerns may raise these in a gentle and constructive way. If senior colleagues agree that this might help to build bridges, and prevent further incorrect assumptions and gossip, I hope to advertise an event shortly.

My new email address is: [therevdtomwallis@gmail.com](mailto:therevdtomwallis@gmail.com)

God bless,

The Revd. Tom

## MEDICAL AID TO GHANA – GLOBAL BRIGADES



Last summer I held a bake sale at the summer market in the Horspath Hub to raise money for my upcoming medical brigade trip to Ghana. We managed to set up clinics and financial aid in two separate villages which saw just over 700 people being treated in our time there. Not only did your support and donations help bring the supplies and medication to the clinic, it also funded financial healthcare aid which consisted of providing everyone a years' worth of free healthcare insurance. We were told by the local community that these villages had no access to any healthcare

and for the

majority this was the first time they had seen a doctor. The clinics we ran included: a general healthcare clinic, an optometry clinic, a specialised obstetrics & gynecology clinic and a pharmacist base. After our clinic days we manually entered all 700 people into the healthcare database in Ghana meaning that any future healthcare visits could be documented and they would be able to have medical records from now on. We can't thank you enough for the kind donations that were made on the day and as a thank you please enjoy some photos that were taken from our time there!



**Anna Hens - 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical student.**





## The Christmas 'Trip'

It all happened on Christmas morning. I have two sisters, Gwen and Pat. Gwen and I were spending Christmas at Pat's in Sutton Coldfield, so Gwen drove us up on Christmas morning. We were looking forward to meeting up with our nephew, David, his wife, Cat and their 2 1/2 year old daughter, Isobel. This was a real treat because they live in Prague. Our nephew Liam, his partner, Kate and her 18-year-old daughter, Ellie, would also be there. It was to be a real family Christmas for the first time in years. There was no hurry, as Christmas lunch wasn't until 4.00pm; Ellie was working at Wetherspoons and wouldn't be home till then. So we decided to stop at Warwick Services for a coffee. Having seated ourselves, we found when we removed the lids that there was no milk in the coffee. Gwen got up, coffee in hand, to find some milk. The next thing I knew, Gwen had gone flying and was sprawled face down on the floor, her coffee flung all over the floor. I went into panic mode and in the seconds it took me to get to her, I had visions of her ending up in Warwick Hospital with goodness knows how many broken bones. I got to her and people were swarming around us to see if they could help. She lay there for a few minutes and managed to turn onto her left side, but she needed help to get up. Now Gwen is, to put it politely, heavy, hence no broken bones. She started to pull herself up, holding onto my left arm. I could feel her pulling me over on top of her and into the Christmas tree behind us. I thought, "No, this can't happen", so I summoned all my strength, and she pulled herself up onto her feet. Somebody retrieved her glasses, and we sat down. A member of staff from Starbucks brought her a free coffee, and I went to fetch the milk. She had tripped over a chair leg which was sticking out. She had sustained bruising to various parts of her body, but was otherwise OK, and able to drive. Whilst drinking her coffee, Gwen WhatsApped Pat, whose response was "Idiot!", which made me laugh. She has a great propensity for falling over does our Gwen, and we'd love her to learn to look where she's going. However, we had a wonderful Christmas with the family. Little Isobel is growing fast and is such a joy. Her mother is French, her father English and she goes to Nursery School in Prague. So she is learning three languages, and we sometimes have trouble working out which language she is using. We returned on Boxing Day afternoon, thick fog from start to finish. But we didn't stop on the way home for coffee!

*Judy Kent*

## Horspath Parish Council

Councillors would like to wish all residents a very happy New Year. **Welcome to our new Councillor**, Mr Phillip Hookham who has recently joined the Parish Council. **Many thanks to Jan Bennett & family**, Leigh Smith, Dave Waterman, Matt Chanarin and Josh Carr for erecting and decorating the village Christmas tree, your help is much appreciated. **Following requests from residents**, Councillors are looking into the possibility of installing an additional bus shelter on the Village Green. Quotations have been received for purchasing the bus shelter, and further quotations are being sought to install the bus shelter. More information to follow. **A planning application** to refurbish the village hall has been submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council. More information to follow. **Horspath Parish Council** has recently been advised that the grant application that was submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Grant Scheme in June 2024 for a new play area was not successful as it did not score high enough against other applications. It was hoped that the grant would fund a new play area to replace the existing play area. District Councillor Mr James-Lawrie is looking into other grants that may be available. **Councillors agreed** a donation of £150.00 in December 2024 to Wheatley Park School for their Annual Prize Giving Awards. **Any resident** who is interested in joining the Horspath Village Hall Management Committee please contact the Clerk – [clerk@horspathparishcouncil.org](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@horspathparishcouncil.org) . **Please note:-** Horspath Parish Council will not take any further action on correspondence that is sent anonymously.

## Horspath Stone Pit Charity

The next Horspath Stone Pit Charity meeting will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025. As this meeting will be held earlier than usual in March, please note, the closing date for applications will be **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.** Organisations and individuals may use the website application form to apply for a grant. Trustees will be reviewing the criteria for grants and discussing the possibility of increasing school uniform grants at a closed meeting in January 2025.

In December 2024, £900,000.00 was deposited in a Barclays Treasury Deposit account for a period for six months. The last six month period earned a total of £12,340.60 interest. 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.

### **GRANTS AWARDED IN DECEMBER 2024.**

Trustees received and considered 7 Organisation and 17 Individual grant applications.

14 **Individual** applications were successful.

3 applications were not successful as they did not meet the criteria of the Charity.

5 **Organisation** applications were successful.

1 application was not successful as it did not meet the criteria of the Charity.

1 application was deferred until a minimum of 2 Independent Advisors are present.

<b>Individual Grants</b>	
2 x 6 <sup>th</sup> Form School Transport	£400.00
2 x School Trips	£400.00
8 x Swimming Lessons	£1,600.00
1 x Specialist Improvements	£1,860.00
Senior Citizens Meal Voucher Grant	£5,000.00
<b>Organisation Grants</b>	
Horspath Senior Residents	£3,900.00
St Giles Church	£300.00
Horspath Hub	£300.00
Horspath Cricket Club	£500.00
Horspath Magazine	£2,472.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£16,732.00</b>

**A total of £16,732.00 was awarded.**

## Horspath CC hand over £2,750 to Thames Valley Air Ambulance



Horspath Cricket Club were delighted to raise £2,750 for Thames Valley Air Ambulance after organising a charity tournament in the summer. Members gathered in the clubroom

late last year to hand over a cheque to TVAA's head of community and events Ruth Dunkin. Ten teams consisting of men's and women's players, juniors, friends and supporters took part in the Charity Tape Ball Cricket Six-A-Side Competition at the Recreation Ground on August Bank Holiday Sunday. The Air Ambulance was the chosen charity as the club lost two prominent members last year in Max Eason and Tommy Pritchard, who were attended by medical services. It was a brilliant effort from everyone involved to raise such an amount for TVAA and something the club is very proud of. Special thanks to Newtrim UK, who generously donated the coloured shirts for the teams, and to chief organiser Mark 'Diddy' Bridges. Ruth commented: "It was fabulous to go along on the day to support Horspath and we are thrilled that they managed to exceed their fundraising target. *Being fully funded by the communities we serve, the crews on our iconic red helicopter and Critical Care Response vehicles quite simply couldn't do what they do without support and fundraising events like this. Thank you!*"

**Meanwhile**, preparations for the new season are now moving up a gear. **Men's indoor nets** start on Saturday, February 1 at Abingdon School (11.30am-1pm) and continue each Saturday until March 22 inclusive. **Horspath women** made a winning start to their Oxfordshire Indoor League campaign with victory over Oxford Kites at the Ferry Leisure Centre, Summertown. **The competition** continues through February and into March with games against Banbury, East & West Hendred, Oxenford, Freeland West Oxfordshire Warriors and Moreton Mavericks. **Women's indoor nets** and training sessions have been lined up for Friday evenings at Greyfriars School, Oxford on February 7 (8-9pm) and at Radley College on February 21, 28 and March 7, 14 and 21. New players, members, umpires and scorers are welcome. For more details **visit** [horspathcricket.com](http://horspathcricket.com)

**Russell Smith**

## Look out for ...

We are lucky to live close to Shotover County Park, where the seasons reward us with an ever-changing spectacle of sights and sounds. In one of the great annual events of the natural world, in early spring frogs and toads converge on their breeding ponds to display and mate, filling the air with croaks. If you're going for a spring walk on Shotover, look out for: common toad



**Where to look:** toads can be found in many of the habits of Shotover and Brasenose Woods, particularly the marshy woodland areas. They emerge from hibernation in the early spring, converging on the seasonal ponds that also appear at that time of year, to breed and spawn. Females lay about 1,500 eggs, which can be distinguished from frog-spawn as they are in long strings, and bound to water plants.

**What to look for:** the common toad is brown and warty: unlike the frog, its skin is characteristically dry, and it normally walks rather than hops. Females are larger than the males.

**Did you know?** Adult toads feed at night: they are partial to slugs, spiders, worms, aphids, and ants. When threatened, they produce a foul-tasting substance to defend themselves from predators. Perhaps this is why English mediaeval folklore portrayed them as the familiars of witches and the devil. In less enlightened times, this harmless creature was used to produce a variety of folk remedies and hallucinogenic substances. Fortunately our attitudes towards these fascinating animals have improved a lot since then!

*Compiled by Shotover Wildlife, an independent community organisation, founded to research and communicate the importance of Shotover's wildlife. Illustrated by Jacqueline Wright, artist, botanist and co-founder of Shotover Wildlife.*

## *Camping or Glamping*

I have walked up Sandy Lane towards Shotover many times, seeing the sign “Greenacres Holiday Retreat” but I had never visited the site until a few weeks ago. Charmed I was indeed! In an idyllic situation with amazing views of the Chilterns and The Ridgeway, this award-winning site was opened two years ago as an Eco- campsite - a members-only site, part of the Greener Camping Club. The owner, Mark Green, gave me a tour of the site and fizzed with enthusiasm and pride as he showed me the facilities. “It is possible to pitch a tent, bring your motor-home or caravan or you can stay in a bell-tent with a proper bed and a wood stove or, if you really want luxury in a tranquil place, the Eco Dome is for you!” he said. “The roof slides open above the bed and you can watch the stars whilst listening to the barking of the muntjac!”



There is a communal camp fire area with seats made from pallets and fire pits made from recycled washing machine drums. The facilities are described as basic but one of the wash rooms looked very good to me and only Eco products are allowed. Mark clearly values the local wildlife; he’s created a large pond near the Nature Reserve which is a

haven for deer, badgers, foxes and he is about to plant 600 trees. There is a restriction on the number of people allowed on the site and a curfew for noise from any visitors – it certainly earns the SME News Award for the most tranquil site in Britain 2024.

Visitors are informed about all the local facilities and they certainly contribute to the Horspath economy by visiting Oxford Brewery Tap Room, The Chequers and Gurkha Palace, Queen’s Head and the Vineyard. Londis, our local shop benefits too and Route 46 is well used to take visitors into Oxford.

I met a young family just about to walk to Wheatley Windmill, taking in the magnificent views of the Chilterns as they walked down Sandy Lane. “It’s such a safe location for the kids with beautiful walks and so much to do in the lovely village of Horspath”.

**Sue Rowell - Reporter**



## British Indoor Champions

**What an incredible weekend for the Hammers!** After a thrilling run to the team finals, (4th/5th Jan.), the riders came out swinging today, dominating the track in the veterans, open, and women's events. **First up** in the Open semi-finals, Lee Smith proved once again why he's a force to be reckoned with, fighting tooth and nail in every race. His never-give-up attitude kept us all on the edge of our seats, but despite an outstanding effort, he just missed out on the final. Meanwhile, Mark Boaler made it look easy, cruising into the final with confidence and class. **Next**, it was time for the veterans. Matt Wakefield, competing in his first indoor event, took on the best of the best, and showed incredible grit, finishing strong with a well-earned win in his last race and a solid 13 points overall. Chris Ward, one of the most experienced riders in the field, kept pushing, finishing with 7 points after some tough battles. **In the women's event**, Rachel Lammin made a triumphant return to the track after a year off due to injury. With fierce determination, she showed why she's a former indoor champion, finishing with 14 points and a performance to be proud of. **Then came the star of the show**—Mark Boaler. As the defending British Indoor Champion, the pressure was on, but Boaler handled it like a true champion. Smooth, strategic, and absolutely flawless on the first bend, he powered through to claim his 7th silver medal after a nail-biting run-off with Matt Hill. **A huge congratulations** to all the winners, podium finishers, and every rider who gave it their all. It was an unforgettable weekend, and massive thanks to the Ipswich crew for making it all happen and everyone else that's helped over the weekend. **We can't wait to see** what the 2025 season has in store for the Hammers. Up the Hammers! **Training will resume** outside in March, we will be welcoming new riders. Please message our Facebook page Horspath Hammers Cycle Speedway for more information.

Rachel Lammin

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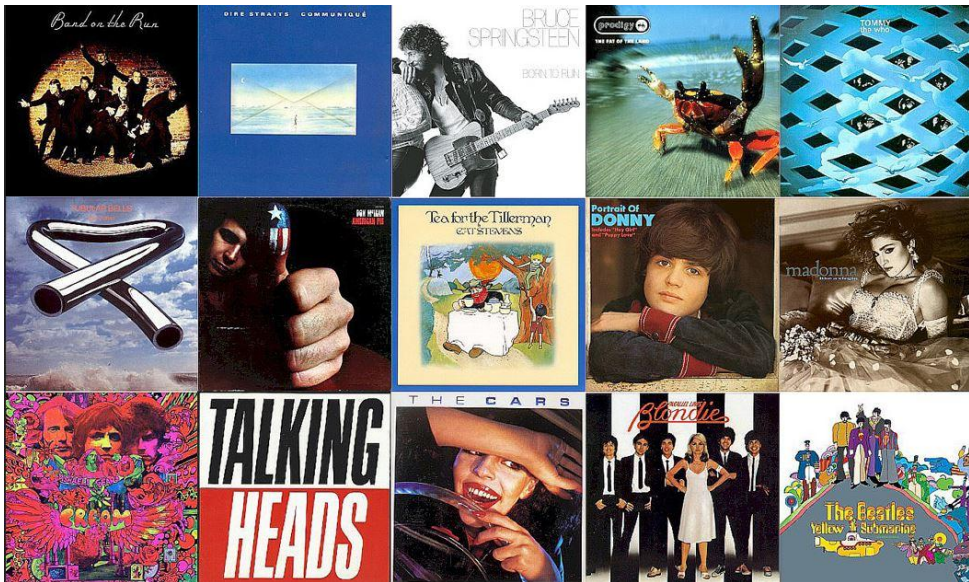
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# HOT OFF THE PRESS

## My First LP & Gig



**Concept:** Do you remember the first LP you ever bought? Or your very first gig? Now's your chance to be part of something special! We're putting together a replica double album at the Tap Room in Horspath, and we want your music memories to be part of it. This unique collection will feature over 100 album covers - yours included.

**Invite:** Come down to the Oxford Brewery Tap Room and take a look at a complete mock up of what the LP will look like. Alastair will be only too pleased to show you.

**How to enter:** Simply email us the name of your first album and the first gig you attended to [alastair@oxfordbrewery.co.uk](mailto:alastair@oxfordbrewery.co.uk), and we'll handle the rest. Inside the album, each LP name and gig you attended will appear alongside your name, linked to the covers. The cost to enter and own one of these double albums is £15, but for now, just express your interest via email.

**Expected release date:** Easter 2025 - just in time to make a wonderful gift or keepsake. All profits will go to local charities, so your contribution makes a difference.

**Stay Tuned for Updates:** Thank you for helping us bring this album to life.



## Obituaries

### **Rosemary Gray 10<sup>th</sup> February 1934 -15<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

John and Rosemary had been in Horspath for most of their married life and had fully involved themselves in Village activities. She played bowls, was a regular attender at Line Dancing and always took an interest in and supported the Horspath Cricket team. John died before Rosemary but for many years she was able to look after him at home when he became unwell. After a life of good health Rosemary suffered from cancer during her later years but this didn't deter her from playing table tennis in the Hub and from continuing her interest in cricket, her garden and her family. Rosemary was an intelligent and forthright person. She told things "as they were", so to speak; but with considerable charm and a never failing interest in the other person. I only got to know Rosemary when she was in St Lukes Home. This was a privilege and I learned that she had been a very talented quilter together with her friend Nancy Llewellyn. Nancy's daughter Catherine was able to finish Rosemary's quilts for her which gave her a great deal of pleasure.

She had a lovely funeral, fit for a lovely person. We shall miss her.

### **Clive Hookham died 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024**

Clive Hookham was a charming man who came to the Coffee morning every week and continued to play table tennis until his later years. He had a keen interest in everyone he met and a wry sense of humour. Often I would see him in the Queens Head for a meal (especially since we were able to get vouchers via the Stonepit charity) Clive was one of the original participants in the Line dancing lessons and he was also an accomplished artist. It was a shock when we heard that Clive had passed away. His two sons, Philip and Kevin were with him and in the notice of his death said "Dad is now reunited with the only woman he ever loved -our mother Joyce Marie. Can you imagine what a reunion that would be? She's waiting for you Dad, just reach out and take her hand." Clive never fussed about anything; there were far more important things to do in life. Everyone will miss him. As long as his tea was a good strength, he was a happy regular at the Friday cafe.

Rest in Peace Clive.

*Compilation: Anna Radcliffe*

## 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](http://horspathhub.co.uk) or call John 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 - <b>First</b> Monday in the month	14.00 - 16.00
Art at the Hub - except the first Monday in the month	14.30 - 16.30

### Tuesdays

Table Tennis - Weekly	10.00 - 12.00
Seated Pilates - Weekly	14.00 - 15.00
Yoga - Weekly	19.00 - 20.15

### Wednesdays

Pilates - Weekly	08.15 - 09.15
Senior Residents' Club - <b>First</b> Wednesday of the month	14.00 - 16.00
Age UK Film Club - <b>Second</b> Wednesday of the month	14.00 - 16.00
One-to-One Yoga & Massage - Once a month by appointment	13.00 - 17.30

### Thursdays

One-to-One Yoga & Massage (as above)	09.00 - 14.00
Line Dancing - Weekly	14.00 - 15.30
Creative Writing - Flexible	16.00 - 17.30

### Fridays

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

### Sundays

Sunday Fun Time - <b>First</b> Sunday of the month	11.00 - 12.00
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For more information please contact:

Sheila at [horspathhub@gmail.com](mailto:horspathhub@gmail.com) or Sally at [sallylhumphrey@gmail.com](mailto:sallylhumphrey@gmail.com)

### CHARLES WOOD & SONS

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# The Horspath Christmas Market Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024



Once again, the market was a very successful event! Up to the last minute we didn't have a Father Christmas as our usual culprit had gone to Lapland for the weekend. And then an alternative Father Christmas appeared. He was magnificent and so was his elf! The children loved him and it was so good to see so many parents with their little children in their buggies. The stallholders also seemed to enjoy themselves and although I needed, and got, a lot of help from friends and volunteers, we made £687.00 which may have been a record. The sausage rolls and mulled wine were a great success and will surely be repeated next year! So grateful thanks to Father

Christmas, his elf, the stallholders and everyone who came and contributed to a very successful event.

Anna Radcliffe

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## Notes from the Editor

We are entering our 3rd year of publishing the Horspath Magazine. We continue to be indebted to The Stone Pit Trust for their continued support and to our sponsors who have also supported the calendar this year too. Just in the last week I have heard from residents telling me how they have used the various companies whose information is contained in the magazine. *If you are a small business in the area and would like to sponsor us, then please contact me at [thehorspathmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:thehorspathmagazine@gmail.com) so I can send you details.* By the sound of things it does work!

**I would also like to thank** all those individuals and organisations who send in articles/pictures/match reports etc., as that's what makes the magazine; a reflection of life here in Horspath. As always do let me know if you want other articles or topics included and we will do our best to include them in future.

We also have a new contributor, Ted Guerin, aged 10, who has created a Young People's Puzzle Page, so do take a look!

John



## Calling all investors in young people.....

*The Hub trustees have been thinking about how we might extend and encourage greater usage of the Hub by having more activities for the younger generation and those of school age. Given our responsibilities for maintaining the*

*Hub we would not necessarily run such activities ourselves, but we would want to facilitate, support and make space for those with ideas and skills who might be able to do so. Should you have any thoughts, interests or contacts that could be useful to us in taking this forward, please do get in touch.*

*You can contact me via email at [rcbgables@hotmail.com](mailto:rcbgables@hotmail.com) or by telephone on 01865 875890. Rebecca Brown*

~~~~~

## The Horspath Calendar - 2025

*St Giles' Horspath Parochial Church Council would like to thank everyone for purchasing the 2025 calendar, sold this year in aid of church funds raising over £900. We would like to draw your attention to the time and effort which goes into producing this publication. John Underdown had the vision to bring together individuals and businesses who care for the village of Horspath to make the calendar possible. This*

*is the 6th Calendar where profits go to the funds of charitable organisations. We hope you enjoy your calendars throughout 2025 and will consider supporting the sponsors and St Giles. There is a handy QR code inside the back cover of the calendar if you wish to make a donation to keep our lovely church going.*



Many thanks

Margaret Drew - PCC Member

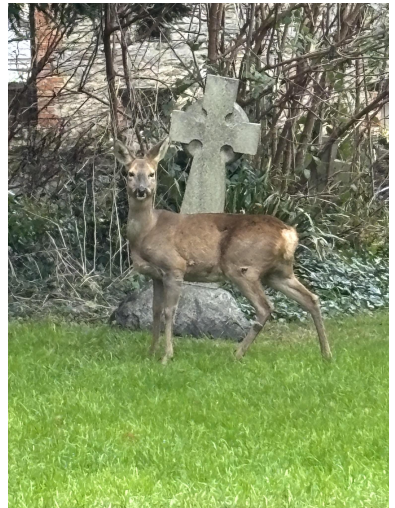
## Horspath's Patron Saint - St Giles (Aegidius in latin)



The man whom we know as St. Giles never came to this country. St Giles was a 7th Century Athenian of patrician descent possessing a benevolent, philanthropic disposition, who distributed his wealth among the poor, and travelled modestly to Arles, in Provence, where he lived with St. Caesarius for two years. In due course he felt the call to asceticism, withdrew to a solitary place and devoted himself to a life of solitude, contemplation and prayer, subsisting frugally on wild herbs and the milk of a wild deer who came to trust him.

A story goes that the King of France, out hunting one day, gave chase to this particular deer, which ran to St Giles for protection. He shielded the deer with his body, and was wounded by the arrow intended for the animal. The King spared the animal, and rewarded its protector by founding a monastery on the spot, and installing him as its first abbot.

There St Giles stayed until his death about 700 AD. St. Giles was later regarded as the Patron of lepers, beggars and cripples, and his cult spread through Germany, France and to Britain. He was honoured in the naming of St. Giles Cripplegate in London, and St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. St. Giles' church in Oxford also gives its name to the great street in Oxford, where, on the 1<sup>st</sup>. September, the annual fair of that name is held for two days, after which a part of it comes to Horspath village green for our annual St. Giles' Feast, usually in the first week of September. (Brian Lowe)



*A deer visits St Giles, December 2024*

*Taken from Revd. Sam Bird, Vicar of Horspath 1958-80. The ceramic of St. Giles in the Church was made by Esme Shorter, our organist for many years.*

# *Children, Young People and Families*

## *Come and Join in the fun.....*

### **Chatter & Clatter**

Now every other Thursday (see dates below) we are a friendly and welcoming group for parents, carers and the under-fives. An opportunity for adults to have coffee and chat while the children socialize and use the wide range of toys available. Watch the older children cycle up and down the aisles at St Giles and 'mow' the carpets. All welcome to drop in from 9-11 and join this expanding group.... It's free!

*Feb. 13th, 27th. March 13th, 27th.*

### **Sunday Funtime**

In the Hub between 11am and 12 noon on the first Sunday of the month. Suitable for all ages with ACTIVITIES - STORIES - REFRESHMENTS  
Come and join us, we look forward to welcoming you.

### **Storytime Church**

First held on Sunday 12th January at 3pm in the Forest Church area of Ripon College Cuddesdon. This is a relaxed and informal opportunity to gather around the campfire while having hot chocolate and marshmallows. Meeting new friends and listening to stories was enjoyed by 12 adults and 9 children. Come along and join us on Sunday 9th February at 3pm. From the main college car park, look for the wooden gate heading towards the allotments. Remember to dress appropriately for cold weather.



For more information, please call: 07584 080661

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S PUZZLE PAGE

Can you find the names of 5 gaming Youtubers in this grid?

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

Draw lines to connect the characters with the books / movies / TV series they appear in.

Katniss Everdeen

Annabeth Chase

Sirius Black

Jack Starbright

Grover Underwood

Peeta Mellark

Damian Cray

Yassen Gregorovitch

Mundungus Fletcher

President Snow

Luke Castellan

Dolores Umbridge

Harry Potter

Percy Jackson

Hunger Games

Alex Rider

**Ted Guerin (aged 10)**



## **Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP**

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm  
Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for prebooked consultations only. Enhanced

access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information. When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111.

**Ordering Repeat Prescriptions:** Please use the NHS App or log into your account on the NHS website. For more information on ordering, visit the 'prescriptions' page on our website.

**Staying Well this Winter** – it is important to get your winter flu and COVID-19 vaccines if you are eligible. You may also be eligible for the pneumococcal and RSV vaccines. Some people are more vulnerable to the effects of cold weather, including those aged 65 or over, babies and children, people with long term conditions, a disability or who are pregnant. If you are in an at-risk group, it is important to get medical help as soon as you feel unwell. The Morland House Surgery website provides more information. Also, you can dial NHS for free on 111 for a short assessment of your condition and you will be directed to the right service. In an emergency, go to A&E immediately or call 999.

Visit Morland House Surgery Website for a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment:

[www.morland-house.co.uk](http://www.morland-house.co.uk)

### **For example:**

Medical Records and Test Results - guidance on how to access this information.  
Pharmacy First Service (PFS), whereby pharmacies can treat seven common health conditions.

Group Consultation Clinics – Group clinics are currently being offered for menopause and hypertension. Eligible patients are being invited to attend, but if you would like to know more, please do contact us.

Whooping Cough infections, symptoms and treatment

Drink Coaches – take the quick and confidential text

Travelling abroad – what MHS can and cannot do for you



## *An update from our MP, Freddie van Mierlo*

**Dear Residents of Horspath** As we move into the first months of 2025, I want to take this opportunity to update you on some important changes on the horizon that could have a significant impact on our community and local governance. **Before Christmas**, the Government published a White Paper on devolution and local government reorganisation. This is a top-down document, setting out a vision for local authorities, telling them how they should structure and deliver services. The intention is to bring decision-making closer to local communities by giving councils more powers and larger budgets. **For Oxfordshire**, this could mean greater control over key issues such as transport, housing, and public services. One of the possibilities outlined is the creation of a mayoral strategic authority that could cover the Thames Valley region, overseeing decisions on areas like health, policing, fire and rescue. In addition, there is potential for a single unitary council that could manage services such as housing, transport, social care, and waste with fewer councillors representing larger areas. **While I welcome the White Paper** and the possibilities it presents, I believe that decisions on local governance should always be made as locally as possible, reflecting the needs and aspirations of residents. Devolution offers the chance to empower local communities and improve the services that matter most to you here in Horspath and the surrounding areas. **Locally I have been working** closely with the Parish Council and Cllr Bearder to see what support can be offered to residents after the flooding and just as importantly how it can be prevented from happening again in the future. I have discovered that after the January 2024 flooding when 2,000 homes were flooded nationally, the Government released emergency flooding funds, however in September a further 1,000 homes were flooded, and the funds were withheld. I am trying to get to the bottom of what makes one home eligible and another excluded. **On a personal note**, I am honoured to have recently been appointed as Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group focused on championing babies and as a Dementia Research Champion. These are causes I care deeply about, and I look forward to working on them in 2025. **My priorities** for this year remain focused on improving NHS services, addressing the sewage crisis, and tackling the cost of living pressures that are affecting so many in our community. These are the issues I will continue to work on both locally and in Westminster, and I will keep you updated on any developments as they arise.

**I will continue** to meet with as many residents as possible . If you would like to get in touch or attend one of my surgeries, I would love to hear from you.

Freddie van Mierlo MP  
Henley & Thame  
Freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk

# *The 46 Bus - Pub Crawl*

In Sept 2024, 5 Enterprising pubs, including 2 in Horspath, joined forces to make a pub crawl based on the 46 bus route. The pubs are, The Jolly Post Boys in Temple Cowley, the Queen's Head and the Tap Room in Horspath, the Sun in Wheatley, and the Bull in Great Milton. The rules are that if you buy a drink in a participating pub showing your 46 bus ticket, you get a stamp for that pub on an official card. If you complete a full card worth of 5 stamps from all 5 pubs, you can exchange this for a free T-shirt at any competing pub. You don't have to complete your card in one day, it can be spread across several days if you like. Nevertheless, in the company of 9 other intrepid Horspath residents I attempted to complete the full card in one day in December. If you fancy taking up the challenge, here are some lessons we learned:

1. Plan the day, time, and order of your pubs in advance carefully. Opening times for the pubs vary significantly, for example The Tap Room is only open Thurs-Sat, The Jolly Post Boys is open from noon Fri-Sun but at 16:00 on other days, and the Bull closes between 15:00 and 17:30 most days. For instance, you wouldn't want to arrive at one of the pubs after a long bus journey with a large party of people who need the loo half an hour before it opens...
2. Eating is not cheating. There are excellent food options across all 5 venues, and you have a much better chance of having a successful crawl if you have a hearty meal. If you are travelling with a larger group, make sure to book a table in advance. Check The Sun's Facebook page for news on its pop-up food stalls, and remember the Tap Room only serves food on Fridays and Saturdays.
3. Download the Oxford Bus Company App. This is essential to track the live bus times at each bus stop. At some stops you may have an hour to enjoy your drink, but it could be closer to 30 minutes at other stops depending on how much time you give yourselves overall. It should be enough to have 1 person in the party keeping an eye on bus times.
4. Get a day travel pass, and be nice to your bus driver. We needed 4 trips to complete the crawl and were able to complete 3 of them on a CityZone Day Pass for £4.50. Great Milton is outside the zone and requires a separate ticket. On 3 of those legs we had the same driver, and he was very patient with our increasingly wobbly group.

*Even though we only travelled a few miles from home, a great day out was had by all. We each discovered several pubs we didn't know, and had plenty of banter on the bus trips between them. Also, please note the Bull in Great Milton is now closed until March, so you may need to wait until completing the Route.*



Members of the 46 Bus, Pub Crawl Group. Seen here taking a well deserved 'pit stop' !

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### *The Horspath Scrapbook - 1955*

Exactly seventy years ago was born the “Horspath Scrapbook” – a vivid and informative account of our village in its early postwar years. Some 74 pages sized at roughly today’s A3 it contained text, photographs and some hand-drawn illustrations, all compiled by the Womens’ Institute with contributions from many villagers, and all the copy was laboriously handwritten by schoolteacher Dorothy Callard in her beautiful italic script. Over forty aspects of Horspath life were included – organisations, clubs, activities and buildings – in the single original copy that was produced. It provided a wonderful period view of a society still with a few working farms, the Methodist Chapel, old village hall and the railway, before the infilling of today’s modern housing, new roads, and the consequent increase in population from the 951 of 1951 to the near 1600 of today. Many of the photographs I copied, and they have appeared in my village history slide shows, and I do possess a copy of the text. The Scrapbook gives an authentic flavour of village life in what is now nearly a lifetime ago, and upon reading it one can understand the degree of change that has occurred here in Horspath... and of course, nearly every village in England could tell the same story... if only they have a scrapbook like Horspath’s !

**Brian Lowe.**

# The Puffins Return!

In the last issue, I wrote about The Book House in Thame and lamented



that the one-metre high model Puffin which had sat outside for 50 years was in such a sorry state that he could no longer perform his duties. However, just before Christmas, he made a triumphant return alongside his mate, Muffin! Muffin had “retired” some years ago after being blown down the High Street. This pair were in such a bad state that Luise Pattinson appealed to The BBC Repair Shop and they decided to take them

on and give them a makeover. They featured on the programme on Christmas Eve. The programme shows how these battered birds were restored to their former glory with their many holes filled with resin before they received a shiny new coat of paint and new steel bases to give them a firm anchor. Christmas costumes completed the picture. When Luise first saw the restored birds on the BBC programme, she exclaimed, “Wow! I’m thrilled to see them looking the same as they did many years ago. I feel 10 years old again.” When you are in Thame, pay them a visit! **Sue Rowell**

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**ABC Gas & Plumbing Ltd.** are proud to sponsor the Horspath Magazine.

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