



From the Horse's Mouth

The Horspath Magazine

**August
September
2026
Issue 24**

Original Painting by Jo Clift of 'Art in the Hub' (c)2026



Horspath Scarecrow Trail

24th October to 1st November 26

Get involved this year!

Returning for another year.
We couldn't do it without our wonderful
volunteers and visitors



Poetry, Music and Beer at The Tap Room



Most villages the size of Horspath couldn't boast of one poet, so it is quite amazing that we have TWO published poets and a bunch of very talented musicians to entertain us on a balmy summer's evening at our Tap Room. On July 2nd, a select group gathered in the barn with drinks in hand to listen to the remarkable poems of Paul Surman. Paul has published four volumes of poetry and has been invited to read in some very distinguished literary circles so we were very privileged to hear him. Paul preceded each poem with an explanation of what inspired him

to write it - a Mercedes emerging from a drive, a wren flying in through an open kitchen window and very aptly for the venue, a brewer!

*Dear esteemed village brewer
I know you are a wise man
because I've tasted the wisdom
in your beer, and wanted more.*

Paul Christopher Walton had set some of his poems to his own music compositions, ably sung by Sarah du Feu, who also played keyboard, with Ed Murray on guitar and Martin Pickett on keyboard and percussion. Paul played keyboard, flute, sang and compared. A memorable combination! Again, the pub theme surfaced in a poem called The Transformation.

*At last, on life's long pub crawl
Exactly where I don't recall
I crossed taste's Rubicon,
And left my youth behind.
In sweeter shallows of the easy kind.*

Many thanks to Paul, Paul, Sarah, Martin and Ed for an excellent evening. Please can we have an encore! Thank you to Alistair and Moira for hosting the event.

Sue Rowell

**If you go down to the Church today,
you're sure of a big surprise!**



As part of the Extravaganza on Saturday 27th June, there was a Treasure Hunt for children in the Church Grounds at St Giles.



Madrigals on the River

An event, so quintessentially English, it is a long-standing tradition that Magdalen College School perform a concert from punts on the river near Magdalen Bridge at the beginning of July. It is part of the Oxford Festival of the Arts, featuring madrigals and folksongs from different periods of

our musical history interspersed with instrumental items. Families picnic by the river whilst enjoying the music. It's one not to miss in 2027!

Sue Rowell



The Village Scrapbook

The Parish Council have recently had copies of the Village Scrapbook printed. This is a documented account of Horspath up to 1955, paintings, photographs and written details. If any parishioner would like to borrow one of the copies a deposit of £30.00 is needed which will be returned if the copy is returned in pristine condition. Please contact Beverley Oakley or Hayley Kogel.

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Message from the editor

For our editorial team, this issue was the most challenging one to compile and comprises 36 pages; the largest one we have ever produced! The Village Show 'pull out section' is included and we have added more colour pages. We are indebted to our business sponsors, including The Stone Pit Trust for their support, allowing us to include great content without the need to crowd it with adverts. My main concern is for all the many delivery people who now have a much heavier load to carry round.

Thank you so much!

John

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*Please check out the Hub's new website.
www.horspathhub.co.uk This was created by Chinnor
Web Design made possible with a grant from South
Oxford District Council, called the 'Councillor Community
Scheme'.*



The Trustees are very grateful for their support.



The cover picture on this edition of the magazine is a watercolour painting by Jo Clift. Jo runs a very popular weekly art class which you can find out more about on the new Hub Website under the 'CLASSES' tab. Or contact Jo directly at: Joclif61@gmail.com. There is an exhibition currently running in the Hub showing beautiful work by the whole group.



The electrifying truth is still out there somewhere part 2!

Last December I reported the drama unfolding on Sandy Lane with SSEN (Southern Scottish Electricity Network) digging up Sandy Lane and part of Gidley Way. SSEN contracted out the work to the Freedom Group who clearly do not have a communications department. Their brief appears to have been to replace the overhead lines across Shotover down to the Cuddesdon Road but taking a kilometre of the line underground from the top of Sandy Lane to a field on the South side of Gidley Way. This is part of SSEN's development programme in Wheatley and Witney. Everyone assumed that once this work was complete, they would leave us all in peace. This does not seem to be the case. It appears that Freedom have established a compound at the top of Sandy Lane which residents suspect is a semi-permanent arrangement whilst they carry out work in Oxfordshire and surrounding areas. This has resulted in massive Earth Line lorries weighing 32 tonnes ploughing their way up and down Sandy Lane alongside numerous contractor vans. On one day alone twelve lorries were counted with drivers seemingly having little regard for pedestrian safety on the lane or as they pull out into Gidley Way. All the vegetation on the lane is covered with dust, deer have been killed and residents are worried about these heavy loads compromising the railway tunnel which runs under the lane. Clearly our lovely local countryside is being desecrated in the most appalling manner! One contractor van was spotted on the Restricted Bridle Way which runs from the top of Sandy Lane to Old Road by local residents and they received a tirade of verbal abuse from the driver when they pointed out that he could not drive on a Restricted Bridle Way. The driver went on to threaten the residents. The puzzle is that at the bottom of Sandy Lane there is a notice which says no right of way for motor vehicles. Bridleways may be legally

used by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and mobility scooters. I don't think that 32 tonne lorries fall into this category! It is Oxfordshire County Council who have responsibility for bridleways. However, it seems that they do not care about protecting them or the precious countryside that they allow us to access. Formal complaints have been lodged via the OCC website (impossible to speak to a real person). Neither residents of Sandy Lane nor the Parish Council have been informed! What is going on?

Sue Rowell

In response to this article:

Freddie van Mierlo MP said:

"I've been concerned to hear about the experiences of residents who are understandably worried about the level of heavy vehicle activity on Sandy Lane and the impact it is having on this much-loved part of Horspath. People deserve clear information about why these works are taking place, how long they are expected to continue, and what steps are being taken to minimise disruption and protect the local environment and public safety.

"Infrastructure upgrades are sometimes necessary, but they should always be carried out with proper communication and consideration for the communities affected. I've asked to be kept informed about the works and, if there are concerns about access arrangements or the conduct of contractors, I will speak to the relevant organisations to investigate them thoroughly and ask them to respond to residents' concerns. I'll continue to work with local residents to ensure their voices are heard."

Cllr Tim Bearder also responded:

"We know that Sandy Lane is a much loved and well used Bridlepath in the village and because of constant inappropriate vehicle use in the past we've tried to ensure that there is appropriate signage to remind people of the rules using such a road. Which makes it all the more galling that it is now being used by lorries! Unfortunately the law does permit private access rights and it would appear that the Utility Company in question is renting a space at the top of Sandy Lane and exercising those rights. That said they should have sought permission from the County Council and I will ensure that our area officers do all they can to make sure the activity is safe, legal and causes as little disruption as possible."

It would be helpful if villagers could register their complaints with SODC

<http://publicrightsofway.oxfordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx>

Horspath C of E Primary School

As we approach the end of this academic year, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable journey our school community has undertaken together. The past weeks have been characterised by dedication, celebration, and the kind of collaborative spirit that defines Horspath Church of England Primary School, none more so than during last week's heatwave.

Our children have demonstrated exceptional commitment throughout the statutory assessment period. Each child has engaged with these important milestones with genuine effort and perseverance, and I am proud of their conscientious approach to their learning. These assessments represent not merely a snapshot of attainment, but rather a testament to the resilience and determination that our children continue to cultivate.



The Summer Extravaganza proved to be a magnificent celebration of our school community. The event brought together families, staff, and friends in a vibrant atmosphere brimming with activity and joy. From the diverse array of stalls and culinary offerings to the exhilarating attractions—the bouncy castle, roundabout ride, and trampolines—there was something to captivate every visitor. The interactive entertainment, including the ever-popular splat the teacher, alongside the generous raffle, created an occasion that

exemplified the warmth and inclusivity that characterises our school. Such events are invaluable in strengthening the bonds that unite our community and fostering a genuine sense of belonging. We are incredibly grateful to our wonderful PTA and the church for organising the event.

I must also draw attention to the outstanding achievements of our Quadkids competitors. We fielded two formidable teams - one representing Years 3 and 4, and another representing Years 5 and 6 - each comprising ten dedicated children. Throughout the competition, these young athletes exemplified the very values we endeavour to instil: unwavering support for one another, exceptional teamwork, and gracious sportsmanship. Their journey to the final was marked by consistent excellence, and at the final event, both teams secured fourth place in their respective age groups. This achievement stands as a powerful reminder that success is not solely measured by a singular outcome, but rather by the character, perseverance, and mutual encouragement demonstrated throughout.

Looking ahead, our attention now turns to our forthcoming school production, where our Key Stage 2 children are preparing to embark upon a piratical adventure. Rehearsals are progressing with considerable enthusiasm and energy, and I eagerly anticipate witnessing the creativity and talent that will undoubtedly be showcased.

As we continue to navigate this final stretch of the academic year, I remain immensely grateful for the commitment, support, and enthusiasm demonstrated by our entire school community. Thank you.

Serena Courtney - Headteacher

Why not send us a story, a picture, an event you are celebrating or an advert or a letter, so we can share it with everyone in the village via this magazine? We'd love to hear from you.....

thehorspathmagazine@gmail.com

Horspath Parish Council

Following the resignation of Mr Philip Hookham, HPC is currently advertising a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Please contact the Clerk:-
clerk@horspathparishcouncil.org for more information. Thanks to Mr Hookham for his help and support during his time as Parish Councillor.

- **The refurbishment of the village hall project** is still on-going and the planning application has now been registered with South Oxfordshire District Council. More information to follow.
- **The planning application for the new brick built bus shelter** has now been registered with South Oxfordshire District Council. More information to follow.
- **Councillors approved the Statement of Accounts** and Sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR 2025/26 at the June meeting. The Internal Audit has now been completed and recommendations will be reviewed and implemented where necessary.
- **Councillors have recently accepted two quotations:-** to cut back the vegetation in the burial ground, and to cut back the vegetation at The Pound. Work will take place in August 2026.
- **Following several incidents of fly-tipping**, a “No Fly-tipping” sign has been ordered and will be installed at the top of Cuddesdon Road to stop fly-tipping in this area.
- **Councillors have recently instructed Oxfordshire County Council to go ahead and carry out three speed surveys in the village:-** Oxford Road by the Village Hall, Cuddesdon Road by the allotments and Gidley Way by the bus stop at Gateley.
- **A review of the Burial Ground Rules & Fees has recently taken place.** No changes were made.
- **Potholes in the village** continue to be a problem and are reported to Fix-My-Street.
- **The problem with vans parked at Gateley** has been reported to South Oxfordshire District Council and a request submitted for it to be a parking area for the residents of Gateley.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Notices

Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice – S14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
Temporary Road Closure at Cuddesdon, Church Road
In the interests of public safety; it will be necessary for Oxfordshire County Council to close the road as detailed above in order to facilitate bridge deck removal and a new bridge deck installed, with the road subsequently resurfaced. A temporary Notice is being made to implement the temporary closure and will operate from 17 August 2026 up to and including 18 August 2026. This will operate between 09:30 and 15:30. Notices for urgent works can last up to 5 consecutive days only.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice – S14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
Temporary Road Closure at Horspath, Gidley Way, OX33 1TB
A request has been received from M Group Water for a temporary road closure to apply to a length of Gidley Way, whilst essential excavate, recovery and repair missing valve– backfill and reinstate works are carried out. A temporary Notice is being made by Oxfordshire County Council to implement the temporary restriction and will operate from 01 September 2026 up to and including 03 September 2026. This is a 24 hour daily road closure. Notices for urgent works can last up to 5 consecutive days only.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice – S14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
Temporary Road Closure, No Loading & No Unloading at Garsington, Denton Lane. A request has been received from Sunbelt Rentals Ltd for a temporary road closure, no loading & no unloading to apply to a length of Denton Lane, whilst essential to access joint boxes for cabling works are carried out. A temporary Notice is being made by Oxfordshire County Council to implement the temporary restriction and will operate on 13 August 2026. This will operate between 09:30 and 15:30. Notices for urgent works can last up to 5 consecutive days only.



Oil Heating Help

Do you live in Oxfordshire and are you struggling to afford your home oil heating costs? The Oxfordshire Crisis Support Scheme might be able to help you.

Oxfordshire Crisis Support Scheme | Oxfordshire County Council

If you have any questions, please contact the Crisis Support Team:

Phone: 01865 804171

Email: RSSOxfordshire@necsws.com

Webpage: Oxfordshire Crisis Support Scheme | Oxfordshire County Council

Residents who might not be eligible for oil heating financial support through the Oxfordshire Crisis Support Scheme can still seek advice from the friendly team at Better Housing Better Health. The team can help to support you with things such as a free warmth and wellbeing assessment for your home, advice on what other fuel grants are available, energy saving tips etc.

You can reach the Better Housing, Better Health by:

Phone: 0800 107 0044 Email: bhbh@nef.org.uk Web: www.bhbh.org.uk

For any other cost-of-living enquiries, please contact the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council Community Hub. The team is here and happy to help.

Phone: 01235 422600 option 3

Email: Communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

- 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
- 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 Stone Pit Charity

The next meeting of Horspath Stone Pit Charity will be held in September 2026. The closing date for applications to be considered at the September meeting is 1st September 2026.

At the last meeting held in June 2026, the following grants were awarded:-

2 Organisations grants were deferred.

8 Individual applications were successful.

Individual Grants	
1 x School Trip	£200.00
2 x Swimming Lessons	£400.00
2 x School Uniform	£400.00
2 x Scout Explorer Belt	£400.00
1 x Meal Voucher Scheme	£7000.00
Total	£8,400.00

A total of £8,400.00 was awarded.

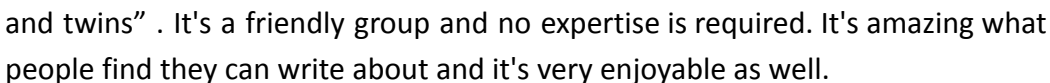
Trustees would like to remind all residents who are successfully awarded a grant that receipts must be provided to the value of the grant within 3 months of receipt. Failure to provide a receipt to confirm how the grant has been spent, will result in no further grants being awarded.

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Wednesday 23rd September 2026 @ 7.30pm
The HUB - AGM

Saturday 3rd October 2026
We're having a **PARTY** to celebrate the refurbishment of the Hub. Watch out for further information nearer the time

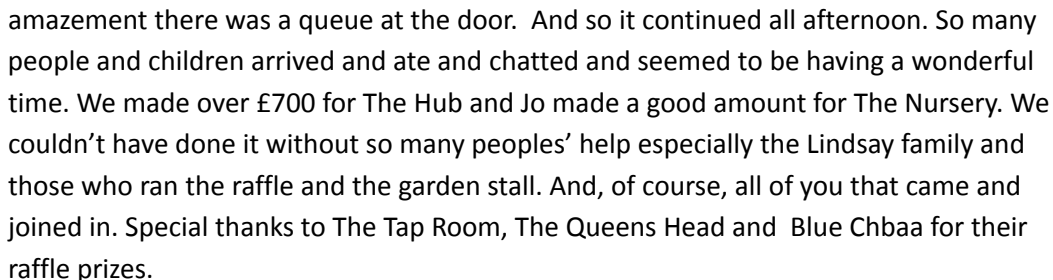


I know that you have...everybody does, and I am inviting you to join our Creative writing Group. We meet in The Hub about every 6 weeks on a Thursday afternoon and recent titles of our efforts have included "Teachers, rubbish, gems

annaradcliffe@gmail.com

It's raining, it's pouring...

Clearly no lounging about in the Hub garden but we did have scones with cream and jam, children's teas, cakes and more cakes, a raffle with very good presents and an excellent garden stall. Not to forget Jo and her children's tombola. So we held our breath as 2pm approached and to our



Anna Radcliffe

POST OFFICE COMMUNITY GROUP

The Post Office Community Group has worked very hard over the past 15 months trying to find a way to reinstate the Outreach Post Office at the Horspath Hub on Friday mornings.

The Post Office Ltd. flatly refuses to fund the Outreach, so we have had to be creative. We have applied to the Horspath Stone Pit Charity for a grant to fund the Outreach for a trial period of three years and we are getting there. Judy Kent is unable to take up the post of Post Office Assistant owing to her age and accompanying health issues, so the only hold-up is finding somebody to do it.

Thank you to Rebecca Brown for taking up the reins earlier this year when Judy was unwell. If you think you would like to become the new Post Office Assistant for half a day a week, please read the advert below and then contact Judy or Rebecca if you are interested and want to find out more, many thanks:

Horspath Outreach Post Office - Vacancy

A community group is hoping to re-establish the Outreach Post Office that operated from the Hub on Friday mornings. This is an interesting position for the right person.

At present we are looking for an expression of interest. The job will entail 4 ½ to 5 hours on a Friday morning, roughly between 9 am and 2 pm, Those hours include time to collect and deliver equipment from the Post Office in Wheatley. It will be paid at the minimum wage of £12.71 an hour. It is an opportunity to be part of a friendly environment during the weekly coffee morning at the Hub and to contribute a much-needed service for many in the village. Training will be given.

Judy Kent: j.kent946@gmail.com
07990 677579

or

Rebecca Brown: rcbggables@hotmail.com

Runnymede



It's 9.30am on the dot and the coach pulls out of Horspath for the **Senior Residents' outing to Runnymede**. Exciting to be going to such a historic place where the Magna Carta was sealed in 1215 by King John on the insistence of his barons. It has laid the foundations for modern democracy

across the world. However, no time to explore the monuments commemorating this event as we boarded a boat to take us on a slow trip, passing through two locks, up the river to Windsor. An onboard commentary entertained us for most of the trip, pointing out historic features along the way. We passed The Bells of Ouzeley, a historic riverside pub, which gets its name from the peal of bells which belonged to Chertsey Abbey that were supposedly dropped into the river here. It is also the site of an original ferry crossing to Old Windsor. We floated past Home Park, enclosed by Oliver Cromwell and caught a glimpse of Frogmore Cottage. 11th Century Windsor castle, the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world can't be missed since it stands in an imposing position on a hill overlooking the River Thames. At Windsor Bridge we had to vacate the top deck since the roof of the boat has to be lowered to allow the boat through. This bridge was first built in 1723 and rebuilt in its current form in 1822 as a pedestrian crossing connecting Windsor and Elton College, the world -famous boarding school founded by King Henry VI in 1440. Lots of wild life to spot too - swans and Canada geese in abundance but no sign of the promised blue kingfisher.

We disembarked at Windsor to enjoy a leisurely lunch by the river and a stroll around the town. It would be great to visit the castle but it is closed on Wednesdays! Another trip maybe?

By 4pm we were all aboard the coach for our journey home.

Thank you to the Senior Residents committee for organising the day.

Sue Rowell - Our very own Roving Reporter

Horspath Village & Dog Show

Saturday 5th September 2026

Village Hall & Bowley Field, Horspath

Welcome to the **Horspath Village & Dog Show 2026!**

This is your chance to share what you grow, bake, make, or love — **everyone is welcome, beginners included!** You don't need to be an expert — just give it a try.

✓ **Village Show:** £1 per entry — flowers, fruit, veg, baking, preserves, crafts, photography, and children's classes too. Cups and shields to be won!

✓ **Dog Show:** £2 per entry — all ages, breeds, and crossbreeds welcome, with rosettes and a **Best in Show** award.

One entry per class per person.

10.00am to 10.30am Dog show entries registration on Bowley Field.

10.00am to 11.30am Village show entries registration and cafe open in Village Hall. Exhibits to be displayed on white plates (supplied at registration) unless otherwise stated.

10.00am to 12pm Cafe open in Morgan Room Village Hall

10.30am Dog Show Starts on Bowley Field.

11.30am to 12.30pm Judging takes place. The Village Hall is closed to the public and exhibitors.

1pm Village Hall reopens to the public.

1pm - 3pm Cafe open in Morgan Room

1.30pm Show Prize Giving followed by the Raffle

3pm Close.

All proceeds from the show will go towards next year's show and show prizes. Any questions, please email show committee:

haa.horspath@gmail.com

Registration Forms

One form per person. Available on the day at registration point.

Dog Show £2 per entry.

Village Show £1 per entry.

Dog Show on Bowley Field

10.30am Best Puppy (12 months or under)

10.40am Best Veteran (7+)

10.50am Best (single) Trick

11.00am Young Dog Handler

11.10am Prettiest Lady

11.20am Handsome Man

11.30am Best Crossbreed

11.40am Best Purebreed

Village Show in Village Hall

Floral (Class numbers 1-4)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. 3 Same flowers and colour in vase | max 46cm x 46cm. |
| 2. Garden flower arrangement (cut flowers) | 3. 3 Different flowers in vase |
| | 4. A Statement flower |

Fruit (Class numbers 5-7)

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 5. Display of mixed fruit | 7. 3 of another Fruit (same fruit) |
| 6. 3 Dessert apples | |

Vegetables (Class numbers 8-17)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 8. Display of vegetables | 14. A 'disaster' fruit or vegetable |
| 9. 3 Onions | 15. A member of Squash, Pumpkin or Marrow family |
| 10. 3 Carrots | 16. Exotic fruit or vegetable |
| 11. 3 Potatoes | 17. Cabbage or Cauliflower |
| 12. 3 Tomatoes | |
| 13. Longest runner bean | |

Baking (judged on appearance & taste) (Class numbers 18-20)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 18. Swiss Roll | 19. 5 Scones - Sweet or Savoury |
| | 20. Shortbread |

Preserves (judged on appearance & taste) (Class numbers 21-22)

21. Pot of Jam or Jelly

22. Pot of Chutney or Pickle

Homebrew (judged on appearance & taste) (Class numbers 23-24)

23. Beer

24. Other

Crafts Cup awarded for Crafter of the Year (Class numbers 25-28)

25. Autumn Wreath (fresh or Artificial)

26. Soft Craft

27. Hard craft

28. Drawing or painting

Photography (Class number 29) Submit in pdf format by 20 August.

29. Theme is Colours - email entries to:
rob@robjudges.com

Children's (Class numbers 30-32)

30. 3 Decorated Cup Cakes

32. Painting or Drawing

31. Mr or Mrs Potato Head

The following Annual Cups, Shields will be Awarded:

1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards are given in each class.

The Cath Riley Village Show cup is given to the overall winner, the adult with the most points accumulated in the show.

The Junior cup is given to the child with the most points accumulated over all classes.

The Roy Grant cup for Preserves

The Horspath Photographer of the Year Cup

The Horspath Crafter of the Year Cup

Fruit and Vegetable Shield

Floral Shield

HOW TO ENTER

- **Dog Show:** Register from **10:00am** on Bowley Field; judging starts at **10:30am**.
- **Village Show:** Bring entries to the Village Hall between **10:00am – 11:30am**.
- *Exhibits to be displayed on plates (provided) unless otherwise stated.*
- Judging takes place **11:30am – 12:30pm**; the Hall reopens to the public at **1:00pm**.

Come along, join in, browse the displays, and enjoy refreshments. Our show thrives because of *you* — let's make this year the best yet!

We look forward to seeing you there!

— *The Horspath Village Show Committee*

Horspath Cricket Club retain Oxfordshire Village Cup Crown

Horspath Cricket Club celebrated being crowned Oxfordshire champions for the fifth time in six years in the Cawston Press Village Cup with a 139-run win over Langford in the regional final at the Recreation Ground. **Stephen Green** (63no), captain Amin Rafiq (54) and Dan Todd (53) shone in a total of 256-6, before Langford were bowled out for 117 with around 200 spectators in attendance. **It took Horspath** into the last 32 nationally where the side claimed a dramatic one-wicket win at home to Glamorgan & Gwent champions Clydach in a last-ball thriller. **Chasing the Swansea side's** 185-8 in front of a 300-strong crowd, Todd starred with 83 before the last pair of Ryan Hicks and Liam Turnbull saw the side over the line. **Horspath supporters** were out in force again to follow the side on the road to Lord's for the sixth-round tie at Goatacre but it wasn't to be as the Wiltshire side ran out winners by 147 runs. **In Home Counties Premier Cricket League Division 2**, Sravan Konidena excelled with 104 in a 27-run win at Gerrards Cross and 99 in a seven-wicket loss at Oxford. **Horspath 2nd**, meanwhile, went top of Cherwell League Division 1, with their successes including a 10-wicket win at second-placed Aston Rowant 2nd. **In Division 3B**, Josh Cummings took 7-20 for Horspath 3rd in a seven-wicket win at home to Thame Town 2nd and Luke Finch hit 122 in an 88-run victory over Wolvercote. **On the same day** as the match against Clydach, Horspath hosted a Women & Girls' Softball Festival with more than 80 players enjoying a fun competition. Including spectators, it meant around 500 people were involved in cricket on the Recreation Ground. **Meanwhile**, Horspath made a flying start to their Home Counties Women's Cricket League campaign with a club record score of 200-2 in a 134-run home win over Chesham 2nd. Abigail Wallace (41 ret no) and Irum Ibrahim (35 ret no) led the way. **In another busy summer** for Horspath's youth

teams, Zach Rayner provided a highlight with 86 in a 57-run win for the Under 15s away to Tiddington. **Looking ahead**, the club is planning a Charity Day on Sunday, August 30, while the annual Feast Match is on Sunday, September 20.



Horspath celebrate winning the Oxfordshire final of the Cawston Press Village Cup.

Picture: © Les Gordon Photography

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends, I'm writing this on Wednesday 15th July – half-way through the last week of the school year for pupils and staff and, also, the day that England is due to play Argentina in the World Cup semi-finals. I'm spending much of this week in school – mostly in Garsington CE Primary School, but I'll also be welcoming Horspath CE Primary School into St Giles' Church on Friday for their Year 6 leavers' service. Today, though, I've been in Garsington, where I'm leading Be Space (Prayer Spaces in Schools). We have transformed a mobile classroom into a space for calm reflection, peace and prayer. (The prayer is optional and invitational). We have a gazebo, drapes, cushions, fairy lights, a bubble tube, play sand, play doh, inflatable globes and flags of different nations. Pupils have the opportunity to complete four different activities and – if they wish – to pray:

- write or draw in play sand to say sorry and receive forgiveness;
- please prayers or requests, using a bubble tube to represent our requests;
- create a play doh model of something you are thankful for
- think about the world and situations you have seen on the news, or places and people you care about; locate the place on the inflatable globe and write or draw your hopes or prayers

Today, as world-cup fever intensifies, many of the pupils' prayers are football-related: "Come on, England," "please let England win," "England win the world cup," "Don't let Messi score!" But there are also many prayers praying for Ukraine, Syria, Iran, Venezuela; for an end to wars: prayers for families and friends; prayers expressing anxiety and hopes for the move to secondary school; prayers for pets and animals; prayers for the world; and for issues including pollution, climate change and homelessness.

Although we always make prayer invitational and optional when working with our local schools, I am always heartened by pupils' spirituality; and their willingness to pray, to express gratitude, and to accept that God hears their prayers and answers them.

Today, I have two suggestions, for those who are inclined to pray:

- 1) please pray for our schools (particularly Horspath CE Primary School and Horspath Nursery) – for all pupils, staff and governors but particularly for our Year 6 leavers, who will be starting at secondary schools in September; and also for those who will be starting primary school in September
- 2) take some time to be calm and to reflect or pray. Be child-like – would playdoh, or colouring, or a similar activity, help you to be still, to be thankful, and to know yourself to be loved by the God who created us in God's image, for relationship?

Stay safe, and stay hydrated in this warm weather. **God Bless, Revd. Tom**

Services at St Giles' Church

August and September 2026

August	September
Sunday August 2nd - Trinity 9 11am Morning Worship 11am Sunday Funtime in the Hub	Sunday 6th Sept - Trinity 14 11am Morning Worship 11am Sunday Funtime in the Hub
Sunday 9th August - Trinity 10 11am Parish Communion	Sunday 13th Sept - Trinity 15 11am Parish Communion 3pm Story-Time Church in the Forest Church at Ripon College <i>ALL Children & Adults welcome. Stories and conversation round a campfire with hot chocolate, marshmallows and other refreshments</i>
Sunday 16th August - Trinity 11 11am for 11.15am Family Time	
Sunday 23rd August - Trinity 12 11am Parish Communion	
Sunday 30th August 10am Feast of St Giles <i>Join us for a special service to celebrate our Patron Saint. A service for children and adults, includes children's activities & cake!</i>	Sunday 20th Sept - Trinity 16 11am for 11.15am HARVEST Family Time
	Sunday 27th Sept - Trinity 17 11am - HARVEST Parish Communion

And in St Giles' Church..... (Thursdays)

3rd September - New Beginnings **1st October** - Autumn
5th November - Colours **3rd December** - Christmas

Chatter & Clatter
 (For Pre-School Children)
 Come and join us for tea/coffee and cakes between **1.30pm - 3pm**.
 All Welcome
 Meet some of the younger members of our community and chat to their parents.

Action Stations
 (After School Activities)
 From 3.15 - 4.30pm
 Activities include, craft, games and refreshments
 All Welcome

Look out for ...

Giant boulders (also known as doggers)

Doggers are huge compact masses that formed in sediments from the Jurassic period.

During the Jurassic period, Oxfordshire was submerged beneath a shallow sea, which deposited clay, limestone, sand and gravel sediments. Most sediments around Shotover were clay, but there were also layers of sand known as Shotover grit sand. The doggers on Shotover 'grew' in this sand over millions of years as minerals in the groundwater (such as calcium) stuck to the boulders and cemented the sand together. When the surrounding sand eroded away, the doggers were exposed.

Where to look: The Sandpit – follow the Red Trail (pick up a leaflet for the Red Trail at the car park or download here:

<https://www.shotover-wildlife.org.uk/leaflets.htm>).

Did you know? Legend refers to Shotover's doggers as Giants' Marbles – the giants were said to throw them at each other. Shotover doggers have also been called Matilda's Tears: in 1141, Empress Matilda, daughter of Henry I, was fleeing her enemies in London and wept as Oxford (and safety) came into view. The doggers represent her fossilised tears.



Compiled by Shotover Wildlife, an independent community organisation, founded to research and communicate the importance of Shotover's wildlife.

Photo by Jacqueline Wright.

*More Extracts from 'Around the Countryside with S.P.S Mais
Published by Bradley Press. Circa 1955*

...there was one ancient present, 'Taff Gardiner, the gravedigger, like myself a septuagenarian, and we sat over the fire remembering good old days when the South Oxfordshire used to meet on the Green, and the Christ Church Beagles, to which I was formerly Whip, used to hunt their hares. Then Frank Crook breezed in for less than a minute on his way home for dinner, and I had to take his hat off before I recognised the bald head of the most famous footballer that Horspath ever produced. Frank showed me the photograph of the 1950-1 team. 'Four cups and a shield that year' he said proudly. 'Not bad going'.

Below a picture of an even earlier team



Horspath F.C. Winners of the Junior League & Junior Cup, 1949-50 season.

Back row, L-R:

Sid Shepherd (linesman), Ken Gomm (Treasurer), Keith Walker, George Wright, Alfie Finch, Tony Miliner, Mick Butler, Len Johnson, Pop Miliner (Manager & trainer), Sid Parris (Asst. trainer).

Front row, L-R: Harry Shepherd, Frank Crook, Fred Tidmarsh (Captain), Ken Sharp, Bob Walker.

A Letter from Freddie van Mierlo MP

I hope you have been able to remain comfortable in the recent heatwave - it has certainly underlined the urgent need to better prepare our communities for the many challenges of a changing climate. Last month I participated in Greener Henley's Community Resilience Briefing, which brought together leaders and decision-makers from local organisations to watch the 'People's Emergency Briefing' film and discuss how Henley and the surrounding area can prepare for the growing impacts of climate change. I was proud to take a 'Spread the Word' pledge, committing to champion local climate and nature action and encourage wider participation across the constituency. While we should not let governments and major industries off the hook, individual actions can combine to create the collective momentum needed to drive positive change, encourage practical local action to help ensure our constituency is greener, healthier and better prepared for the challenges ahead. In the Commons I have recently spoken on issues affecting mums and mums to be - including asking a question to the Health Secretary on negative experiences with health visitors and a need for training, and shared my thoughts on the shocking revelations of the Donna Ockenden report. I was also proud to be able to show my support for **better paternity** pay in sporting an 'Extra Time for Dads' football jersey to mark Men's Health Week. At PMQ's I asked the Prime Minister to intervene in a case of sewage spilling into a pensioner's garden in Wheatley. The Prime Minister agreed, and after my question the Minister for Water and Flooding Emma Hardy met with me and the constituent to discuss the issue and has promised to take action to address the issue – it was brilliant to be able to shine a light on a longstanding local issue in Westminster and have it addressed at the highest levels. Other recent Westminster highlights include my hosting of a parliamentary showcase on Alzheimer's and dementia for researchers from across the UK, including Oxford. This issue is close to my heart; I'll never forget a doorstep exchange I had with a lady in tears at the stresses and strains of caring for her husband with the condition, and my own grandfather who lived with Alzheimer's for many years under the care of my grandmother - one day I hope the pain I witnessed on the doorstep that time will be no longer. Also on the topic of health, I gave a speech in the Commons on a relatively unknown condition called PANS and PANDAS; the debate raised awareness of the neuropsychiatric condition, and the struggles families are facing across the country with a lack of recognition. I highlighted our wonderful constituent Albie, who has been writing letters to the King and Prime Minister on behalf of his older brother. On the hottest day yet of the year, Albie and his mum braved the trains - and were heard at the highest levels. Well done! And finally, as we mark two years since I was elected MP for Henley and Thame and our 18,000 casework milestone I wanted to reiterate that I'm always here to help the constituents I continue to feel so proud to serve - please don't hesitate to contact me at freddie.van.mierlo.mp@parliament.uk should you ever need to.



**All children new and existing will be settling into the
Nursery from**

Wednesday 2nd September 2026 for term 1.

During term 1 we will be looking at settling, All About Me and My Family, Favourite Stories, Things I did over the Summer Holidays, Wild Animals, Space and the Moon, Forest Animals and Hibernation, Autumn and Halloween.

Our fundraising events for term 1 will be to fill your heart trinket box with money and decorate the box to return. Your child could win a prize for the best decorated box. If you would like to take part, please contact me for a trinket box. The deadline for return is Monday 12th October 2026.



Baby group restarts Horspath Hub from Monday 7th September at 9:30am until 10:30am. To book a place please get in touch with Jo via email – staff@horspathnursery.org.uk

Look out for posters on the village noticeboard advertising our fundraising events.



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

staff@horspathnursery.org.uk
Tel: 01865 876750

HORSPATH SHOPS & POST OFFICE

There were certainly grocers in Horspath before the shop we know today, including Ann Surman in 1851, Ann Shepherd (1862), Jonathan Surman (1874), and Harriet Lee by 1881, but the locations of their premises is not exactly known. The first mention of a post office in Horspath is in 1861, when William Pether was sub-postmaster, at first what was to be no less than five different locations up to and including the Hub.

Today's shop, as we all know it, has been trading since 1953, when Fred Coppock established it in its present location, though looking somewhat different to the Londis of today! Prior to this the village grocers and post offices had gone hand in hand elsewhere, and the 1881 map locates the first post office at Manor Cottage, Church Road, then in the hands of Miss Harriet Lee. By 1901 she had moved to Oxford Road, on the site of the present garage, and by 1911 was succeeded by Ernest Carey, and later Samuel Brooks. Yet another change in location occurred when, in the 1920s, Fred Harper began trading next to the "Chequers" at what is now 24 The Green, a small shop and post office continuing there from 1948 under Kathleen Harper. It was at this period in 1953, during Kathleen's tenure, Fred Coppock opened the shop of today at 2, Church Road. It next became Mills's shop, followed by Pete & Else Lindfield until they left, and Barry & Patricia Jackson ran it for just a few months in 1989. Barbara and John Lewis took over - amusingly providing the village with its own "John Lewis" store ! Shortly after, they too absorbed the post office function from Kath Harper, and after another ten years, we welcomed Jayshree and Vipin Patel, who are still here today. Sadly the post office was closed down following the dreadful GPO "Horizon" computer scandal, and had to be replaced by local initiative with the post office opening on Friday mornings at the Hub, run by Judy Kent. ... the fifth such location in the

village. This too has been removed..... will Horspath ever regain its post office ?

Brian Lowe

*Fred Coppock's shop in the
1950s with the South Oxon
Hunt in attendance*





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During the workshop you'll learn practical, ready-to-use activities for focus, literacy, coordination, emotional regulation and learning readiness. Led by Anna Mitchell, an experienced International Kinesiology College Trainer and kinesiologist, with many years of experience supporting children, families and educators.

Dates: 8–9 August & 15–16 August, 9.00 am – 5.30 pm

Cost: £495 including manual, for both weekends

Venue: The Horspath Hub, The Green, Horspath, Oxford OX33 1RP

No prior experience needed. You'll leave with a toolkit of simple movements to use at home, work or in daily life.

For details or booking: call 07564 009423, email annamitchell@me.com or visit www.annamitchell.co.uk.

Two Table Tennis Tables Today

On Tuesday 23rd June at Horspath Hub, Table Tennis continued being played, but on **brand new tables!** They had been using their existing ones every week for well over 10 years, but after legs became bent and bits dropped off, (I am referring to the tables, not the players!), it was time to think about getting new ones. The tables used each week are large, heavy duty with big wheels enabling them to be manoeuvred into position from storage; and expensive. With only limited funds they applied to South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council and were successful in securing an “Everyone Active Grant” enabling them to purchase two tables combining the grant with their funds. All the Club members are very grateful for the SODC support which will see them continuing to play for many years to come, without bits dropping off!

Editor



(Visit: www.horspathhub.co.uk - the 'CLASSES' tab for information about joining)

Shirley Woodcock

16th April 1937 - 29th April 2026



Shirley was a remarkable woman whose life left a lasting mark on her family, business, and the community of Horspath. Far from the traditional role expected of women in her generation, she was a hardworking and capable leader.

During her time as a machinist at Morris Motors, she rose to supervise a team of workers, and later played a key role in building up the family business — a legacy that continues today. Modest, down-to-earth, and straightforward, she achieved much without ever seeking praise.

Her contribution to village life was immense. For many years she served as Chair of the Parish Council and was involved in almost every aspect of community activity. Most notably, she gave great support to the Horspath Scout Band, which attracted up to 40 local children and became All England Marching Champions for four years running. With a keen sense of what was happening around her and a talent for storytelling, Shirley was someone everyone turned to for news and advice.

Family was central to her life. She met Norman at a dance, and they shared 70 years of marriage. Through hard work and good business sense, they made their home in Horspath and developed several properties. They raised two children, Neil and Carolyn, and delighted in their four grandchildren: Freddie, Brandon, James and Emma. Shirley also loved to travel, enjoying wonderful holidays including three cruises to the Caribbean.

She and Norman were also devoted supporters of Oxford United, and she was a familiar, friendly face at matches on Saturday afternoons. Shirley's faith was quiet but clear — shown not in words, but in how she lived: caring for others, serving her community, and loving her family. She spent her final days at home, surrounded by loved ones and able to look out over her courtyard and watch the birds. She leaves behind a space that will be hard to fill. We give thanks for her long, full life, and our thoughts and prayers are with Norman and all her family.

May she rest in peace



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WEDNESDAY 19TH AUGUST

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HORSPATH VILLAGE HALL

*Everyone
Welcome*

Horspath Photocontest

Submit by: Thursday 20th August

Win a trophy, and get a
framed print of your
picture at the Village show
on 5th September!

THE THEME IS
COLOUR



E-mail entries to
rob@robjudges.com



Title should include your name
and files should be **jpgs**.



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No AI generated images please

