



Horton Gazette



PROP: HORTONSIA HEARSAY: DIPSO & BAR

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Horton Village Hall Management Committee

Once again Stuart Davey has organised the Village Flower Show which was held over the weekend of 12th August 2023. There was a great show of Flowers, Vegetables & Crafts with many children's entries, and entry numbers increased against last year. Attendance was also very good. It was so lovely to see so many villagers supporting the very small Committee of this Annual Event and praise must be given to the many helpers who turn out each year (see P6). The Bricks of Remembrance are now all fixed to the wall in the Foyer and people are very pleased with the result. There have now been further enquiries about the bricks, so if anyone else would like to purchase one this is still an ongoing project. Hall bookings continue at pace so if you have any special events & would like to book- please check the web page for available dates. A schedule of works for the interior and exterior decorating of the Hall will hopefully be completed over the Christmas period & Spring of next year prior to the Marquee being erected. We have accepted a quote for repairs to fencing & for gardening requirements. The Parish Council organised hedge trimming & weeding of the footpath on the approach to the village hall in time for the Flower Show. I have contacted the contractor to trim the road hedge down to the bridge when permitted in September. **PLEASE NOTE: The AGM will be held Wednesday 15th November at 7.30pm. Come along & support your Village Hall Management Committee...** Ken White 01460 53450 or kenneth939@btinternet.com Chair of HVH Management Committee



STOP PRESS: **REVD PHILIP ALBROW APPOINTED NEW RECTOR FOR ISLE VALLEY BENEFICE** - p6

HORTON: HERE'S A HOW ! ...WITH CONTINUED APOLOGIES TO DR SEUSS

Honiton to Horton—The Coaching Age 2. We begin this chapter as we ended the last with the widow Ann Nelson, owner of *The Bull Inn* at Whitechapel but now able to devote space to her contribution to *the New Direct Line*. As a remarkable businesswoman & a rare female coach operator, it is no surprise nor is it hyperbole to say that she galvanised it. Coach activity more than doubled as she invested heavily and ended the Subscription coaches' monopoly of the route. The resulting success spoke to both her acumen and to the Line's growing maturity as the fastest route to the southwest. It is difficult to know exactly which came first. Mrs Nelson began with the *Defiance* followed almost immediately by the *Celerity*. From 1826 her *Defiance* stagecoach went daily from Piccadilly to Exeter via Ilminster, leaving *The Bull Inn* at 8.30pm, and matching the *Subscription's* 21 hour schedule. She also added two Post Coaches, known even before Mail coaches came to prominence as the upper end of the coaching hierarchy being the speediest & most comfortable of public conveyances. For those wishing to avoid mixing with strangers, they took just 4 inside passengers (and only limited baggage) at prices which kept out the riffraff. These left *The Bull Inn* for Plymouth at 9.15 am and 4.30pm respectively. Lastly, there was a new express coach: *The Exeter Telegraph*, built for speed. Leaving *The Bull Inn* at 5.30am it offered a 20 minute breakfast at Bagshot, and a 30 minute dinner at Deptford Inn (Salisbury Plain), before arriving at the Half Moon, in Exeter at 10.30pm. The return trip spent 20 minutes at Ilminster and 30 mins at Andover: within an overall time of just **17 hours** either way. It was the first day coach between London and Exeter. The horses were swiftly changed 20 times. It was a direct rival to the *Devonport Mail* (aka *The Quicksilver*) introduced in the early 1820s which followed the alternative Yeovil (A30) rather than the more traditional Dorchester route to Exeter. This Mail coach had an average speed – including stops – of 10 miles 1¾ furlongs per hour. Leaving Piccadilly at 8pm arriving in Exeter next day at 12.34pm – a total of 16 hours and 34 minutes before arriving at Devonport at 5.14 pm or just 21 hours 14 minutes from London with 23 changes in the 216 miles. Such a journey had once taken 48 hours. The race for supremacy was on with the Nelson family (her son John took over on her retirement) taking *The New Direct Line* to a whole new level and not just by rivalling the *Subscription* coaches. They showed just how crucial speed now was to coaching success. But speed came with both risk & pricier fares, so the fainter hearts (and the purse pinched) used the more commodious and statelier 'Accommodation Coaches' on other routes. Names like *Telegraph*, or *Quicksilver* were

“EVENTS, DEAR BOY, EVENTS!!!”

This is where you get to learn what's happening in Horton Village in the coming season!



Sunflower Saturday!



Saturday 2nd September
from 10.30 to 3.30pm

Come and celebrate

SUNFLOWERS

with Sunflowers of Somerset

at Monks Yard, Horton Cross!

There will be a Sunflower Trail, Face Painting, Crafts for kids and a quiz for Mums and Dads!



See all the beautiful artwork done by children from Neroche and Herne View schools too!

**Qi Gong
Tai Chi
Classes**

An ancient form of exercise that benefits your physical and mental wellbeing.

The slow, gentle movements releases tension in your body and relaxes your mind allowing you to "go with the flow".

"I feel so utterly relaxed after Tai Chi and my life is much calmer"

"I love doing the gentle flowing movements knowing they are helping my body and mind"

"The best day of the week"

Starting Weds 6th September 2023
Horton Village Hall 11.30-12.30

Please wear comfortable clothing and flat shoes.

£6 a session - just turn up or for more information

email Jane on gussgnw55@gmail.com

**Scottish Country
Dancing**

Horton Village Hall TA19 9QR



It's good company It's good fun
It's great music
and you don't need a partner or any special equipment

Tuesdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Fully Qualified Teacher

Pay as you go - only £3 per session

For further information :-
www.ashillscd.wordpress.com

Anita Wilson 01460 929 383

e-mail: anitaandjim22@gmail.com



QUIZ NIGHT

at St Peter's
Saturday 21st October
At 7.00 for 7.30 pm

The Quiz will be held in the Church Room & run by Quizmaster General David Ireland.

Entry for a Team of 4 will be £16 or £4 each to include tea, coffee or squash.

Lots of fun, very popular, only 9 tables available so book early!

Bring your own drinks, glasses & nibbles.

Watch out for posters. Please contact

Roger Allen on 57702 to book a table.

Mollie Meadows Birthing

~ Pregnancy Relaxation Sessions ~

Join our next 6 week course of guided relaxation, connection, Bitesize birth prep and self-care with other Mama's-to-be.

These sessions are suitable for all stages of pregnancy, giving you dedicated time to slow down and connect with your baby while learning birth preparation tips from Hypnobirthing Coach, Mollie. Book 6 sessions or pay as you go!

Friday evenings, 6-7pm
8th September - 13th October
Horton Village Hall, Ilminster

Spaces are limited, booking essential

TO BOOK:

<https://molliemeadowsbirthing.co.uk/pregnancy-relaxation-course/>

Or contact Mollie:

07776358484

www.molliemeadowsbirthing.co.uk

@molliemeadows_birthing



**Horton
Christmas
Wine & Dine.**

This popular event is being held on Saturday 2nd December at 7.00 for 7.30pm.

The excellent news is that the price has stayed the same - £30.00 per head for a 3 course traditional dinner with coffee and mince pies.

Tickets for this event will go on sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 21st October at 10.00am.

This year each person can purchase a maximum of 4 tickets. On that morning you will also be able to select your own menu & table seating arrangements. It would help if you could have your menu choices with you when you buy your tickets.

Menus will be available on the village Facebook page, in the Village Hall and in the Post Office just prior to 21st October. Glyn Ottery

Yoga & Mindfulness at Horton Village Hall

Whether you already have a yoga practice, are a beginner or anything in between, you are very welcome to come and join this warm and welcoming space.

Mondays

9.30 - 10.30am Energising Morning Flow
Energising and dynamic movement with some standing balances and fun, playful challenges.

6.00-7.00pm Strong Mind & Body Yoga
We'll create warmth slowly and steadily with flowing movements, linked with a calming breath.

7.15pm-8.15pm Pregnancy Yoga
We will discover the tools to build strength in the body and mind to support you through your pregnancy and labour. We will move, breathe and bond with baby, bringing balance to mind and body.

Visit <http://www.lissamiltonyoga.co.uk> to book your spot. Contact me (Lissa) for more details on tel. 07977 565240 or email. hello@lissamiltonyoga.co.uk

Thursdays

10.00 - 11.15am Postnatal Yoga
We will learn baby massage and yoga, with playful songs, whilst building inner strength and flexibility in the postnatal body we ease aches and pains. A deeply nourishing practice finding space in the body and mind with ease of breath, calm and fun

EVENTS

10am - 1pm Sat 23rd September 2023
Autumn Equinox Retreat
Booking is essential to secure your place.

**Celebrate the 15th Annual
CRAFT FAIR @
Monks Yard on**

**28th October 2023
Doors Open
10am to 4 pm**

Free parking, delicious refreshments, entry free. 28 exceptionally talented local makers offer high quality affordable gifts for all ages.

**Start Christmas Shopping
or simply treat yourself**

Proceeds to Cats Protection
Margaret Harper

Learn to Dance

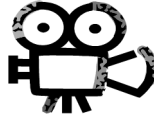
Ballroom/Latin Social Dancing on Sunday evenings with Val
6.00 pm - 7.00pm Intermediate class & 7.00pm - 8.00 pm Beginners plus
Everyone welcome For details please contact Val 07776093940



“EVENTS, DEAR BOY, EVENTS!!!”

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Horton Film Club



Films are on Thursday Evenings @ 7.30pm at the Hall

Our next 4 films have been selected:

21st September: *Allelujah*

19th October: *What's love got to do with it?*

16th November: *The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry*

21st December: *Barbie*

Our new year starts in October & the very good news is that prices remain the same - £25.00 for annual membership and £5 at the door. Membership gives you access to 11 films in the year and free access to our extensive back catalogue of DVDs.

Dates for 2024: Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 21, Apr 18, May 16, Jun 20, Jul 18, Sep 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19.

Glyn Ottery Chair. Horton Film Club

BRICKS ON THE WALL in the Hall

Thanks to all those who replied to my request in the last Gazette. I am now working on the next four lines of the bricks. Of these 42 bricks I can find no details for seven of them. *Could anybody please help me with the ones shown below?*

Row 5. No 9 MARK & BILL SPARKS

Row 5. No 11 PERCY AND FLORENCE SUMMERS

Row 6. No 9 PEARL & GRAHAM WINTER

Row 6. No 10 S AND G CLARK

Row 7. No 3 FOR MY MUM JOAN VIOLET PRIOR

Row 7. No 4 POLEY & MORPHAS ALL MY LOVE DAD

Row 8. No2 SPIRIT STILL BY OUR SIDE M.C&P

Please contact me if you feel that you can provide some details to go into the Hall archive for some future historian to gain a picture of our village at the time the Hall was built. Several new bricks have been added recently.

I will next be working on Rows 9-12

Contact me at: p.pickering148@btinternet.com

Paul Pickering

The LUNCH BUNCH

We had another excellent lunch in early July at a very remote pub - *The Sheppey Inn* at Lower Godney, near Glastonbury on the bank of the River Sheppey out on the peat moors. We have outline plans for a meeting in September at a Dorset pub 'somewhere near Evershot' Gill tells me. Details awaited. We will certainly be meeting in November. For this event we are very pleased to be making our annual return to what is our HQ - our very own *Five Dials* in Horton. I will post all on my list.

Paul Pickering 52229

The Horton Ramblers

For those of you who enjoy walking, you may wish to join our Horton Ramblers Group.

Walks usually take place on the 3rd Sunday of the month & are between 4 - 6 miles.

We meet by 10.20am for a 10.30am start.

Those interested are sent an email giving an outline of the walks.

Our next few walks in 2023 are

17th September, 15th October

19th November & 17th December

For further details or to be added to the email list please contact:

Ann 01460 54622, Gill 01460 52033

or Ian 01460 55839 Ann Winter

THE MEAT DRAW

The ever popular meat draw will run from October until Christmas. Entry into the draw which will run for 10 weeks will be £10. Meat from the draw will again be provided by Bonners of Ilminster. Proceeds will go to the Church Funds which are needed to maintain our Parish Church. Mike Baker on 54706 & Roger Allen on 57702 will once again run the draw. If you are able to support us, as in the past, we will be extremely grateful.



AUTUMN AT MONKS YARD

September tells us that Summer is on the wane and is going out in a blaze of fiery Autumnal glory. It also tells us that it's a new school term and after the warm and lazy days of Summer, it's time to get back into the swing of our various hobby groups at MONKS YARD which CONNECT us with our community of Horton and Broadway.

New this term is **MY LETTER WRITING FRIENDS** - technology has its place but there are still a lot of people out there who like to write and receive letters. Are you one of them? The lonely, the housebound, folk in hospitals and care homes who don't get too many visitors - they love to receive a letter to bring them a little bit of cheer and to let them know that someone cares. Come and join us as we send out letters with love. **Starting on Friday 15th September at 2.30pm** in the Monks Yard Café.

The **SINGING FOR FUN** Group which began in May proved to be very popular so it's back for the September term, only this time, it's on the **first Tuesday of the month - starting back on September 5th at 2pm**. It's not a choir - it's just a good old-fashioned sing-song for fun! Everybody is welcome, even if you can't sing a note! Come and make a joyful noise and have a good laugh at the same time! **For the start times of existing Hobby Groups see p4**

Marjorie Edwards

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Ding Gardening Club

at 7.30 pm in Horton Village Hall unless indicated.

Talks:

7th Sept : AGM & Jonny Hartnell: **Orchids**

5th Oct: Jenny Short: **Ponds & Water features** .

2nd Nov: Mickey Little: **Killerton Gardens**

New members are always welcome

More details from Stuart Davey

on 01460 55069

or on the Village Website:

www.hortonvillage.co.uk



Horton Parish Council

Horton Parish Council now meets monthly except in August & December on the second Thursday of each month.

Meetings start at 6.30 pm.

They are open to the public & are held in the Methodist Church in Pound Road.

The list of councillors, the agenda and minutes of meetings are displayed in the bus shelter in Goose Lane & on the Horton Parish Council Website. The website address is:

www.hortonparishcouncil.org.uk.

Ray Buckler Chair. Horton Parish Council

HOBBY GROUPS WHICH REGULARLY MEET AT MONKS YARD ARE:

MY Photography takes place on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. There is usually a theme for the evening to be photographed and discussed. **First meeting this term - Tues 5th Sept at 7pm.**

MY Word (for writers) welcomes all published, aspiring or wannabee writers to meet, write, brainstorm ideas and read out their work. **They meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10.30 am starting Sept 5th.**

MY Creative Crafts meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 10.30 am. We have knitters, cross-stitchers, painters and embroiderers ... bring your own craft and come join the chat and the coffee. Sometimes, we get some work done too! **Starts back on Mon. Sept 11th**

MY Carers welcomes anyone who is caring for a loved one. If you need support, advice or a shoulder to cry on, we are here for you. We meet on the third Thursday of the month for lunch together and share experiences with each other. Sometimes there is a speaker from a local organisation offering help and advice. **Starts back 21st Sept at 1pm.** Please contact Alison on 0777 1231996 if you'd like to come.

MY Workshop and Garden meet every Thursday morning between 9 am and 1pm to create stuff in the workshop or do the gardening in the extensive grounds. They love getting their hands dirty. **Starts back Fri 22nd Sept.**

MY Coffee Connect meets on the last Friday of the month at 10.30 just to get together and enjoy each other's company. There's no excuse for loneliness and if they feel intelligent, there's often a quiz. **Starts back 22nd Sept.**

And the important **MY Church** meets every Sunday at 10.30 for an alternative style of worship which is loving, prayerful, relational and radical which reaches out to the community around us. Come visit us sometime.

Everyone is welcome. For more information on any of the topics above, contact **MONKS YARD on 01460 200020** or email enquiries@themonksyard.co.uk website www.monksyard.co.uk. See also p3 Marjorie Edwards.



The HORTON COMPUTER HUB

@ Ilminster & Broadway Hill Methodist Church

The Hub is holding sessions 'by invitation'

on Tuesdays 2.30-4.30pm on the following dates.

Sept. 5th & 19th: Oct. 3rd & 17th: Nov. 7th and 21st.

The volunteers are happy to serve small numbers of students

If you have any IT problems with Microsoft, Apple or other devices, please contact: Roger Doughty on 01460 57069 or Sue Parsons on 07771 952799

or sue.parsons48@gmail.com. A place will be confirmed.

Contact would also be welcome from any who would like to know more about being a tutoring volunteer.

www.hortonvillage.co.uk



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ILMINSTER & BROADWAY HILL METHODIST CHURCH (IBHMC)

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

The Superintendent Minister Rev Andrew Longshaw & Friends of IBHMC are very pleased to see Rev Philip Albrow appointed Rector of the Isle Valley Benefice. We look forward to a continuing working relationship in the future!

Chattabox Coffee Group: meets every Thurs. 10.30 -12 noon.

You are welcome to drop in. Slinky Bus can provide transport; each passenger can register along with bus pass number by phoning 01935 477399.

On 28th Sept between 11.30am -12 noon Chatterbox is hosting a Coffee Morning for the Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning.

The **Village Agent** from the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) can help with advice on isolation, local groups meeting, finance, information or transport & many other issues.

Call CCS on **01823 331 222**. to speak to the Village Agent

Tuesday Group is meeting **every two weeks at 7.30pm** with a visit to The Five Dials starting 5th Sept. The alternate Tuesday is the **Small Study Group** in the IBHMC Lounge. For details contact Sue.

Ilminster Food Bank: At St Mary's Parish Rooms on Weds. 10-12 noon or during Foodshare on Sat. 10.15-11.15am. Send financial donations to St. Mary's Church, Ilminster TA19 0DU. Please mark **Foodbank** on the rear of the cheque. Please post or deliver the donation to the Parish Office, Barton Close, Ilminster.

Ilminster Food Share is open to all on Saturdays 10.15 -11.15 in The Minster Rooms. Bring your excess in-date produce or drop in to see what you can make use of.

Blythswood Care: Thank you for all contributions. Ideas for this month are tennis balls & soft balls. Harmony in the Ilminster Precinct has a box for collection of items for the Shoe Box Project.

See also P8 or the Village Website www.hortonvillage.co.uk

Contact details:

Sue Parsons on **07771 952799** or sue.parsons48@gmail.com or Superintendent Minister: Rev. Andrew Longshaw, **01460 76754** revap.longshaw@outlook.com

Rosie Crane Trust

We support bereaved parents through their grief after the loss of a son or daughter of any age

We offer the following services:

- 24hr Listening Ear Helpline with trained, volunteer bereaved parents answering the phone to other bereaved parents who need someone to talk to
- Regular pre-arranged calls to bereaved parents to provide support
- Monthly drop in coffee mornings, one on the first Saturday in the month at South Street Centre, 20 South Street, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 1QE, the other on the third Saturday in the month at Middleway Hall, Churchill Way, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3QW, where bereaved parents can meet informally and talk to others who have similar experiences to them in a friendly, safe, confidential environment
- A befriending service
- Subsidised counselling may also be considered for those in financial difficulties
- **Dates - Yeovil** - 2 Sep; 7 Oct; 4th Nov.
- **Dates - Taunton** - 16 Sep; 21 Oct; 18 Nov.
- *All from 10.30 - 12.30*

Contact information:

Online : www.rosiecranetrust.org

By email:

contact@rosiecranetrust.co.uk

By telephone: 01460 55120.

Carol Crane

“EVENTS, DEAR BOY, EVENTS!!!”

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Horton Village Hall
THE HORTON & BROADWAY ART GROUP



Meets on Monday afternoons
 From 1.00pm to 4pm

New members are welcome.
 Tel. Alan Kemp 01460 55922

Horton & District W. I.

Every second Weds. at 7.30pm (except Aug & Dec)
 in Horton Village Hall

13th Sept: The RNIB

Tricia Sail

11th Oct: Deaf Awareness

Emm Sharpe

8th Nov: Reflexology

Lynne Breen

6th Dec: Christmas Celebrations

Making Christmas decorations with the Isle Vally Flower Club & enjoying a Bring & Share Supper

Horton & District WI are a lively group and would like to invite ladies from 18 to 80+ to our meetings, held on the second Weds of the month (except August) at 7.30pm in Horton Village Hall. We host a variety of speakers & activities, & visitors are always welcome. This is also our 70th year and we have had a number of social events taking place to mark this occasion so please do join us.

For more information please contact Kat Ready on 01460 250859 or Pat Leeds on 01460 594072 or look at our page on the Horton Village Hall Website.

FLOWER ROTA - ST PETER'S CHURCH

We warmly invite ladies or gentlemen who would be willing to join our monthly Altar Flower Rota; usually twice a year. Please ring Jan Allen on 01460 57702 if you would like to be involved.



New Rector for Isle Valley Benefice

Congratulations to Revd Philip Albrow on his appointment as Rector for the Isle Valley Benefice from Monday, 2nd October 2023. We wish Revd Philip a happy time with us here in Horton. Revd Philip's licensing will be held at Donyatt Church on Monday 2nd October at 7pm followed by supper. All are welcome to attend. Roger Allen

ST. PETER'S CHURCH ROOM

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE:

The Church Room is available for the Community to hire at very reasonable rates. The room is ideal for functions of up to 45 people. It has a fully fitted kitchen with plates, crockery, knives, forks etc. and can be hired by ringing Helen Baker on 57406.

Lay Pastoral Assistant

Jan Allen is a Lay Pastoral Assistant in Horton. Anyone who would like a visit, or prayers said for any family, or friends who are unwell, please contact Jan on 01460 57702

DATES FOR YOUR DECEMBER DIARY

- 1st Dec: Christmas Tree Lighting
- 9th Dec: Christmas Coffee Morning + Stalls
- 18th December: Carol Service (Prouisionally)



The Horton Flower Show Report : 2023: We had another very successful Horton Flower Show on Saturday 12th August. Thank you to all of you who exhibited this year. In both adult and young persons' categories exhibitors and exhibits numbers were up again on last year as were those for first time exhibitors. The hall looked very colourful with all your wonderful exhibits of fruit, flowers, vegetables, cooking and crafts. Thank you to all who helped me on Friday afternoon to prepare the Hall with extra thanks to Annie Glibbery, Tony England & Jill Venus for laying out the Hall/spacing for the exhibits. Thank yous also go to: Annie Glibbery & Tony England for helping me organise the show; Jill Venus & Gill Grafton for writing out the winning certificates; the Horton and District W.I. for providing the teas and all the delicious cakes; they were kept extremely busy all afternoon; Shirley White and Jackie Moulding for selling raffle tickets; Ken White & Sue Henton for running the 50/50 draw; Tony & Denise England for the early start on Saturday manning the front desk & Derek Swain & Peter Bindon for manning the donation bucket; Les Bayliss for helping me with the trophy winners & Roger Doughty for taking the photographs, all of which are available on the Horton Village Website. I would also like to thank all the judges for their time & expertise in judging the exhibits, all the stewards for helping us in the morning & all who attended the show & anyone else I may have forgotten. Thanks also to all who stayed on Saturday to pack everything away at the end of the show & set up the tables and chairs for Sunday's service. Well done everyone for another successful Flower Show and a reminder that next year's Flower Show is on Saturday 10th August at 2pm.

Stuart Davey (Horton Flower Show Secretary)

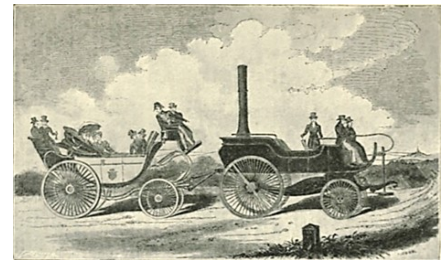
HORTON: HERE'S A HOW! - CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

synonyms for speed with equivalents on other routes. But the *Exeter Telegraph* and the *Devonport Quicksilver* rivalry stayed in the public eye. They were countrywide bywords for their respective classes of vehicles. *The Exeter Telegraph* was one of the two best appointed coaches in the kingdom...it drew up for its exact one minute and a half to change horses at the 'George'¹ on its Exeter-bound journey through Ilminster. Ironically whilst *Telegraphs* were named for the era's fastest form of communication it was actually a prosaic semaphore messaging system using hilltops. The electric signalling system only arrived in 1838. By the time it was pulled from service in the wake of the Great Western Railway c1848 *The Exeter Telegraph's* journey time was down to 14 hours. It could all have been so different because as Mrs Nelson was pouring money into horse drawn traffic on *The New Direct Line* in London, so Ilminster's Lord of the Manor, William Hanning was exploring an entirely new future for the same route. Hanning was fascinated by steam driven road vehicles becoming a director in 1826 of *'The Gurney Steam Carriage Company'*



A steam driven 'road carriage'.

formed by Sir Goldsworthy Gurney, an English gentleman-scientist from Cornwall. Whilst George Stephenson and others were working on the viability of steam powered locomotives on railroads, Gurney had patented 'an apparatus for propelling carriages on common roads or railways, without the aid of horses, with sufficient speed for the carriage of passengers and goods' In 1827 Hanning & Gurney signed a contract for these steam carriages. Hanning paid a deposit of £700 for a steam carriage to run from London to Exeter & Plymouth². In 1828 he paid £6,000 for a third share of the company and a further £2,000 followed. Having excellent connections including architect John Nash and the Prime Minister of the day, the Duke of Wellington, he soon became the company's chief financial backer. During a night trial run on 27th July 1827, Gurney drove a light steam-driven locomotive successfully from London to Bath averaging 14 mph (including fuelling & water). Despite some slight resistance to the concept, the future felt quite rosy after the Iron Duke asked for a steam carriage demonstration on 12 August 1829. So Hanning ordered 8 carriages for the route to Exeter and Plymouth at an estimated cost of £10,000. One year later, it all went awry when Sir Charles Dance - a fellow enthusiast - bought Gurney's carriages to attempt the first commercial steam driven road carriage service between Cheltenham and Gloucester³. Vested interests (wealthy horse-coach proprietors, narrow-minded country gentlemen & district magistrates) threatened by the new venture formed an unhealthy conspiracy. Using such dishonest tactics as parliamentary intrigue and false representations, they also pressured local turnpikes to levy such heavy tolls on steam carriages as to create a virtual trade prohibition as 2 shilling tolls for horse-drawn coaches became £2 for steam based traffic. For Dance's planned 4 journeys a day it was extortion. Furthermore, a foot of loose gravel was ruinously tipped on the highway. The injustice was particularly shocking given that their counterpart *railway* steam engineers were contemporaneously enjoying an Exchequer loan of £100,000. This proved the death knell for Hanning's dreams for *The New Direct Line*. In 1832 Gurney was bankrupted owing £232,000 - think £232m in today's terms. As Gurney's backer Hanning's own losses, albeit unknown, must have been considerable and his reputation equally undermined. William Hanning died in 1836. What kind of different future might he, Horton or the Nelson family have had if he had succeeded? As it was *The New Direct Line* itself continued to prosper through continued Nelson family investment. During the Golden Age of coaching (1824 - 1848) Street estimates some 16-20 scheduled coaches were flowing daily through Ilminster & Horton, the majority of travelling through Higher Horton. Did Horton folk realise how these daily coaches cemented *The New Direct Line* as the fastest route between the capital and the southwest? This status was nationally recognised in 1837 when the '*Quicksilver*' *Devonport Mail* was rerouted from Yeovil to *The New Direct Line* via Amesbury and Ilminster. The accolade lasted just 10 years before the carriage trade abandoned its struggle against the encroaching railways and their superior speed & capacity. *The New Direct Line* was resurrected virtually intact as the A303 in 1933 and awarded Trunk status in 1958. After the Horton By-pass opened on 2nd August 1988, Mrs. Margery Hull, late of '*Devonway*', suggested that the old A303 road be named for William Hanning. He was indeed one of its most ardent local supporters but, as we now



A steam driven 'drag'



The Devonport mail: changing teams

know, only one of many who contributed significantly to its story. **H.H.**

Next: Guess who's been to Horton...

Notes:

1. *'This Battling Life ... in the civil service'*: Thomas Baker, 1885
2. *'The Story of Dillington: 1000 years'*: Nancy Smith, 2000.
3. *'A few facts concerning elementary locomotion'* Francis Maceroni, 1836.

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
2: Sunflower Saturday: MY 4/11/18/25: Art Group: HVH 5/19: Computer Hub: IBHMC 7: DGC : Orchids: HVH 13: WI: RNIB: HVH 17: Horton Ramblers: TBA 21: HFC: Allelujah: HVH 28 : Macmillan Coffee M'g: IBHMC	2/9/16/23/30: Art Group: HVH 3/17: Computer Hub: IBHMC 5: DGC : Ponds & Water: HVH 11: WI: Deaf Awareness: HVH 15: Horton Ramblers : TBA 19: HFC 'What's love got... : HVH 21: Wine & Dine tickets : HVH 21: Quiz Night : SPCR	2: DGC: Killerton: HVH 6/13/20/27: Art Group: HVH 7/21: Computer Hub: HVH 8: WI: Reflexology: HVH 15: HVH AGM: HVH 16: HFC : Unlikely pilgrimage ...: HVH 19: Horton Ramblers: TBA

1 Dec : Xmas tree lighting

2 Dec : Xmas Wine & Dine

6 Dec : WI Xmas Celebrations

December Diary Dates

9 Dec :Coffee Morning & Stalls

17 Dec :Horton Ramblers

18 Dec :Carol Service

21 Dec :HFC 'Barbie'

Autumn Church Services in Horton



Ilminster & Broadway Hill Methodist Church

All services at IBHMC unless stated

1st Sun: 10.30 for 11.00 MORNING WORSHIP*

2nd Sun: 10.30 for 11.00 MORNING WORSHIP**

3rd Sun: 10.30 for 11.00 FAMILY PRAISE

at St. Peter's Church, Horton

4th Sun: 10.30 for 11.00 MORNING WORSHIP***

5th Sun: 10.30 for 11.00 MORNING WORSHIP****

Notes to the above services are as follows:

* 5 Nov is Shoebox Sunday when Lizzie Longshaw will dedicate boxes prepared by local community.

** 10 Sep Holy Communion led by Rev Andrew Longshaw: 8 Oct United Harvest Festival with gifts/fresh food sales to 'All We Can' & tinned/dry foods to Ilminster Foodbank: 12 Nov United Benefice Remembrance at Broadway Memorial @ 10.40am.

*** 22 Oct includes Holy Communion led by Rev David Easton (a minister with pastor)

**** 29 Oct led by Rev Andrew Longshaw.

See also Pages 5 & 6 plus the Village Website



St. Peter's Church

All services are at SPC unless stated

September

3rd: EVENSONG at 3.00pm

10th: PARISH SERVICE at 10.00 am

17th: UNITED FAMILY PRAISE 10.30am activities & coffee followed by 11.00am Service.

24th: HOLY COMMUNION at 9.30am

October

1st: EVENSONG at 3.00pm

2nd: Licensing of Rev Philip Albrow at Donyatt Church at 7.00pm

8th: UNITED HARVEST FESTIVAL at IBHMC 10.30am for 11.00am

15th: Farewell Service for Canon John Simpson at Donyatt Church at 11.00am

22nd: HOLY COMMUNION at 9.30am

29th: Benefice Service

November

5th: EVENSONG at 3.00pm

12th: REMEMBRANCE SERVICE at Broadway Memorial at 10.40am

19th: UNITED FAMILY PRAISE 10.30am Activities/coffee followed by 11.00am Service.

26th: November HOLY COMMUNION at 9.30am

See also pp 2, 3 & 6

As always, the Editor thanks the Horton Village Website Group, the Horton Village Hall Committee and *all* our stalwart contributors for their support in the production of this newsletter. The next issue of *The Horton Gazette* will appear at the beginning of December 2023. To insert something in the next issue, comment or feed back historical material, please contact Hortonsia on 01460 57069 or via the "Contact the Editor" button on the Gazette page of the Village Website: www.hortonvillage.co.uk by the 15 November 2023. Copies are delivered to all the residents of Horton by volunteers. We are, as ever, truly grateful to them for their efforts.

Hortonsia Hearsay