

From the Horse's Mouth

Issue
7

Photograph: Rob Juages

The Winning Scarecrow
made by
The Carr Family

The Horspath Magazine
December 23 - January 24

Who was the first man to
walk on the moon?



I'm enjoying a glass of very good white wine, marveling that its grapes were grown and the wine produced just a few hundred yards from where I live in Horspath. Louise and Ilir Kebej started Sunnyhill vineyard in 2014

on a south facing slope off the Cuddesdon Road, initially planting 2500 vines. Ilir tells me that he learnt about organic wine growing from his family in Albania and that this is the reason the wine tastes so good -they don't use any chemicals at all. I can tell that from tasting the wine. Its taste is fresh and pure and very different from many English wines that I've tasted. The vineyard is a very friendly family business with Louise, Ilir and their three children doing all the work. "We're living the good life", says Ilir and it certainly seems idyllic if not hard work. The family have planted another 2500 vines and 250 apple trees since 2014; they hand pick and hand press the grapes, bee hives are kept in the orchard and they have a herd of alpacas. They make white wine, red wine, a limited edition of a Christmas Rose`wine, sparkling cider and they



produce their own honey. Quite enough to keep the family very busy! But, on top of all this, they offer vineyard tours, wine tasting with lunch, alpaca walking through the orchards and host special events such as hen parties. As Christmas approaches, they are getting ready for their Christmas Craft Fair on 2nd and 3rd December, the sale of Christmas trees and the release of Oxfordshire Rose`vintage 2021. There are only 200 bottles so I'm told you have to get in quick! I've already decided where some of my Christmas presents are coming from this year!

Sue Rowell - Magazine Reporter

Booking for tours required. Contact 01865361535 or 07909526232

For more information see the website: www.sunnyhillvineyard.co.uk

Message from the Editor:

It seems incredible to think that this 7th edition marks the start of our second year of publication. The first edition had 16 pages, this one has 28, and we still had to leave some articles out. You will have noticed that we now include one or two sponsorships and ads but despite that income we still rely heavily on the grant from the Stone Pit Charity, and without their generous backing there would be no magazine. We continue to thank the team who deliver the magazines and for Sheila Frankum who co-ordinates this. Thanks also to Rob Judges, our photographer and Sue Rowell, our brilliant reporter. Bob Gambles also gives me technical support, but most of all my editor colleagues Anna Radcliffe and Brian Lowe whose encouragement and constant help makes the whole thing possible.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and restful New Year. John

thehorspathmagazine@gmail.com

GT Insurance Services are proud to sponsor The Horspath Magazine.

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

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We would like to wish all our customers and residents of Horspath a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you all for your continued support



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Singing and the Shotover Singers

If you're a singer, you'll probably be singing in a range of choirs and groups. Not only is singing physically, mentally, and emotionally good for you, its also a lot of fun and a great way to connect with people while also doing some good. Music has a habit of developing; a few years ago, my nurse lodger lara, came to a Jubilate concert and she asked if we could sing in the stroke ward at the JR, I convened some singers, and we did. We realised it was enjoyable controlling our own repertoire with less formal rehearsals, so we started singing as the Shotover singers, in 'rural Oxford medieval churches', for fun, to raise funds and guarantee an audience. Pre Covid, we sang in Stanton, Oddington, Beckley, Elsfield and Noke, and subsequently Horspath for lock down carols, which seemed to go well. This year on Dec 2nd is the third Horspath carol year, and we also snuck in a Byrd evensong in May. A smaller group of us went on to sing in London and from this group I formed 'Circle', which has now released 3 albums. Pleasingly two good Horspath singers joined us this year, and, if you're a good reader and regular singer, feel free to contact us.

Ashley@hybridcom.co.uk

You may be interested to hear 'Circle' (we have CDs) on Spotify and all digital channels : Here's our Christmas selection:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/526wjBejb8y8cY0KtaiPIY?si=cd7bedb584d94a50>



The Shotover Singers Come, sing and listen

Well known carols for you
to join in with and get into
the Christmas Spirit.

Admission Free:

Donations to Church
Funds gratefully received

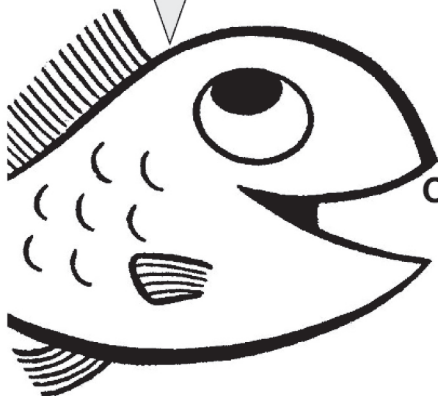
**Saturday 2nd
December at 5pm,
St Giles' Church**

St Giles' Church
Children's Crib Service
Sunday 24th December at 4pm



Come and see the people and animals arrive at The Stable and help the donkey, sheep and camel tell the Christmas Story.
This **short** service is suitable for all.
We look forward to welcoming you.

Chatter & Clatter
St Giles' Church
9am - 11am



Play

Cake

Coffee

Interaction

Socialising

Come and Join us on:

10th, 24th January
7th, 21st February
6th, 20th March

0 years
to
under 5's

All welcome, just drop in for coffee
or stay for the whole session

Do come and join this vibrant group on Wednesdays
From 9-11am - (see dates above)

THE HUB NEEDS YOUR HELP

Dear Villagers

Ten years ago, next March, the village of Horspath bought The Methodist Chapel. To enable us (the Friends of Horspath) to do this and in addition to grants from SODC and a couple of other organisations, you gave us grants and loans. You had faith that we could succeed. The fact that we were successful is old news and the Hub has gone from strength to strength with classes throughout the week, parties at weekends, a highly successful coffee morning, a weekly Post Office and many community events. It's a thriving place and pays its way. It's here for everyone in Horspath of every age and every persuasion. What we need from you are ideas; both to fundraise and to take the Hub forward into the next decade. We also need to gauge the importance of the Hub to the Village. Many villagers were not in residence here ten years ago so their perspective would be most helpful. Primarily we need money but we also need a new wave of villagers prepared to give a little time to help us with our projects. Could you be our Booking clerk? Could you oversee the Hub maintenance? Do you have a view about how we could do things better? This is really important. Also please note we are having a Ten-year birthday celebration in The Hub on March 23rd 2024. You are all welcome

Please contact any Trustee with your ideas, and in particular:

Judy Kent: 0799 0677 579 Or Anna Radcliffe: 0795 8524 281

Christmas Wreath and Table Decoration

Making

Sunday 10th December 9.30am - 12.00 at the
Horspath Hub

Greenery provided and expert advice if needed!
(plus refreshments.)

£10 for the morning and £5 if new wreath
required.

Contact 0777 9672 163

Or email horspathhub@gmail.com
to reserve a space



NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUB CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

Be sure to get in touch....

- Have you ever been mystified about how to do something on your laptop/tablet or mobile phone? The answer is to drop in on **The Computer Doctor**, with your device, on alternate Wednesdays between 12:00 and 1:00.

Have you often thought “I would like to try that class or activity but I have no way of getting there.” You can now come and join in with the arts and crafts activities at **“Making Time”**, the first Monday of every month, between 2:00 and 4:00. Thanks to a grant from the Stone Pit Charity you can have a free lift to and from the group with the Horspath taxi driver.

- The **Creative Writing Group** has been reinvigorated with new members and is now a thriving, vibrant group again. You could join in too by contacting Anna Radcliffe: annaradcliffe@gmail.com

I'm very pleased to say that now, after one year, the seated exercise class (called **Seated Wellness**) is financially self-sufficient, and also offers a free taxi service to and from the classes if a student needs a lift.

- The Stone Pit Charity has agreed to support a class called **“Art Matters”** which focuses on providing an hour of fun with art projects, especially for students with learning difficulties. It is a small, supportive group and would welcome additional members, by contacting the tutor: John Underdown on 07825 615735 or by email: sculptureforyou@gmail.com

“Art at the Hub” meets every Monday (except the first Monday of the month) from 2:30 to 4:30. For more information contact Jo Clift: joclift61@gmail.com or 07593 026485.

- After nearly 5 years of up and down attendance, Kim's **Pilates Class** is now full with a waiting list for new members!

Stephanie McGee offers **Hypnobirthing classes** at the Hub. Please contact Steph directly if you would be interested or would like any additional information about these groups: info@stephmcgeehypnotherapy.com or 07766 103184.

Another interesting initiative comes from a software engineer who has just moved into Horspath. She is interested in starting a **“Coding Club for Kids”**. Please get in touch with Sally Humphrey or Natalie Oakley if you or someone you know might be interested in this exciting new venture; for more information contact: sallylhumphrey@gmail.com or Natalie: 07779 672163.

Tree of Light 2023



If you would like to remember a loved one with a message on the village Christmas tree, please email horspathtreeoflight@gmail.com by Friday 15th December. Your message will be printed and hung on the tree by Sunday 17th December, when the tree will be blessed and loved ones remembered, at dusk after the village carol service at St Giles. A reply will be sent as confirmation that your message has

been safely received. If you are able to make a small charitable donation to accompany your message, please visit our fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/page/horspath-tree-of-light-2023 Our chosen charity this year is Homeless Oxfordshire who provide short term accommodation with access to high quality support and initiatives that enable people to have a safe space in which they can begin to take control of their own lives and recover from homelessness.

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Easy Fundraising



Help us raise free funds for Horspath hub. When shopping online you can raise a % of your spend for the friends of Horspath with absolutely no cost to yourself. It's quick and easy, all you need to do is visit the easy fundraising website prior to making any purchase.

Scan the QR code or type the link into your browser to see what it's all about.

Thank you for your support, every penny raised will help us to continue all that we offer our community.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/horspath>

Are you planning a New Year's Clear Out?

Here is an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles!

The Hub is pleased to announce that we have organised a clothes & shoe collection with Bag2School in order to raise **funds** for the Hub. While also helping the environment by diverting unwanted textiles away from landfill.

What you can donate - Adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags, soft toys, household lining including towels, curtains, bedding (please refer to <https://bag2school.com> for full details)

We have a collection booked for Wednesday 24th January 2024

You will be able donate to the Hub in the week leading up to the collection.

You can drop bags off at the following times:

Friday 19th between 10.00-13.00

Saturday 20th between 10.00-11.00

Sunday 21st between 15.00-16.00

Monday 22nd between 14.30-16.30

Tuesday 23rd between 9.30-12.00

Please don't leave them outside.

If you are unable to drop off and need assistance we can arrange a collection so please call Natalie on 0754 3890 405 to arrange.

What happens to the clothes? - The clothes collected are baled into big 'botany bales' and then loaded onto trucks for export.



To the HUB



Horspath Allotments

We currently have a couple plots available due to people giving up their plots. If you are interested, please contact Fiona via email

haa.horspath@gmail.com.



Christmas and New Year Services at St Giles' Church including Benefice Services

Sunday 3rd December First Sunday of Advent

11am for 11.15am

Christingle Service

Family Time (Refreshments from 11am)

Sunday 10th December Second Sunday of Advent

11am

Parish Communion

Sunday 17th December Third Sunday of Advent

11am

Morning Worship

Blessing of the Tree of Light (*after the Service*)

Sunday Fun Time at the Hub

3pm

Carol Service

Sunday 24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent

10am

Benefice Service (at Cuddesdon)

4pm

Children's Crib Service

11.30pm

Midnight Mass

Monday 25th Dec. Christmas Day

11am

Parish Communion

Sunday 31st December First Sunday of Christmas

10am

Benefice Service (at Garsington)

7th January First Sunday of Epiphany

11am

Morning Worship

Sunday Fun Time at the Hub

14th January Second Sunday of Epiphany

11am

Parish Communion

21st January Third Sunday of Epiphany

11am for 11.15

Family Time (Refreshments from 11am)

28th January Fourth Sunday of Advent

11am

Parish Communion

**Please check Facebook and Church and Village Notice Boards for
details of any other events and services. Thank You**

Classes and Activities at the Horspath Hub

Below are all the classes and activities we run at the Hub, but for more information, contact emails for each class and phone numbers, please visit our website: **horspathhub.co.uk or call Natalie on 07779 672163**. You can book the Hub on-line with discounted rates for residents.

Mondays

Pilates - Weekly	09.15 - 10.15
Babies 1st - Weekly	13.30 - 14.30
Making Time - First Monday in the month	
14.00 - 16.00	
Art at the Hub - except the First Monday in the month	14.30 - 16.30

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

Pilates - Weekly	08.15 - 09.15
Computer Doctor (fortnightly drop in)	12.00 - 13.00
Senior Residents' Club - First Wednesday of the month	14.00 - 16.00
Age UK Film Club - Second Wednesday of the month	14.00 - 16.00
One-to-One Yoga & Massage - Once a month by appointment	13.00 - 17.30
Yoga - once a month (flexible)	18.00 - 19.00

Thursdays

One-to-One 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 - First Friday of the month	10.30 - 12.00
Horspath Wine Club - Third Friday of the month	19.30 - 21.30

Sundays

Sunday Fun Time - First Sunday of the month	11.00 - 12.00
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For booking requirements and further information please email:

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

Many thanks again to Minuteman Press for printing this magazine.

oxford@minutemanpress.com 01865 247 010

Horspath Parish Council

The Christmas tree will be delivered to the Village Green on Saturday 2nd December 2023. Horspath Parish Council would like to pass thanks to Mr Pettigrove for donating the tree. The Chair of Horspath Parish Council, Mrs Beverley Oakley and Mr Martin Harris attended the Northfield Stakeholder Forum in Garsington on 8 th November 2023. This was a meeting where stakeholders could raise any concerns regarding the 1,800 houses to be built on Oxford Road Garsington. Unfortunately the 2 landowners (Brasenose College and Oxfordshire County Council) sent their apologies. The water supply, sewage, drainage, community integration, construction traffic and obstruction to the wildlife corridor were some of the issues raised. A master plan will be shown to the delegates (probably not till February 2024) prior to a planning application being submitted to SODC. Oxford City Council has submitted a planning application to South Oxfordshire District Council for a new Burial Meadow on Oxford Road, Horspath. This application will be considered at the Horspath Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 5 th December 2023. The planning application can be found online at www.southoxon.gov.uk. The Planning details are as follows:- P23/S3730/FUL - Change of use of agricultural land to a 7.34 hectare low impact, landscape-led meadow burial space with a naturalistic character. One new vehicle access to the site to be constructed and a new footpath link to be provided from the existing council owned car park (in front of the athletics track) to the burial ground. A small, open-sided shelter, a number of benches, signs and hard access ways to be created. Headstones to be limited to 80cm in height and made from non-glossy stone or hardwood. Access to the site to be provided for hearse vehicles, maintenance vehicles and onsite priority parking spaces. Horspath Parish Council would urge residents to respond to this application online or by post by the end consultation date - 7th December 2023.

Over 100 people gathered at the village memorial on Saturday 11th November for the Armistice Day service. Several organisations laid wreaths but the most poignant moment was to see John West (World War 2 veteran) laying a wreath. The reading of Flanders Field was read by Seb Elias, a pupil of Horspath Primary School. After the service residents enjoyed tea and homemade cakes provided by Jayne Hamlet and her team funded by the Stone Pit Charity. HPC is still waiting for quotes to carry out repairs to the bus shelter on the Village Green, including the brickwork, and fitting guttering and a bench seat. The footpath from Manor Farm Road to the Church has now

been tarmacked. Horspath Parish Council would like to remind dog owners that it is an offence to not clear up after your dog and can lead to a fixed penalty notice being issued. Work to carry out necessary repairs in the Conservation Area has now started. If you would like to join the team of volunteers to assist with maintenance and repair work please contact the Clerk. Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department has advised that 20mph speed limits will be implemented in Horspath between Easter 2024 – June 2025. For the safety of pedestrians, HPC would like to remind homeowners to ensure that all trees/bushes on their property are cut back if they are encroaching a public footpath. Horspath Parish Council currently has two vacancies for Parish Councillors. Applications should be sent to the Clerk, Mrs Hayley Kogel. If any resident wishes to raise issues with Horspath village please contact Hayley Kogel, Clerk to HPC. clerk@horspathparishcouncil.org

Horspath Stone Pit Charity

The next Horspath Stone Pit meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at 7.30pm in Horspath Village Hall. All residents are invited to attend. Organisations and individuals may use the website application forms to apply for a grant from HSPC. Applications to be considered at the December meeting should be submitted by 1st December 2023. At the September 2023 meeting, Trustees considered a record 38 grant applications, 34 individual applications and 4 organisation applications. Trustees also agreed to re-open the Hardship Fund which will be added to the number of different grants available. Hardship Fund requests will be considered on an individual basis.

HSPC Grants paid out in September 2023

School Uniform Grants	£2,000.00
Swimming Lesson Grants	£1,000.00
6 th Form School Transport	£800.00
Organisation Grants	£1,320.00
Senior Citizens Meal Voucher Grant	£2,500.00
Yenworthy Residential Trip	£1,200.00
Sporting Excellence	£200.00
Armistice Day Grant	£320.00
School Trip	£100.00

Total £9,440.00

The Horspath Scarecrow Trail 2023

Reviewed as "The Oscar worthy scarecrow trail" by the LittleExplorers page on facebook, "was a tremendous success!"

Our trail returned for its fourth year in October half term. This year with the theme of occupations. We began the week with 50 scarecrows to find; families could follow the map around our village to spot the elaborate creations and try and answer the questions for fun. Suddenly two extra scarecrows popped up overnight from families that didn't want to miss out on all the fun. Taking us to the record number of 52 scarecrows. Many scarecrows scattered our village, including tradesmen, hairdressers, medical staff and even a chimney sweep. The mini hard working scarecrows dressed in hi-vis were once again in the gardens of some of our older residents. If you know someone that might want to be included next year please email horspathevents@hotmail.com and let us know. From the first day it was clear that our annual event was eagerly anticipated by families from all over Oxfordshire, not just Horspath residents. There were many families out enjoying themselves, walking around the village and choosing their winner. It's estimated that over the 9 days; 1000 visitors came to the village, buying 652 maps. Trail walkers were mostly lucky to see so much sunshine, but there were periods of dark grey skies and heavens opened; but the trail followers still persevered with smiles on their faces. This year the astronaut caught the heart of the trail walkers and was voted their favorite. The nursery won the organisers choice as it was clear that they engaged all of the children and worked really hard creating elements of their display. This year we also gave a special mention to The Butcher, who looked as good on the last day as he did on day one. Its success was a tribute to all those involved. Without the volunteers organising and the residents building the scarecrows it wouldn't be possible. As always the level of effort put in by all was incredible. The Trustees from the Hub would like to thank Maureen and John Underdown who manned the Hub everyday and welcomed visitors and pointed them in the right direction. Thank you to all that spent a few hours exploring and helping to raise a lot of money which was split between The Friends of Horspath who manage the Hub and its activities and St Giles' Church. Natalie Oakley

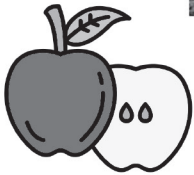
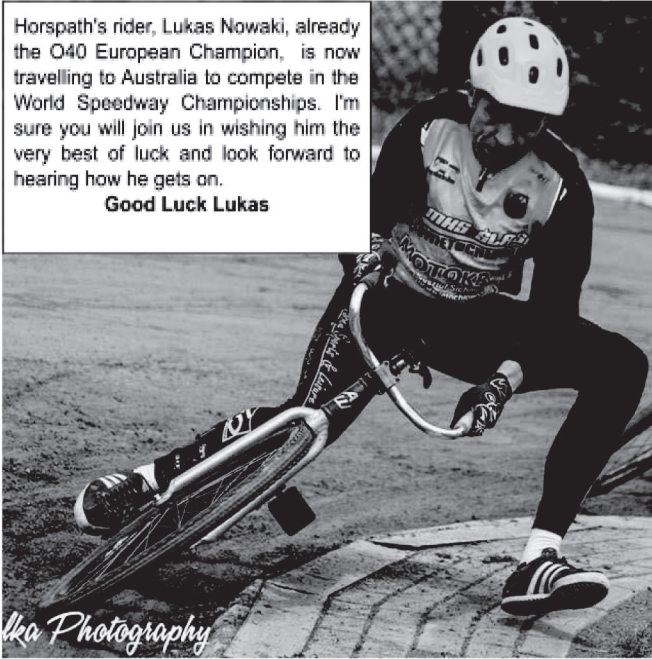
If you would like to volunteer or have a theme suggestion for 2025 please email horspathevents@hotmail.com

See some scarecrow pictures on the back cover

European Champion travels to Australia to compete in the World Cycle Speedway Championships

Horspath's rider, Lukas Nowaki, already the O40 European Champion, is now travelling to Australia to compete in the World Speedway Championships. I'm sure you will join us in wishing him the very best of luck and look forward to hearing how he gets on.

Good Luck Lukas



Horspath Apple Day - Saturday September 30th 2023

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE :



Who came and peeled, chopped, squeezed and pressed!
Who ate, drank, bought tickets and won prizes.
Who caught an apple, knocked them down and coloured them in.
All those who enjoyed a chat with a cuppa and a piece of cake and all those who helped on the day to set up, make cakes, serve and sell tickets.

It was a wonderful, sociable afternoon and we look forward to seeing you next year. Sheila

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. Although well-known for its trees, Shotover's areas of heath and grassland are nationally rare habitats, supporting a rich and unusual community of animals and plants. If you're going for a winter walk on Shotover, look out for: **The Green Woodpecker**

Where to look: it can be seen swooping across Shotover's heaths and grasslands in search of ants. It probes their nests with its long, sticky tongue to feed on the ants, eggs and larvae.



What to look for: has a red crown, and in flight can appear as a flash of bright yellow and green plumage. It seldom drums on trees (that's more likely to be a Great Spotted Woodpecker), but can be recognised by its characteristic loud, shrill, laughing song.

Did you know? Another name for the green woodpecker is the "yaffle", after its distinctive song. The grassland habitats it depends on for food evolved as a result of people grazing sheep and cattle here for many centuries.

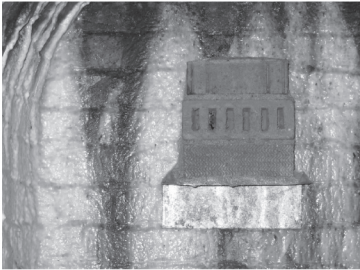
Compiled by Shotover Wildlife, an independent community organisation, founded to research and communicate the

importance of Shotover's wildlife. Illustrated by Jacqueline Wright, artist, botanist and co-founder of Shotover Wildlife.

Horspath volunteers have made a great home for our bats



We are now actively encouraging more local volunteers of any age to help care for our very special Wildlife Conservation Area, so anyone interested to join us should send their details by e-mail to our Parish Council Clerk at: Hayleykogel@btinternet.com we can then let you know by e-mail about when to meet. There were probably some bats using the tunnel to hibernate in cold winters even when the last trains were running until 1967, but our first job was to secure both ends and fit lockable steel gates so that no one would disturb any bats when hibernating. Donald designed the end walls and gates, Bob installed them, and Celia helped us raise the £25,000 necessary to pay for converting the tunnel into a safe temperature-, airflow- and humidity-controlled winter refuge for our many bats, of four species.



More than 120 bat bricks were installed, with some recessed into the Victorian brick lining walls of the tunnel, and others were cemented onto steel brackets fitted in many of the alcoves, sandwiched above a grooved brick to provide a firm landing surface for bats and below a heavy brick to stabilise the

temperature in the 6 holes in the bat brick specially tailored to fit snugly around a hibernating bat, as shown here where a Natterer's Bat is asleep in the 2nd hole. In cold winters, groups of as many as 40 of this species have also been found huddled together at around 8 degrees Celsius behind some of the thick wooden bat boards now screwed onto the tunnel walls. If spring comes early, they tend to wake up and fly around inside the tunnel and make quick excursions to fly out over the warmer water of the frog breeding pond just outside the Horspath entrance which acts like a kind of quick spring snack bar offering insects for the emerging bats. The photo shows our volunteers leaving the tunnel by this pond.



Martin Harris

Sculpture at the Hub

All great sculptors - Henry Moore, Grayson Perry, Michelangelo, Giacometti - had to start somewhere. We started in Horspath. It all began one Friday morning at the Hub. There was talk about classes. With little knowledge of colour and even less of shape and form we found ourselves enrolled in the sculpture class. After 6 sessions and homework we now proudly possess two works of art of our own making.(see below) We found the experience relaxing, stimulating and fun. We enjoyed the company of our co-sculptors and the excellent teaching provided by John. Now we have caught the sculpture bug. We never expected you could produce anything from chicken wire, scrunched up newspaper and papier-mâché covered in plaster bandages but we did! We now have a new hobby to help fill the long winter nights. Thanks John

Lyn & John Drury



If you would like to join one of our Sculpture Classes, where everything you need is supplied, then please send an email for more information and we will endeavour to form another group of about 8.
John

sculptureforyou@gmail.com

A sculptor is a person who is interested in the shape of things
Henry Moore

On Route 46

You will have heard about getting your kicks on Route 66 which winds its way from Chicago to Los Angeles. But we can get equally good kicks on our very own Route 46 which winds its way from the dreaming spires of Oxford, through Horspath straight to the door of Le Manoir aux Quat 'Saisons in Great Milton.

We had the best of fortune to be treated to lunch at Le Manoir on our birthdays a couple of weeks ago. We dressed up in our finery, hopped on the bus at the top of Gidley Way and entered another world at Le Manoir. We wandered around the magnificent gardens seeing every type of bean known to man growing in the vegetable patch, admired the Japanese gardens with splendid arrays of Acers and cooed amongst the sumptuous



herbaceous borders. A total delight! The best was yet to come! The dining experience was like no other. With impeccable service, we were provided with a commentary on each of the eight courses and four different wines. The amuse bouche came first, followed by chicken liver parfait, washed down with a fine Alsace wine. My favourite wine – Gruner Veitliner accompanied the salmon and then the scallops and the Lakeland lamb came with a Montrachet Burgundy red. By this time, two hours had elapsed and we needed to rest before the massive cheese plate, fresh strawberries and then raspberry and chocolate crumble combined with a sweet wine from South West France. Every dish was so beautifully presented with vegetable accompaniments from their own garden. The combination of flavours from the accompanying sauces distinguishes this dining from any other I have ever experienced in my whole life.

We retired to the lounge for coffee and petit fours to converse with other guests discovering that some people made regular visits to Le Manoir. “It’s my come-to-place” for every special occasion”, said one lady. I think she has the right idea, after all, cheaper than going on Route 66!

Sue Rowell

St Giles' Church	07856 456363	Horspath School	87 2702
Garage:	87 3349	Sheps Cycle Shack	87 6771
The Gurkha Palace	63 4534	The Village Shop	87 2903
The Hub	07951 933 964	The Tap Room	60 4620
Horspath Nursery	87 6750	The Village Hall	07939 410762
Prospect: Bob	07786 115516	Sunnyhill Vineyard	361535
The Queen's Head	87 5567	(prefix for Horspath is 01865)	



We have had a busy couple of terms with visits from the police, fire brigade, GP's and Optometrists to name a few.....

During terms 3 & 4 we will be looking at Arctic Animals, our families, The Zoo, Dinosaurs, Science, Insects, Story Telling, Colours and Easter.

We are practicing for our Nursery Christmas Nativity; the performances will be held before we break up for the Christmas holiday.

Our fundraising events for term 2 are the Nursery Christmas Bingo and the Nursery Network Event being held at The Hub on Saturday 9th December 2023 from 10:00-12:00 (To book a table please contact me.) We hope to raise enough money to complete the payment of our Forest Cabin for our wildlife area. (This has arrived and will be being built very soon.)



The Horspath Nursery Networking Event

Thank you very much to all involved with the scarecrow trail and to all that voted for Horspath Nursery, we hope that you enjoyed our interactive Ice Cream Stand.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to all that come along to support our fundraising events and that entrust us with their children.

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

News from Horspath Primary School

At Horspath Primary School we are very fortunate indeed to have such wonderful grounds in which to work and play.

Children in Acorn Class are naturally keen detectives who spot seasonal changes: this autumn they enjoyed making leaf kebabs, collecting a variety of leaves and counting how many they found in total. To support their understanding in Geography, pupils in Oak Class created a river on the slope between the playground and the field. At playtime, some of our younger children enjoy playing traditional circle games, others investigate the natural environment and, of course, some play football!



Can you spare an hour or so a week to join our wonderful team of lunchtime supervisors? The job starts at 12 noon and finishes at 1:30pm each day. We are interested to hear from you whether you can work one, two, three, four or five days a week during term time. We also need a new Clerk to the school's Governing Body, ideally to start in the New Year. If you would like to find out more about these opportunities, please contact the school office on 01865 872702 or email office@horspathschool.org. Thank you.

Horspath Bonding with Baby Group



Babies1st is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company run by experienced Early Years Professionals, VIG guiders and Group facilitators. We offer individual, group, online and face to face sessions for parents and babies. Corinne and Sarah volunteer to run the Bonding with Baby Group at the Horspath Hub as part of their clinical training.

In the group you will spend quality time with your baby to become more mindful and present in the moment. You will have fun together; strengthen your bond with your baby. We use a range of methods like singing, nursery rhymes and baby friendly exploration toys.

The group is unique in that with your permission we film and take photos of you and your baby, then show you the best moments of you connecting with your baby. We will give you the photos and video clips as a precious reminder of your special time together.

The Horspath Bonding with Baby Group runs term time only, the new term will start: Monday 8th January 2024. If you are interested in joining the group, or having one to one sessions with Corinne or

Sarah, please contact: Corinne Tel: 07852719832

corinnesbabies1st@gmail.com Sarah Tel: 07771729851

sarahlbabies1st@gmail.com Video Interaction Guidance (VIG)

Trainees. This groups runs on donations and if you would like to make a donation please follow this link

<https://donorbox.org/babies1st> Many thanks: Corinne & Sarah



**OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION
WHEATLEY JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB PROJECT
Recruiting – Play Workers / Youth
Workers**



The Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA), working in partnership with Wheatley Parish Council has secured funding to deliver a weekly Junior Youth Club in Wheatley. The project is designed for Children and Young People in School Years 6, 7 and 8 (Ages 10 to 13) and will look to support them through the transition from Primary School to Secondary School. Following a consultation with Young People in Wheatley the project will be delivered at the Merry Bells in Wheatley on an evening TBC from 6pm to 8pm. The sessions will last for 2 hours and will be delivered weekly. **We are looking for staff to work 5 hours per week (including prep, delivery, monitoring etc).**

The project will provide fun and positive Play opportunities within a Safe and Supportive environment within Wheatley. This project will increase Children's opportunities to Play and meet in a Safe Space whilst promoting Positive Activities and Behaviours, Increased Levels of Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles. The Oxfordshire Play Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1160320) and has been delivering a Countywide service across Oxfordshire since 1974.

Our Vision is to 'Improve Lives Through Play'

Our Mission Statement is to 'Champion and support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive, Play opportunities to promote their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing' Our new Playworkers will work 5 hours per week (2 hours prep, 2 hours direct delivery and 1 hour monitoring and reporting) at an hourly rate of £12.68 per hour (£14.21 per hour including Holiday Pay)

As this job involves working with Children and Young People it will be subject to an enhanced DBS / CRB check, satisfactory receipt of 2 references and completion of relevant Safeguarding Children and Young People Training.

We are unable to accept CV's for the role; to request an application form please contact:

Martin Gillett, OPA Manager. T. 07436 270267
martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk



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

**The surgery's in-house dispensary closed permanently on Friday 29 September
2023 WHEATLEY PHARMACY REMAINS OPEN**

There is no change to the process of ordering your repeat prescription. If you already
collect your medication from Wheatley Pharmacy, then you need not do anything.

**If you have not yet nominated a pharmacy to pick up your medication, then
please do so.**

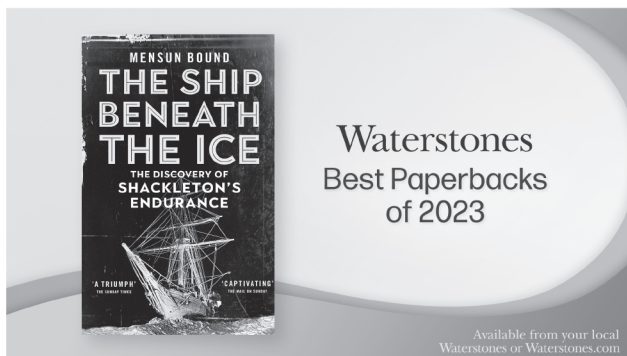
Check or alter your nomination via your NHS login - NHS (www.nhs.uk) or contact our
prescription clerk team via morland.dispensary@nhs.net Tel 01865 872448 (option 3)

Flu and Covid Vaccines - All eligible patients have been offered their flu and covid
vaccines. If you are eligible and have not yet had yours then please contact your
nearest pharmacy to make an appointment. To find out if you are eligible, please visit
www.nhs.uk and search for "Covid Vaccination".

For a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health
conditions, symptoms, and treatment, please visit www.morland-house.co.uk

Also on the website are details of the new rules relating to accessing your medical
records - see <https://tinyurl.com/3879mz6p>

Prospect - House & Garden Maintenance would like to thank all their
customers for their continued business. Happy Holidays!
See you again in 2024. 0778 6115 516



WIN A SIGNED COPY OF THIS BOOK

For a chance to win one of two signed copies of this book, kindly donated by local author Mensun Bound, simply write the answers to these 3 questions on paper, add your full name and contact details and post into the Hub Post Box. On the 31st December, two sheets will be drawn and if the answers are correct, each will win a copy of the book shown above.

1. What was the name of the expedition cat on Shackleton's ship, The Endurance?
2. What was the name of the rowing boat that Shackleton rowed from Elephant Island to South Georgia for over 800 miles?
3. What was the musical instrument that one of the ship's men, Hussey, played in the long dark evenings?

Written by Mensun Bound, maritime archaeologist and Director of Exploration in the search to find the *Endurance*, this captivating narrative recounts incredible stories of Shackleton and his legendary ship, and the journey to its rediscovery. Beautifully illustrated with Frank Hurley's photos from Shackleton's original voyage in 1914–17, as well as from the expeditions in 2019 and 2022, *The Ship Beneath the Ice* is the perfect tribute to this monumental discovery.

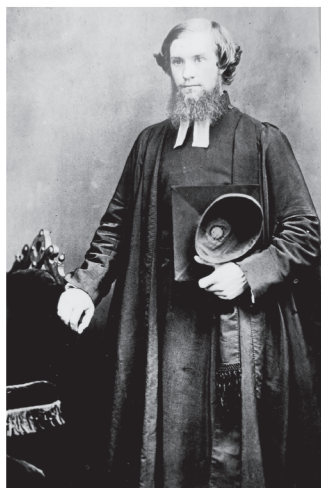
'The story of Shackleton's *Endurance* is one of the most extraordinary in the history of exploration. This is more than just an astonishing sequel. It is a tale just as powerful, and one which redefines the meaning of impossible'
– **Sir Michael Palin**

“Not all saints”, 4 Vicars of St Giles’ from Magdalen College - by Brian Lowe

WILLIAM RUST COBBOLD.... Vicar 1810-1813, and a member of the famous Cobbold brewing family. A Magdalen scholar described him as “of a bilious constitution and yellow complexion, and more than handy with the cane!” To protect himself he had a ferocious mastiff, and after two short years went to Selborne, Hampshire, where he was “hugely unpopular with his flock”! Apparently the dog’s collar (not Cobbold’s) can be seen in Selborne Church today. He was run over by the Oxford mailcart on Ludgate Hill in 1841, and after six days died in a pub called the “Belle Sauvage”, which backed on to the Fleet Prison.

EDWARD ELLERTON.... A long-serving Vicar in Horspath, he was also Master of Magdalen College School, and known as “The Bull”. During his time here he paid for the very first school in the village, together with a schoolmistress’s cottage; and on one occasion took up a collection for a family, hounded by the landlord, who had not paid their rent –when the debt was paid was it discovered that he was the landlord ! Magdalen College erected a stone effigy of him in the college.. he hated it and long campaigned to get it removed. It is still there today, of course !

FRANCIS MINDEN KNOLLIS.... Vicar from 1849. His tenure of Horspath was short, and there is much correspondence about “scandals” between the Bishop of Oxford (“Soapy Sam” Wilberforce) and Rev. Knollis, following complaints about him by the churchwardens. After the Bishop had finally written “Has not weakened health led to your use of port wine, which has frequently affected your reason and moral consciousness”, Knollis was compelled to leave Horspath, resigned on 24th. January, 1853; but went on to a living in Somerset!



HENRY RAMSDEN BRAMLEY.... The saint among these incumbents, he was at Horspath from 1861 to 1869. In collaboration with his Magdalen friend, the famous composer Sir John Stainer (of “The Crucifixion” fame), he edited the first compilation of Christmas carols, many of which we know and sing today. He generously gave St. Giles the chancel screen, the candelabra, the large Victorian east window, and the treble bell of 1866, which bears his name. Later he became a canon of Lincoln Cathedral.

Brian Lowe



Carol Singing at the Tap Room

Senior Citizens Premier Film Show



In November, the Senior Residents had their first film show in the Hub. It was a very successful afternoon with the showing of a whimsical Irish comedy.

In true tradition during the interval, ice creams were served, with a choice of Chocolate or Strawberry by our own Club Secretary, Jane. Even though the meeting was poorly

attended, it was noticeable that everyone went home smiling & happy.

The projectionist. Aka Leonora.



**Organisers Choice - Great Effort
The Nursery**



**Special Mention
The Butcher**

