

From the Horse's Mouth

A scarecrow with a straw hat, a smiling face, and a black and orange plaid shirt stands in the center of a vast pumpkin patch. The pumpkins are arranged in neat rows, stretching towards a line of trees in the background under a clear sky.

Issue
19

The Horspath Magazine
October - November 2025

Let's get the Kids outside!

If you haven't already checked out the new Horspath playground, then it is time to give it a try! It is fantastic to see this huge investment in children's play equipment from The Stone Pit Charity. Well done, Stone Pits!

It is like multiple playgrounds all merged into one: there are two big main play structures, an obstacle course, a huge play-on tractor, swings, zip-wire and more all enclosed by a sturdy fence. There's a strong tractor theme going on but you don't have to love the farming vibe to get involved! The playground got a good mention by "Little Oexplorers" – a web-site dedicated to finding exciting free activities for children so there have already been a good number of visitors from other places in Oxford!



The Parish Council would very much like to add some picnic tables, benches and dustbins and would like to offer the opportunity for any resident to sponsor a bench dedicated to a loved family member. Please contact the clerk to the Parish Council if this is something that you would like to do.

clerk@horspathparishcouncil.org

18 month old Lyla patiently waits for her Nana



All children new and existing have settled well into the first couple of weeks of term 1.

During term 1 we will be looking at settling, All About Me and My Family, Gross and Fine Motor Skills Development, Forest Animals/Hibernation, Autumn, Halloween. We will be having a Halloween party shortly after the Half Term Break (7th November).

Our fundraising events for term 1 are Raisin Boxes (a healthier alternative to Smartie Tubes!). If you would like to take part, please contact me for a Raisin Box. You can enjoy the Raisins then fill the box with spare change or notes. The deadline for return is 17th October 2025.



Look out for posters on the village noticeboard advertising our Bingo on Friday 17th October 2025.

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

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Apple Pressing Day at the Hub : Saturday 20th September 2025

Despite the sudden deluge of rain half way through the event, this did not dampen the spirits of those who attended. We raised over £200 through the sale of raffle tickets, teas, cakes and of course, bottles of apple juice. This was all down to the many volunteers who made cakes, served the tea, organised the raffle and spent the afternoon cutting up hundreds of apples and even pears, turning them into numerous containers of delicious nectar, quickly spirited away. A special thank you goes to SODC and the Co-op who loaned us the press FOC.

editor: *A big thank you to Sheila Frankum
who organised and co-ordinated the whole event.*

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|------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Garage | 873349 | Sheps Cycle Shack | 876771 |
| Gurkha Palace | 634534 | St Giles' | 07856456363 |
| Horspath nursery | 876750 | Sunnyhill Vineyard | 361535 |
| Horspath school | 872702 | Tap Room | 604620 |
| Hub | 07951933964 | Village Hall | 07939410762 |
| Queen's Head | 875567 | Village Shop | 872903 |
| | | <i>(The prefix for Horspath is 01865)</i> | |

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Letter from the Editor

I hope you'll find time to read the article explaining how this magazine reaches you each issue, and how our dedicated volunteers work tirelessly to ensure the content remains interesting, varied, and relevant. It's easy to take for granted the commitment of my team, who generously give their time to make this publication the success it is. We're deeply grateful to the Stone Pit Trustees for their financial support. Without it, our pages would be crowded with advertisements — so the few advertisers we do include are especially valued, and their continued support is vital. If, after reading the article, you feel inspired to join our small team, we'd be delighted to hear from you. thehorspathmagazine@gmail.com

I'm told by our loyal band of distributors that the new magazine cover makes it easier to push through letterboxes — we do aim to please!

John

Benefice of Cuddesdon, Garsington & Horspath

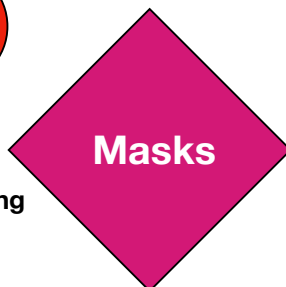
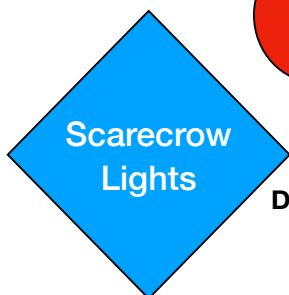
Horspath Scarecrow Week

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

Thursday 30th October 2025

9.30am - 11.30am

Horspath Hub



Drop in or stay all morning
Bring an adult

FREE but
Donations Welcome



For more information, contact Strategol@orange.fr

The Power of Place:
Poetry of the Côte D'Azur

Collected and introduced by
Paul Christopher Walton



A new Poetry Collection by Paul Walton

"Paul Walton is an accomplished poet; his last publication was about Shotover country park and several Horspath people and past students at his creative writing group participated. This time he has stretched further afield to an area which he also knows well. It is bound to be a delight. Do buy it."

strategol@orange.fr

Do you have time to join us for *FREE Coffee and Cake?*

Members of our Chatter and Clatter group who meet every other Thursday (*dates below*) would like to welcome anyone old or young to join them for a chat

Come and join us on those long winter days.

Meet the children who love to play and the parents who love to chat.

Held in St Giles' Church on the following dates:

October 16th, **(30th - a 'funtime' between 9.30-11.30 in the Hub)**

November 13th, 27th. December 11th, join us for Santa's Visit

Sunday Funtime

On the first Sunday of the month in The Hub we hold a craft morning for children up to 11 years of age. Bring an adult along and join in the fun. Activities, stories, refreshments and socialising between 11am - 12 noon.

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 29th November 2025

10am to 12 noon

In the HUB



Father Christmas will be in attendance

Stalls will include Madagascan wear, cakes, raffle, pictures, crafts, knitted wear, honey and children's toys

Refreshments to include sausage rolls

and mulled wine



*The Benefice of Garsington, Cuddesdon and Horspath
Invites everyone to*

Story-time Church

Sunday 9th November 2025 3pm start

Meet in the Forest Church area of Ripon College Cuddesdon - from the main car park, look for the wooden gate heading towards the allotments



All are welcome for:

**Stories and conversations round the campfire
Campfire songs Hot Chocolate
Marshmallows and other refreshments**

Exploring Australia's Wild Side: An evening with Ross Gurden



Join **BBC Wildlife Magazine** and **Apple News+** author and wildlife photographer **Ross Gurden** for an inspiring evening at the **Horspath Hub**. Hear captivating stories and see stunning photography from his adventures across Australia, including **Maria Island, Tasmania** - once a convict site, now a wildlife haven featured in his BBC Wildlife article.

Perfect for nature lovers and photography fans. Support a rising local talent - book your seat today!

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets via Eventbrite, or buy at the Hub on a Friday morning.

 **Thursday 20th November 2025**

 **7:30 PM**

 **Tickets: £5**



Any Questions? Email: rossgurdenphotography@gmail.com



The Horspath Calendar - 2026

(Now in its 7th year of production)

The new calendar will be on sale from early in October, every Friday morning in the Hub and probably other places too. The price is the same as last year at £7 each. We have a limited print run, so please don't leave it too late to purchase. Thanks to all those of you who sent us photographs and for Rob

Judges for collating. We had nearly 90 to choose from! Last year we raised over £900 for charity. This year the Church and Hub will share the profits. We rely totally on the generosity of our local businesses to sponsor the production, so a big thank you once again. John

From Draft to Doorstep: How the Magazine Reaches You

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of volunteers works tirelessly to bring each issue to life—from first ideas to final delivery. Here's how it works:

One Month Out: The Call for Contributions: A month before publication, an email goes out to our 30+ contributors, reminding them of the upcoming submission deadline. At the same time, the editorial team—Anna, Brian, Sue, and myself—begin discussing potential features beyond the regular submissions. Sue takes the lead on writing fresh content, while Rob provides photographs to accompany the stories.

Two Weeks to Go: Editing in Full Swing: A final reminder email is sent to contributors two weeks before the deadline. This marks the beginning of a busy period: each submission is reviewed, edited for length and clarity, and formatted to fit our A5 layout. Font choices, photo placement, and page design are carefully considered. Drafts are printed as rough proofs, and occasionally, we enlist the help of AI tools to assist with grammar, spelling, and trimming down longer pieces. Obituaries hold a special place in the magazine. We liaise closely with families to ensure sensitivity and accuracy, always sharing the final version before publication. Anna coordinates updates from the Hub, while Brian gathers news from the church and village history. We also adhere to a strict code of conduct—especially when publishing images of individuals, and more so when children are involved.

Finalising the Issue: Once the submission window closes, we cross-check all proof documents against our digital file list. Business sponsorship adverts are added, and within days, the editorial team meets to review every printed draft. We fact-check, make final edits, and decide which pieces make the cut—especially when space is tight. Magazine pagination must be divisible by four, and with only a limited number of colour pages available, layout decisions become a strategic puzzle.

Off to the Printers: Once the layout is finalised, each piece is converted to PDF and sent via 'WeTransfer' to Minuteman Press. They return a full proof for review, and if any changes are needed, we go through additional rounds until everything is just right. When approved, 660 copies are printed. Minuteman Press delivers the magazines in boxes right to my door.

Delivery Day: As the delivery date approaches, Sheila notifies our wonderful team of volunteer distributors. On the Wednesday before delivery, she and I count and sort the magazines into road-specific bags. By Friday, the bags are laid out in order and collected by our dedicated crew. Finally, Geoff uploads it to the Hub website.

John

The start of a new year at Horspath C of E Primary School

As the summer term, with its wonderful fete, sports day, and school production, feels like a distant memory, it is hard to believe that we have already embarked on a new school year. It seems like just yesterday that we were all eagerly awaiting the summer holidays, and yet here we are, reflecting on the journey we have shared. Our annual fete was a huge success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our PTA and the church. The event was not only a fantastic community gathering but also raised much-needed funds for both the school and the church – thank you to everyone who contributed and attended. Looking back, it is hard to believe that over a year has passed since I became the Headteacher at Horspath. In many ways, it feels like I have always been part of this wonderful school, and in others, it's as though the year has flown by. At the start of this new academic year, I have been reflecting on everything we have achieved together, from our successful Ofsted report to the relationships we have built along the way. I feel incredibly proud to be part of such a strong, dedicated team and grateful for the warm welcome I have received from everyone in Horspath. This new term has started with great energy and enthusiasm from both staff and children. We are especially proud of how well the children have settled back into routines, despite the challenging weather – thunder, lightning, wind, and rain have all tried to keep them distracted, but they have risen to the occasion. One of my favourite moments has been seeing our oldest children support and care for their younger buddies – our new reception children – showing them kindness, patience, and respect. This year, we're excited to embark on the Opal Project, a two-year initiative aimed at making playtimes more varied and enjoyable for all of our children. As part of this project, we are looking to create a more adventurous play area, and we may be asking for donations of materials such as planks of wood (no splinters, please), tyres, barrels, crates, and more. If you are able to help, please get in touch with us. Your support would be greatly appreciated. We also look forward to continuing our active role in village life. We hope to see many of you at upcoming events, including Remembrance services, our wreath-making sessions for Christmas, church services, and other community gatherings throughout the year. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the incredible support I have received from the community since joining the school. I am excited about what we will continue to achieve

together, and I look forward to further strengthening our connection with the village.

Serena Court - Headteacher



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Do you know someone that would like to be part of the trail this year but isn't able to build a scarecrow. They can host one of our miniature scarecrows in their garden. They don't have to do anything other than name their scarecrow and wave at trail walkers.

>>>>>> email- horspathevents@hotmail.co.uk

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Making Time

Come along to an afternoon of crafting every 'First Monday' of the month.

2pm - 4pm at the HUB

(Taxi available if you need a lift)

We are Making Time for you to be creative!

And you get tea/coffee and cake.

Horspath Village Show – 6th September 2025

On Saturday 6th September, a scaled-down version of the Horspath Village Show was held in The Hub. While we sadly couldn't run the traditional Dog Show this year or the crafts or children's classes due to limited space, the event was still full of colour, creativity, and community spirit.



Competition Highlights:

- Overall Winner (Katherine Riley Cup): Thomas Butler – congratulations!
- Runner-up: Alexandra Andreeva
- Children's Cup: Antonia Timbs – an impressive achievement, especially as she competed against adults with no separate children's classes this year.
- New Roy Grant Cup for Preserves: Karyn Collins

In total, there were 133 entries across flowers, fruit, vegetables, baking, and preserves. The photography entries for the Horspath Calendar were of an excellent

standard and looked wonderful on display, with Noel Skeats collecting the winning trophy.

Thanks & Fundraising

We are very grateful to everyone who visited, contributed, and supported the raffle. With 32 raffle prizes, we raised £150 for Restore, an Oxford-based mental health charity that supports people through gardening, crafts, cooking, and other activities.

A huge thank you also goes to our dedicated volunteers and judges, without whom the show would not have been possible.

Looking Ahead

We hope that by next year, the Village Hall facelift will be complete, allowing us to bring back more classes—and hopefully the Dog Show too!

If you have suggestions for next year's event, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch via email: haa.horspath@gmail.com

Report by Fiona Smith

Chocolate bars

How many can you find?

Rachel said she wanted to go for a picnic, and take the dogs. Mojo was like a little lion, bar for the fact that he was so petite, and Rufus was all white or milky, bar for a fox red stripe twix his shoulder blades and tail.

But Paul wanted to go to the farm, he thought it would give the kids a boost if they could go to the dairy, milk the cows, watch the milk ripple into the bucket, as they were doing farming as a school topic. Rachel grumbled “Oh fudge it” then with a whisper “we could go on the bus, Ollie loves to go upstairs on a double decker”

When they arrived at the farm they saw a big sign saying TOBLE RONE Farm, there was also a sign saying NO DOGS, this was because the farm dog who was a little yorkie called Kit didn’t like other dogs. Grandpa said he would walk the dogs up the lane, and he had to do a twirl when he got tangled up in the leads. Lily in a sing-song voice said “my hands are all silky can we go milky” “way down there, taking lots of care” Jenny continued and laughing they ran down the crunchie gravel path.

When they arrived at the dairy they were met by a nice man called Ali, he was Turkish. Delight showed on the faces of the children when Ali ruffled Ollie’s hair and called him curly wurly, they all had a turn hand milking a cow, and there were lots of snickers when Ali told Eric he was the best, he then hugged nana, she thought she was in another galaxy when Ali said “you have much bounty with your wonderful grandchildren.” Nana didn’t need Ali to tell her that, but she was pleased that he’d noticed.

They all went for a cup of tea where they watched Kit chasing a big cat round the garden, a lady brought them their tea and told them the cat was called Kat. “Will you please leave him alone Kit, Kat just wants to lay in the sun” she said smiling as the big brown and white cat jumped up onto a table out of reach and proceeded to lay down cleaning his fur which was like burnt toffee, crisp white patches and green eyes.

Nana said she would go and pay, Ollie said “will it be a dime nana?” Jenny was about to chomp down on her cake when Lily said running with her arms outstretched “I’m an aero plane” Eric joined in saying “I’m a rocket going to Mars”

When they eventually went back to the bus, they all began to flake out one by one. They were so tired, first Grandpa, then Jenny, Eric, Ollie, Lily, like a snowball gathering momentum.

Paula Cook or resident Chocolatier

Horspath Parish Council

Thanks to a grant awarded from Horspath Stone Pit Charity, the installation of the new children's play area behind the village hall has now been completed and enjoyed by many families. Tables & benches will be installed in the near future. Please note:- Dogs are NOT permitted in the new play area. The refurbishment of the village hall project is still on-going and a planning application has been submitted to the District Council. As soon as planning permission is approved the project can move forward. More information to follow. A new dog bin has been sited at the end of the car park in the Village Hall and the other one will be sited at the bottom of Sandy Lane. Several quotations have been received for a new bus shelter on the Village Green, but Councillors decided that the preference would be to have a brick built shelter that matches the existing bus shelter on the Green. Horspath Feast will take place on Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th September 2025. The External Audit has now been completed for 2024/25, there were no matters to be raised. 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

Any resident who is interested in joining the Horspath Village Hall Management Committee please contact 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.

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Horspath Stone Pit Charity

Organisation grants are currently suspended following the decision at the March 2025 meeting, until the refurbishment of the village hall has been completed. After this time, applications will be open again for organisations to apply for a grant. Individual grant applications remain open.

The next Horspath Stone Pit Charity meeting will be held on 30th September 2025. The closing date for applications will be 1st September 2025. 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.

Awesome since 1945



It has come to my attention that a number of villagers are becoming octogenarians this year! Not so remarkable you might say – it happens all the time! Perhaps what is remarkable is that in our small village,

there are excellent experiences to celebrate this milestone birthday without so much as venturing beyond the parish boundary! It's whatever floats your boat! **The Park Run** offers a splendid welcome, complete with a personal song from the Run Director to enhance the family celebration – a run or walk for all! **The Tap Room** offers beer and pizzas in a cosy setting. **The Hub** is a favourite venue for a special party; **The Ghurka Palace** and **Queen's Head** offer excellent food and you can even do “Alpaca walking”. There are plenty of companies offering “Red Letter Days” but look no further than Horspath!

Sue Rowell

Vicar's Letter

What is your church like? I'm often asked that question by people who usually haven't been to church for a while and perhaps they would like to start coming again. I usually answer that I hope we are a church where people find it easy to feel 'they belong'. As I have got used to spending more time in the parishes of this group, I have felt welcomed. Some time ago I came across the following welcome notice; it has been circulating on social media. I think it originates from Coventry Cathedral. I very much hope we are this sort of church.

"We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down at heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion.' (We're not that keen on it either!) We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wants to come to the Cathedral. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost on the ring road and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and you!"

It is always wonderful to be able to welcome you, Sunday service details are always in the Village Magazines and on noticeboards. You are especially welcome to join us for the children's workshop we have during half term on Thursday 30th October @9.30-11.30am. This ties in with the wonderful Scarecrow Trail. Remembrance Sunday is 9th November when we gather around the war Memorial to remember those who died in war.

I do hope you can join us: a very warm welcome awaits.

With best wishes

Caroline, The Revd. Caroline King - Administrator

Services in St Giles' Church and Benefice Services

October and November 2025

2nd October The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Morning Worship (and Sunday Fun-Time in the Horspath Hub)

9th October The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Parish Communion

3pm *Benefice Story-Time Church* in the Forest Church at Ripon College Cuddesdon (share stories about Jesus around a campfire, with marshmallows, refreshments and conversation)

19th October The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

11am for 11:15 Family Time

26th October The Last Sunday after Trinity

11am Parish Communion

2nd November All Saints Sunday

11am Morning Worship

3.00pm Service of Light at All Saints Cuddesdon

9th November Remembrance Sunday

11am Act of Remembrance at War Memorial

11.15am Followed by Eucharist in Church

3pm *Benefice Story-Time Church* in the Forest Church at Ripon College Cuddesdon (share stories about Jesus around a campfire, with marshmallows, refreshments and conversation)

16th November The Second Sunday before Advent

11am for 11.15am Family Time

23rd November Christ the King

11am Parish Eucharist

30th November Advent Sunday

10am Benefice Service

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A Big Well Done to Kate Sergeant!

Horspath resident Kate Sergeant completed the epic Land's End to John O' Groats cycle in July, a journey that stretched over 1,000 miles! Over 14 days, Kate and her fellow riders faced their fair share of challenges:

a broken gear mechanism (requiring a substitute bike), a snapped chain, missing cleat bolts, and a near detour onto Edinburgh's busy city bypass. But despite the mishaps, Kate loved every minute and would wholeheartedly recommend the adventure to anyone tempted to take it on.

From Cornwall's windswept cliffs to the wild beauty of the Scottish Highlands, the LEJOG route offers a stunning cross-section of Britain's landscapes, villages, and landmarks, truly a bucket-list experience.

Kate joins a proud tradition of Horspath adventurers. Andy Austen of The Noisy Neighbours cycled LEJOG in 2018 and walked it in reverse (JOGLE!) back in 1993. Local historian Brian Lowe completed the ride in 1991 at age 50, long before GPS and sat-navs and still recalls it fondly. Surely there are more villagers who've tackled the route; perhaps it's time to start a Horspath LEJOG/JOGLE roll of honour?

Kate was welcomed home on the village green with applause and a celebratory glass of fizz. Fittingly, she wore the same jacket Brian Lowe donned on his own journey 34 years ago — a symbolic passing of the torch, or rather, the jacket.



Coming Home to Horspath: A letter from Rev'd Dr Tony Surman

(Edited by Sue Rowell)

I came to Horspath on 6th August this year, carried along by curiosity about a family link with the village. My family name is Surman. In the mid-eighteen century at least two generations of my forebears lived in Horspath. On 16 October 1781, the earliest of these connections, Richard Surman (b. 1749) married Elizabeth Mallam (b.1747) in St Giles' Church. Elizabeth was born in Horspath, while Richard was a newcomer to the village, having been born in Stanton Harcourt - with ancestors who for many generations lived in nearby Fyfield. Both are buried in the churchyard at Horspath (Elizabeth d. 1797 and Richard d. 1821). In 1794 Elizabeth gave birth to twins, Robert and John. I descend through the latter. John married Frances Mary Simpson (b. 1796) in January 1814. Frances gave birth to my forebear, Thomas Kilby Surman the same year. Thomas lost his young mother six years later, in 1820. She is also buried in St Giles' churchyard. Thomas moved from Horspath to Leamington in Warwickshire, from where his son, Stephen (b. 1849), departed for New Zealand, arriving in Auckland in April 1874. I will spare you the details of my descent from Stephen, suffice to say that I am a fourth-generation descendant of his, still living in the city he arrived in, only a handful of miles from the suburb of Mt Eden where Stephen and his first wife Selina set up a general store. I went up to St Giles' Church and looked around the churchyard. On the south side of the church the tomb stones were very worn. I moved to the north side and found my first Surman grave, then another and another - so I knew I was on to something. I moved into the newer graveyard and again found relatives. I'd never been in a cemetery with that proliferation of Surman names. I could not locate the actual graves of my ancestors noted above. From what I can tell, any gravestones of those periods or older – often in limestone - are very worn. I did find one grave, north-west of the church, that linked Surman with Mallam (Henry Mallam Surman, d. 19 August 1929), so I am confident that my forebears are there. Meeting Brian Lowe helped me further, but if anyone does have more information to share I would love to hear from you.



Dr Tony Surman lives in Auckland, New Zealand and is the
Vicar of St Mark's Church, seen here.

(email: vicar@stmarks.org.nz web: www.stmarks.org.nz)

HORSPATH NICKNAMES NINETY YEARS AGO.....

In the course of my research into village history, I was very fortunate to enlist the help of Dennis Cooper, who lived in Horspath before the war and long after. It seems that in prewar Horspath, with a population of less than 600, most people worked on the land, in the village, or very locally, which made for a tight-knit and very familiar community – to the extent that the men all seemed to be known solely by their nicknames rather than their Christian names... some descriptive, some humorous, or simply derogatory !! Dennis compiled his list from memory, and below are some examples of this offhand way of relating to people. (The complete list totals sixty-three names).

The commonest surname in Horspath was inevitably Surman... There were "Mallam, Pap, Oily, Tawny, Essex, Punch, Cuffy, Scab, Shiner, Bumble, Manny, Menace and Gudgeon". Among the Munts were "Bamp, Wag, Sackie and Klonny", and the Hinton featured "Tubby, Pecker, Darkie, Maley, Faggot, Sonk, Bangle and Sambo". Other rich appellations included "Peggy" Washington, "Tite" Moore, "Tipper" Honey, "Jiggy" Coppock, "Sheddie" Haines, "Bunny" Honey, "Hockie" Heritage, "Skinny" Kimber, "Clite" Cooper, "Gurnie" Washington, "Dickie" Dandridge, "Jo-Jo" Bricknell, "Puffer" Harper, "Tom Pigeon" Edgington and finally "Tango" Baker, - who I know was thus called because he was a very good dancer – and my father-in-law !

Brian Lowe.



Pictured is William 'Merry' Kimber with his 'squeezebox' in front of the cricket pitch and St Giles' Church, circa 1898.

'Merry' was the inspiration of the Headington Quarry Morris Dancing revival around 1900, and had married his cousin, Sophia Kimber at Horspath in May, 1872.



Horspath Cricket Club shine back on big stage

Horspath CC rounded off a strong first season back in the Home Counties Premier Cricket League. An impressive 10-match unbeaten run saw the side harbour outside hopes of promotion from Division 2 before finishing fifth. Highlights included a brilliant Home Counties club record unbeaten 141 by Jamaican star Derval Green in a 144-run victory over Wokingham at

the Recreation Ground. Sravan Konidena piled in with a superb 130 in a four-wicket win at Gerrards Cross, while Asad Rafiq returned excellent figures of 6-48 in a 37-run defeat at home to Chesham. The side also continued their defence of the Hartwell Trophy with a comprehensive 74-run win at top-flight Banbury in the semi-finals (the final and annual Feast Match were still to take place at the time of writing). Horspath 2nd secured promotion from Cherwell League Division 2, agonisingly missing out on being crowned champions by one point to Westbury following a 75-run defeat in their title decider at the Rec. It added to their runners-up spot in the Pullinger Cup T20 Final, which included Ed Oakley's remarkable 8-22 in the 11-run defeat by Didcot (*see article*) Horspath 3rd also challenged for promotion from Division 4B before finishing third, while Horspath 4th came eighth in Division 6C with Adrian Manger taking a career-best 8-38 in a 20-run win at champions Frieth. Horspath also finally celebrated their first win in the Home Counties Women's Cricket League with a resounding 107-run victory at home to West Ilsley. Fifteen-year-old Frances Goodliffe starred with 5-10 to send the visitors reeling to 52 all out after Horspath posted 159-5. The club's second Charity Fun Tape Ball Cricket Six-A-Side Competition also proved a big success. Eleven teams consisting of around 70 men's and women's players, juniors, friends and supporters took part in the event in aid of Sobell House Hospice. The amount raised has yet to be finalised, but it's anticipated it will be a healthy sum.

The picture above shows the winning Pink Team (Leslie Family), celebrating their success at the Charity Tape Ball Tournament.

OAKLEY RETURNS SENSATIONAL

T20 FIGURES OF 8-22

Ed Oakley returned remarkable figures of 8-22 for Horspath 2nd in the Cherwell League's Pullinger Cup T20 Final - but incredibly still ended up on the losing side as Didcot triumphed by 11 runs at Banbury. Brought into the attack with Didcot 95-1 off 13 overs after choosing to bat in the decider of the competition for Tier 1-3 sides, the 44-year-old seamer produced a sensational four-over spell. He opened his amazing account with his fifth delivery when Marselle Cronje (38)



skied a catch to Sam Leslie at mid-wicket to end a second-wicket partnership of 93 with skipper Sam Hepke. Oakley then struck twice with consecutive deliveries in his next over as Hepke, who hit a fine 60 off 41 balls with six fours and a six, presented a catch to Ehsan Hussain at point, before Tristan Ashwin was bowled. The Horspath bowler was on a roll and he claimed two more victims in his third over with Connor Morrison stumped off a legside wide by Tejas Anand and Will Huish caught at deep cover by captain Ryan Hicks to complete a five-wicket haul. But Oakley wasn't finished there as he topped off his dream spell with three wickets in the last over to restrict Didcot to 136-9, trapping Sachin Dahiya lbw for 18, before having Baljit Singh Dhaliwal stumped and Matthew Ford bowled off successive deliveries. It was an astonishing spell of bowling and unsurprisingly earned him the man of the match trophy awarded by competition organiser Barrie Pudwell. Putting his staggering effort into context, the best figures in an international T20 match are 7-8 by Malaysia's Syazrul Idrus against China in Kuala Lumpur on July 26, 2023, while the leading return in a county match is Colin Ackermann's 7-18 for Leicestershire against Warwickshire at Grace Road on August 7, 2019. It's not the first time Oakley has achieved a huge haul, having returned career-best figures of 9-39 for Oxford & Bletchington Nondescripts in 2009. However, his heroics weren't enough to bring victory to Horspath,

whose 1st XI had defeated Didcot in last year's final. Slipping to 15-2 after five overs, the holders plunged deeper into the mire at 25-4 with Rodaine Osbourne (2-35) in the wickets and were still well behind the run rate at 66-6. Dan Todd and Joval Calix, though, produced a spirited seventh-wicket stand of 56. And when Todd hit 18 off the penultimate over, bringing up his half-century in the process it meant Horspath needed 15 off the last over to pull off an unlikely win. It wasn't to be though as Tristan Ashwin took wickets in two balls, including Calix for a breezy 25, to leave Horspath short on 125-8. Todd was undefeated with a valiant 55 from 37 balls, hitting five fours, while Ashwin took 3-12 from his four overs. In the semi-finals earlier in the day, Horspath coasted to an eight-wicket win over Sandford St Martin, who were bowled out for 89 after being put in to bat. Josh Cummings (3-11), Hicks (3-16) and Calix (2-16) led the way for Horspath as Krishnan Patel (25) top-scored. Hussain (30) set Horspath on the way to 93-2, before Dan Corner (21no) and Rayaana Dogar (16no) completed the job with 5.5 overs to spare. Didcot, meanwhile, beat Banbury 2nd by 33 runs. Posting 175-4, they then bowled the hosts out for 142

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Gweneth Ann Powell 12.07.1938 - 01.06.2025

Born in Lowca and spending her early childhood in Keswick in the Lake District, Gwen moved to Oxford in 1954. At the age of 21, she married Pat Powell after meeting him at a dance in Milham Ford School. They moved to the village in 1961, and 19 College Way became their home for the rest of her life. Gwen worked tirelessly to make this a real family home, resourcefully upcycling, decorating, and focusing on unique touches that made it the perfect place to raise their family for over 60 years. She was deeply committed to the village: from her position as the Clerk to the

Parish Council, to her role in supporting Pat with the Cricket Club (not forgetting the numerous cricket teas she made), and those daily early morning walks down to the shop, she threw herself into life in the village. Those of you who knew Gwen would know she was never one to sit still! After retiring from her job as a legal secretary at the Manor House at the JR Hospital, she spent her days gardening, holidaying, walking, knitting, reading, and cooking for anyone and everyone she could! Aside from this, there was always something about seeing the youngsters in the village that Gwen loved. The scarecrow walk was a real highlight for her, often spending her afternoons watching so many children trying to solve the clues and spend time with their families. In the last few years, dementia made Gwen increasingly confused. While she may have found things more challenging as a result, and at times become frustrated because of this, her determination, spirit, and humour never wavered. A special thank you goes to Vipin and Jayshree for your unfailing kindness to her on those mornings where she was more confused than usual, and for making sure she got home safely (often with a sweet treat which we all know she was an absolute sucker for!). She was a fighter right until the end and defied all expectations. She leaves behind her husband, Patrick; her two children, Stephen and Mandy; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren: a legacy that we know, for the woman who loved her family so much, she would be absolutely delighted with.

Sleep well. xxx



Heather was born in London on 24th November 1937, just before WWII. Her early memories included sleeping under the stairs during air raids. Her father Mick, a salesman turned RAF rear gunner, and her mother Margory raised Heather and her sister June in Harrow before relocating to rural Buckinghamshire during the Blitz. At six, Heather travelled alone by train to school in Leighton Buzzard. After the war, the family moved to Sutton Coldfield, where Heather's childhood blossomed in a larger home with a garden and dogs. At ten, she reminded her parents of a promised pony, which sparked her lifelong love of riding. A dramatic early

accident didn't deter her—she rode bareback, competed in gymkhanas, and won rosettes. Bright and determined, Heather passed her 11+ early and excelled in sciences at grammar school. Though she dreamed of becoming a vet, limited opportunities for women led her to work in industrial drilling. In Manchester, she met Alan, had her son Mark at 21, and later studied computing and numerical analysis at night school—joining the field when computers filled entire rooms. Heather moved south to work in computing and statistics at Oxford University's Department of Forestry, where she met and married John Palmer. Together, they travelled to Brazil and Costa Rica with DFID. Returning to Oxfordshire in her late forties, Heather settled in Horspath, where she became a pillar of the village. She built and maintained the Horspath Village website, fostering digital community ties before social media existed. As a parish councillor, she championed tree planting, secured the Glebe allotments, negotiated transport solutions, and led campaigns to protect village heritage and environment. Her friend Martin Harris said, "She was clear in her own mind about what is right and wrong, but always attentive to others' concerns. Heather cared deeply, with no expectation of reward." Weekends were devoted to endurance riding with her Arab horses, Phara and Hanno. Heather travelled across the Wessex countryside, collecting trophies and rosettes. Though falls later affected her mobility, her spirit never waned. Her legacy lives on in the village she helped shape and the lives she touched.

Editor: *The above is an abridged summary of Heather's incredible life. The full eulogy formed part of her funeral ceremony led by Simon Leech on 29th August 2025.*

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 care navigators on 01865 872448 for more information.

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

A Morland House Surgery **Facebook Page** has been created. This is to keep patients up to date with surgery news and health issues. Please like and follow.

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

Winter vaccinations from MHS and the NHS are available to provide protection against serious illnesses like flu and COVID-19. Vulnerable groups can have their vaccinations from 1st Sept and remaining eligible groups from 1st October. If eligible you will have been contacted by MHS to book your vaccines. To check eligibility, visit the MHS website.

Weight Loss Medication is in the news and GPs can now prescribe Mounjara one of the leading drugs. Eligibility criteria are very strict and only a very small number of MHS patients will be eligible and contacted directly by the Surgery.

Changes to the routine childhood immunisation schedule from July 2025 designed to provide even better protection for babies and children. The recent rise in measles cases mean it is more important than ever to ensure your children's vaccinations are up to date.

Online Resources for Clinical Help Did you know that there are many local services to which you can make self-referrals without speaking to your GP? The Morland House Surgery website lists the various options. [Visit Self-Referral – Morland House](#)

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

www.morland-house.co.uk For example:

Medical Records and Test Results - guidance on how to access this information.

Travelling abroad – what MHS can and cannot do for you. Also remember to get your free UK Global Health Insurance card (GHIC) to facilitate state health care if needed.

Pharmacy First Service (PFS), whereby pharmacies can treat directly seven common health conditions.

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

Breast screening to detect the most common cancer in woman

Whooping Cough infections, symptoms and treatment

Look out for ... **Bullfinches**

The wonderful Bullfinch can still be seen and heard in Shotover County Park. However, through the regular Shotover Wildlife bird surveys – which have been running without interruption since 2000 – we have found that the frequency of records of this charming bird have crashed to just half of what it was 10 years ago. The male song can be heard all year and sounds a bit like the squeaking of a rusty hinge on a swinging gate!



What to look for: Male Bullfinches have a distinctive pink breast, black cap and tail and white rump. Females are paler.

Where to look: favourite places are Blackthorn scrub and other areas of mixed woodland that have plenty of undergrowth.

Did you know? Hearing a bullfinch sing on a rainy day was believed to predict sunshine; or their silence on a warm day could mean imminent storms.

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. Spotted anything? Tell us! enquiries@shotover-wildlife.org.uk

Editor: I have been asking Jacqueline to kindly send in a colour illustration to accompany her articles. Her line drawings are incredibly detailed and accurate, so finally here is a beautifully coloured illustration for you to enjoy. Many thanks

HORSPATH SCARECROW TRAIL 2025

Fundraising Event for Horspath Hub & St Giles Church
Saturday 25th October - Sunday 2nd November



This year theme

🎃 **Pumpkins** 🎃 As long as your idea incorporates a pumpkin or pumpkins. The choice is yours, Let your imagination go wild!

Based on feedback received from last year's trail, this year we are making changes, bringing in new ideas and the pumpkins are key to this. We hope that it will encourage more families to get involved and visit the trail.

Forms available from
Shop notice board or Gately Bus Stop

Return your entry form & fee before
7pm on Sunday 19th October to 2a Butts Road

email horspathevents@hotmail.com

