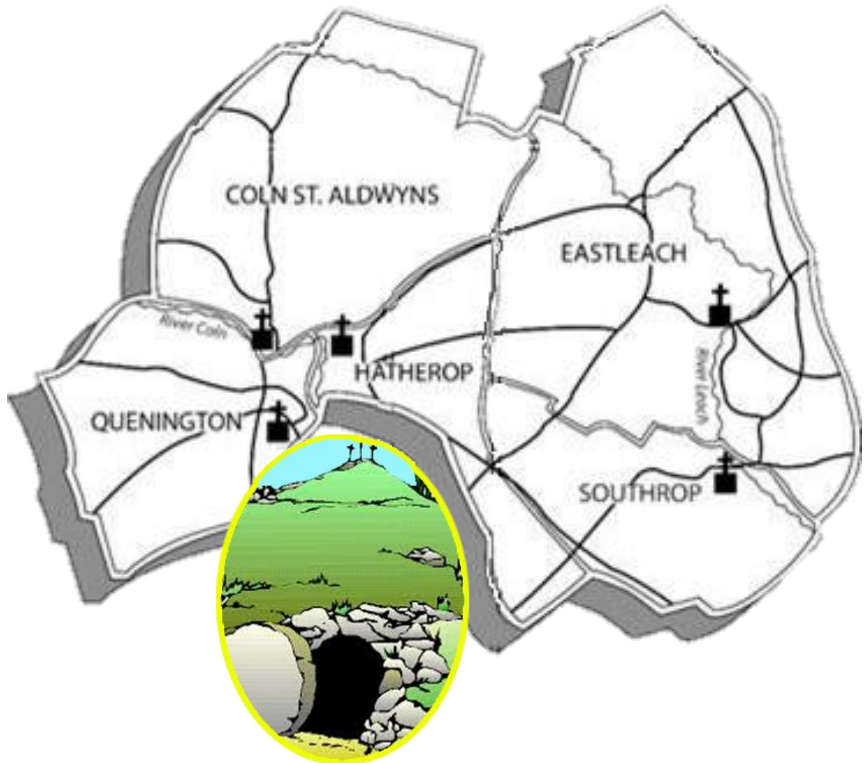


# CHEQS MAGAZINE



**April 2022**

# COTSWOLD TREES

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or £15 per month**

**Contact the editor**

[cheqsmagads@gmail.com](mailto:cheqsmagads@gmail.com)

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## THE KEEPERS ARMS, QUENINGTON



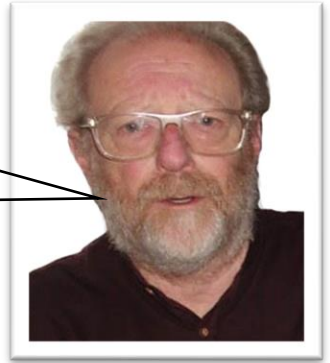
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[thekeepersarms.co.uk](http://thekeepersarms.co.uk)

01285 750 349

[landlord@thekeepersarms.co.uk](mailto:landlord@thekeepersarms.co.uk)

*Hello from...  
Gordon Land*



When I became the lead minister and pastor of the church of St Andrew, Eastleach, a few years ago, I was asked to write a short piece in the CHEQS Magazine to introduce myself, so now I am saying, "Hello!" again!

I'm a licensed Lay Reader acting as a full-time vicar, being warmly welcomed by a simply wonderful church community in one of the loveliest villages in the Cotswolds - what more could anyone want?

Actually, I've been involved in the village since 1964, when I was the telephone maintenance man, for six telephone exchange areas, including Eastleach, as well as Southrop, Coln St Aldwyns, Bibury, Fairford, Fossebridge and North Cerney. I'm now retired, but kept busy by my family - four children and nine grandchildren, my very tolerant wife Kathryn, and our little dog Effie.

In the church, I run the services, leading most of them, deciding what sort of service we'll have, selecting the Bible readings, and working with the Parochial Church Council in looking after the building. And, most importantly, looking for ways to reach out and grow the family of God in this place.

Talking of which, I was chatting to someone at Jazz Club the other night, and the subject of Spring and Easter came up, with the fact that the date of Easter changed each year. Why? Christmas doesn't change, it's always 25th December, but Easter seems to change all the time, to dates between 22<sup>nd</sup> March (at the earliest) and 25<sup>th</sup> April (at the latest). I took the chance to explain, as well as I could, that the date of Easter changes because it's connected to the dates when Jesus was crucified (what we call Good Friday) and rose again from the dead (what we celebrate as Easter Day). The date changes because it is linked to the date of the Jewish feast of the Passover (*Pesach*), which is determined by the cycle of the moon. My friend was surprised at the reasons... and was equally amazed to hear that Easter is actually connected to Jesus!

If you're amazed too, why not drop in to your local church at Easter (which, this year, is on 17<sup>th</sup> April) and find out more - you'll be very welcome!

## CHQ LENT LUNCHES

Everyone is invited to the final CHQ Lent Lunches for this year. A simple meal together at 12.30pm, for a donation to various charities. Just turn up with cash or an IOU, enjoy some good company, and be prepared to share what's provided!

Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March Sue Vicary, Lady Lucy Cottage, Church Lane, Coln St A.  
Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April Kate Hicks Beach, Upper Mill, Coln St Aldwyns

## SOUTHROP LITTER PICK

**Saturday & Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 10am**

Meet outside The Swan. Volunteers will be allocated a section of road, and be issued with litter picking sticks, gloves and black sacks.



## CHQ MESSY CHURCH

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April from 4 to 5.30pm,  
Quenington Village Hall**

Join us for a fun-filled time together:

- for all ages
- hot supper provided for all



This month we are exploring **Easter** with songs, craft, games and a short talk. **Everyone is welcome!**

## QUENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm, Quenington Village Hall**

The parish council will give a review of the year and will be open to public questions.

## EASTLEACH & SOUTHROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

**Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm, Southrop Village Hall**



Join us for some company, tea (and home-made cakes and sandwiches), and often some form of entertainment. Alternating between Eastleach & Southrop village halls, members are welcomed from all the surrounding villages. Small annual subscription, small weekly charge. Sally Parris 01367 850321 or Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393.

## ANGLICAN CHURCHES' ELECTORAL ROLL

At this time of year, the Anglican churches update their electoral roll. If you would like to be added to the roll, please contact your vicar as soon as possible!

# QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30 to 11.45am



Free refreshments, and this month the collection will be for AfghanAid, a British humanitarian and development organisation. Their personnel have worked with millions of deprived and excluded families in some of the poorest and most remote communities in Afghanistan. [www.afghanaid.org.uk](http://www.afghanaid.org.uk)

**100 Club March winners** (prizes may be collected at the Coffee Morning)  
1st prize (£15) no.43 **Steve Paterson**, 2nd prize (£10) no.59 **Jean Sayer**

## SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

**HUGE THANKS** to all those who made cakes and came to the Quenington Village Hall Coffee Morning last month to support the people of Ukraine. Over £1,000 was donated, and it was good to see so many people giving so generously, as well as enjoying meeting up for a chat!

**TYLER GRANGE GROUP LTD** would like to thank the very kind residents of Quenington, Coln and surrounding areas for their generous donations of bedding, medical supplies, food and money to help support the Ukrainian refugees.

A small team of four in two vans filled to the brim with supplies left on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March to head to Dover. They made their way through France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, before reaching their final goal at the refugee reception centre in Poland, a few miles from the Ukrainian border at Lubcza Królewska on Sunday afternoon. They made 1,300 miles in three days and said it was a very well organised operation with lots of others getting involved on similar trips. It was a very heart-warming, yet harrowing, experience that they will never forget.



Katie Geoghegan, who helped arrange some of the donations, would like to say a special thank you to Gail and the team at Coln Community Stores for organising and gifting so many key donations, and to all our lovely residents and those who offered invaluable help via the Nextdoor app. It really makes a huge difference, no matter how small it may seem. We wouldn't have been able to do any of this without all your support, so a huge thank you to all involved!



## RARE PLANT FAIR

Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April from 11am to 4pm, The Old Rectory, Quenington,

Tickets: £6 per person on the gate.



The ever-popular Rare Plant Fair is returning to Quenington this month. In the beautiful grounds of the Old Rectory, a range of interesting and unusual plants will be on sale from specialist nurseries, all of whom are dedicated to offering well-grown plants, and advice on the plants they sell. Homemade refreshments will be available. A proportion of the proceeds will be donated to the medical charity, Cobalt.

## COLN ST ALDWYNS GLEBE FIELD

Abby and Luke De Marco may be using the triangular glebe field, opposite the vicarage drive, for their ewes to lamb in: the vet has told them that it would be the safest place, well protected by the walls. They would need to let the sheep in soon, to crop the grass back, and later bring the ewes in to lamb. The path through the field would need to be closed during that period. Abby & Luke hope that local residents will be willing to forgo the use of the footpath temporarily, to ensure the safety of the sheep and lambs.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS



### Hatherop Castle School

*The Adventure of Childhood*

Website: [www.hatheropcastle.co.uk/](http://www.hatheropcastle.co.uk/)

Recently, Hatherop Castle Pre-prep has seen extensive refurbishment of their Stableyard. With the two Prep 2 classrooms near completion, our site team have already begun planning for the next stage - an additional two classrooms and a brand-new changing room/boot room, to allow maximum space for all our younger children to enjoy and learn. We look forward to sharing our progress with you!



As part of their inter-house competition, children from Reception to Prep 8 were invited to design and build their own Bug Hotel, to be placed in the school grounds. The results were amazing and will be a wonderful addition to our school. Children were judged on their use of materials (reused and recycled), the variety of materials used (to attract a variety of bugs), the signage or name of the bug hotel, as well as the overall look. We were impressed with

how much thought and effort had gone into their projects, and clearly a lot of consideration was given to how environmentally friendly the hotels were. We look forward to seeing which bugs take up residence in the Hatherop Castle School grounds.





## Southrop Church of England Primary School

*Together we can fly*

Website: [www.southrop.gloucs.sch.uk/](http://www.southrop.gloucs.sch.uk/)

Facebook page [Southrop C of E Primary School](#)

World Book Day is one of the highlights of the year at Southrop School and this year Mrs Tipple, our English Coordinator, went above and beyond to organise fabulous reading events throughout the week. Each day we had a mystery reader who shared a favourite story. These ranged from former pupil Jonty, retired former teachers, the minibus driver, to one of our governors, Mr Smith, who demonstrated a telehandler (a more versatile sort of fork-lift truck, in case you wondered!) in the field and then sat in it to share a story! On the day, all the school came dressed as a famous book character and the staff were all characters from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



Visitors expecting to meet with the Co-Head Teachers were a little surprised to be greeted by an Oompa Loompa and Willy Wonka!

Other activities included a book swap, MC Grammar rapping, a masked reader competition, quizzes, sharing a book, comic strips, hot chocolate and a story. Kim Harvey from Madhatter Bookshop, Burford, kindly gave us a voucher to buy some extra books for the library. 10 pupils were lucky enough to accompany Mrs Tipple and had a wonderful morning exploring the bookshop, choosing and then enjoying reading the new books on the minibus journey back to school.

Our value this term is **forgiveness**, which is especially fitting in this period of Lent. The whole school enjoyed our customary pancake race and then consuming the pancakes, on Shrove Tuesday. Gareth Griffith, our curate, was in school reading a book on Ash Wednesday. He shared a prayer to ask for forgiveness and made the sign of



the cross in ash on the foreheads of those Swan children who wanted to partake, as a symbol of a desire for forgiveness.

Over the past weeks, our thoughts have been with the people suffering so terribly in the war in Ukraine. We joined many people across the country in the day for Ukraine, and collected money and goods. As our school uniform colours are yellow and blue, two of our pupils came up with the idea of arranging the pupils in a flag configuration in the playground, half the with jumpers and half with jumpers off to show support for the people of Ukraine.



[You can see a photo of the resulting flag on the school's Facebook page, as the mono one in the printed magazine doesn't quite do it justice! Editor]



**Hatherop Church of England Primary School**

*Caring, Believing, Achieving*

website: <https://www.hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk/>

On World Book Day, the children were given the task of creating either a diorama or a potato character from one of their favourite books, and Kingfisher class participated in a scavenger hunt, looking for story clues around their classroom.



Skylark class completed their unit of work on 'caring for the world and the people in it' by holding a jumble sale to raise money for the children of Ukraine. The event was very well attended and raised £137. The money from the PTA cake sale took the total to over £300.



A small number of our children were selected to run at the county cross country finals. It was very hilly, and a real challenge, compared to the events previously attended by them!! They all did really well, and supported each other in the normal lovely Hatherop way.

We have spaces in our Year 4,5 and 6 classes. If you are interested in a place and would like to have a look around the school, please contact the office on [admin@hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk)



# VILLAGE CONTACTS

## PARISH COUNCILS

**Coln St Aldwyns** (website [www.colnstaldwyns.com/council.html](http://www.colnstaldwyns.com/council.html) )

Chair: David Hicks Beach 01285 750482

Clerk: Clare Brignall 01285 752662 [colnsaparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:colnsaparishclerk@gmail.com)

**Hatherop** (website [www.hatheroppc.com/](http://www.hatheroppc.com/) )

Chair: James Hart

[hatheropparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:hatheropparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Clerk: Jacky Sykes

as above

**Eastleach** (website [www.eastleachparishcouncil.org](http://www.eastleachparishcouncil.org) )

Chair: VACANT

Clerk: Ann Tyldesley 01367 860130 [eastleachpc@btinternet.com](mailto:eastleachpc@btinternet.com)

**Quenington** (website [www.queningtonvillage.uk](http://www.queningtonvillage.uk) )

Chair: Mike Scott 01285 750433

Clerk: Penny Ibbotson 01285 750000 [queningtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:queningtonpc@gmail.com)

**Southrop** (website [www.southrop.org.uk](http://www.southrop.org.uk) )

Chair: Tim Guest 01367 850189

Clerk: Vanessa Lawrence 07876 252398 [spcclerk2017@outlook.com](mailto:spcclerk2017@outlook.com)

## VILLAGE HALLS

**Eastleach** [eastleachvhall@gmail.com](mailto:eastleachvhall@gmail.com)

**Quenington** [www.queningtonvillage.uk](http://www.queningtonvillage.uk)

[queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com)

**Southrop** Caroline Simmons 01367 850171

[southropvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:southropvillagehall@gmail.com)

**Jubilee Close** Andy Howarth 01367 850400



## SCHOOLS

**Hatherop C/E Primary School** 01285 750318

Head, Taryn Hancock

**Southrop C/E Primary School** 01367 850246

Heads, Megan Davies & Julia McLellan

**Hatherop Castle School** 01285 750206

Head, Nigel Reed

## OTHER VILLAGE COMMUNITY GROUPS

**S & E Friendship Circle**

Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 & Sally Parris 01367 850321

**Quenington Baby & Toddler Group (CHEQS+)** Term time on Mondays - please book weekly, in the preceding week [margaret.stranks@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.stranks@gmail.com) 07729 129578 (WhatsApp preferred)

## COLN COMMUNITY STORES



[www.colnstores.co.uk](http://www.colnstores.co.uk)  
or 01285 750294

	Shop	Café	Post Office*
Monday - Friday	8am - 4.30pm	8am - 3.30pm	9am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 4pm
Saturday	8am - 2pm	8am - 1pm	9am - 11.30am
Sunday	9am - 1pm	9am - 12pm	CLOSED

\*NB the collection from the post box outside the Stores is at **4pm Monday - Friday**

### EASTER OPENING HOURS

	Shop	Café	Post Office
Good Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> April	9am - 1pm	9am - 12.30pm	CLOSED
Easter Saturday, 16 <sup>th</sup> April	8am - 2pm	8am - 1pm	CLOSED
Easter Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> April	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Easter Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> April	9am - 1pm	9am - 12.30pm	CLOSED

**There will be no newspapers on Easter Sunday**

## SHOP & POST OFFICE - SOUTHPROP VILLAGE HALL



**Coffee Morning, Shop & Post Office**  
Wednesdays 8.45am to 11.45am

## CHEQS DIARY 2022

<b>Wednesdays</b>	10am - 12pm	Talking Café, Fairford Community Centre	
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12.30pm	Lent Lunch, Lady Lucy Cottage, Coln St Aldwyns	p2
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10am	The Swan, Southrop Litter Pick	p2
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	10am	The Swan, Southrop Litter Pick	p2
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	4 - 5.30pm	Messy Church, Quenington Village Hall	p2
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> April	12.30pm	Lent Lunch, Upper Mill, Coln St Aldwyns	p2
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	QPC Annual Village Meeting, Quenington Village Hall	p2
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> April	3pm	E & S Friendship Circle, Southrop Village Hall	p2
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30-11.45am	Quenington Village Hall Coffee Morning	p3
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> April	11am - 4pm	Rare Plant Fair, The Old Rectory, Quenington	p4
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> April	9am - 12pm	Quenington Car Boot Sale, Village Green	p11
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> April	tba	Quiz Night, Southrop Village Hall	p11
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> April	7 for 7.30pm	Coln Cinema, Vicarage Cottage Barn	p11
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> April	6pm	Magic, Comedy, Auction, Quenington Village Hall	p11
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> June		Jubilee Events	
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> June			

# CHURCH SERVICES



## Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
	4pm	Messy Church	Quenington Village Hall
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln St Aldwyns
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Meditation	St John the Baptist, Coln St Aldwyns
(Good Friday)	12pm	Meditation	St Nicholas, Hatherop
(Good Friday)	1pm	Meditation	St Swithin, Quenington
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Easter Service	St Nicholas, Hatherop
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln St Aldwyns
	6pm	Taizé Service	St Swithin, Quenington

## St Andrew's Church, Eastleach (all led by Gordon Land)

3 <sup>rd</sup> April	11am	Morning Prayer
10 <sup>th</sup> April	11am	Morning Prayer for Palm Sunday including giving of Palms
17 <sup>th</sup> April	11am	Informal Family Worship for Easter Day
24 <sup>th</sup> April	11am	Holy Communion

Details of the set readings and Psalms, and those reading the lessons, will also be available on the church porch notice board.

## St Peter's Church, Southrop

April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion

Please see local notices for any extra services.

**Williamstrip Chapel:** Mass is usually celebrated on Sundays at 9.30am

## Fairford & Lechlade Churches

Please check notice boards and websites, or phone the church contact person.

## CHURCH CONTACTS

### COLN ST ALDWYNS, HATHEROP & QUENINGTON CLERGY

Rev Simon Brignall                      The Vicarage, Church Lane, Coln St Aldwyns GL7 5AG  
(Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun)                      01285 752662                      [chqvicar@gmail.com](mailto:chqvicar@gmail.com)

### EASTLEACH & SOUTHPROP CLERGY

Rev Andrew Cinnamond                The Vicarage, Sherborne Street, Lechlade GL7 3AH  
(day off Tuesday)                      01367 253651                      [vicar@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk)  
Gordon Land                              01367 252050                      [walreader44@gmail.com](mailto:walreader44@gmail.com)  
(Lead Minister for Eastleach)

### C of E CHURCH WARDENS

CHQ    VACANT  
Eastleach                      Tim Lawson    01367 850756 or 07855 264360 [timglawson@me.com](mailto:timglawson@me.com)  
Southrop                      Jerry Hibbert   07766 084051                      [jerry@hibbertralph.com](mailto:jerry@hibbertralph.com)

### C of E SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

CHQ    Edwina Hicks   07970 799270 [chqsafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:chqsafeguarding@gmail.com)  
Eastleach                      Nicole Backhouse    07780 605717  
Southrop                      Rhona Reid    01367 850295

### C of E YOUTH WORKER

CHEQS & beyond              Chris Saunders   07918 732040                      [saundersc2014@gmail.com](mailto:saundersc2014@gmail.com)

### CATHOLIC PARISH PRIEST

Father Michael Robertson    01285 712586                      [michael.robertson@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:michael.robertson@cliftondiocese.com)

### WILLIAMSTRIP CHAPEL CHAPLAIN

Rev J Felix Stephens OSB    01285 740374                      [jfs.osb@ampleforth.org.uk](mailto:jfs.osb@ampleforth.org.uk)

### FAIRFORD UNITED CHURCH

Rev Wendy Tucker    01285 653655                      Secretary: Rachel Emmerson 01451 844532

## OTHER INFORMATION

**HOSPITALS** Fairford: out-patients only 0300 421 6470    Cirencester 0300 421 6200

**SURGERIES** Hilary Cottage, Fairford 01285 712377    Lechlade Medical Centre 01367 252264

**PHARMACIES** Boots, Fairford 01285 712350,    Lechlade Pharmacy 01367 252285

**GCC COMMUNITY WELL-BEING SERVICE** 01452 528491

**WORKING for WELLBEING** 07555 738138 contact the coordinator for groups, info & help

**POLICE** non-emergency: phone 101 or email [101@gloucestershire.police.uk](mailto:101@gloucestershire.police.uk)

**Quenington Defibrillator** outside Quenington Village Hall for use by anyone in emergency.  
Trained volunteers available on **01285 610210** but ALWAYS RING 999 FIRST!

PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW IF THE TIMETABLE NEEDS UPDATING (updated April 2021)

**Bus Service 76** Mon, Tue, Thu: Southrop 09:16, Eastleach 09:24, Hatherop 09:30, Quenington 09:37 to Fairford & Cirencester. Return leaves Cirencester at 12:40 and Fairford at 13:28. Sat: **S** 09:47, **E** 09:54, **H** 10:00, **Q** 10:07, **F** 10:15 Return leaves Ciren 14:20 Fairford 15:05

**Community Connexions Community Bus** book in advance on 03456 805029 for the door-to-door service on Thursdays to Cirencester; free with a bus pass or £8 each way



## QUENINGTON CAR BOOT SALES

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, Quenington Village Green, 9am (no set up before 8.45am)



Weather dependent - check our Facebook page on the day.

Other dates for the diary are: 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> July & 31<sup>st</sup> July, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 18<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October.

## QUIZ NIGHT IN SOUTHROP

Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April at the village hall - check local publicity for the time!

## COLN CINEMA - DON'T LOOK UP!

Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, Vicarage Cottage Barn, Coln



The April screening is the multi-awards nominated *Don't Look Up*. It's a hilarious and biting satire on narcissistic American Presidents, Silicon Valley oligarchs, social media influencers, and fake news merchants. It has an amazing cast - Leonardo Di Caprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Meryl Streep, Cate Blanchett, Mark Rylance, Ariana Grande, and Timothée Chalamet. Cert 15, duration 2 hrs 25 mins.

Numbers are restricted, so please email Nick Brett on [nrbrett@gmail.com](mailto:nrbrett@gmail.com) or phone or text 07713 981 753 to reserve a seat.

## MAGIC, COMEDY & THE QUENINGTON BULLDOGS LIVE AUCTION

Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> April, at Quenington Village Hall from 6pm

- £10 entry includes burger or hot dog
- Pay Bar and BBQ

Each year sees the Quenington Bulldogs getting involved in numerous projects to help local people in need, as well as supporting local schools and community groups. In the past few years, we have paid medical costs for a diabetic teenager, transport costs for cancer treatment, replaced central heating boilers for elderly residents, and much more.



As we continue to raise funds, join us for an evening of magic and comedy, and for a **live auction** with an outstanding collection of lots, including: two weeks in Lake Tahoe; a week in a luxury villa in Portugal; luxury accommodation in Bournemouth, Dartmouth and Christchurch; tickets for England Rugby internationals and Premier League games (Liverpool and Leeds); a day's shooting; a visit to a gin distillery and many, many more. Got any questions? Contact [paulmwilson@hotmail.com](mailto:paulmwilson@hotmail.com)

## FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES



**Nursing team:** Emma Kennedy and Jan Killingback

[nursing@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:nursing@friendsoffairford.org.uk) 07938 244335

**Patient Transport Coordinator:** Val Harvey

[transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk) 07540 798226

**General Manager:** Kelly Silk [GM@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:GM@friendsoffairford.org.uk)

**Administrator:** Kerry Simms [admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk) 01285 707300

**Lechlade Charity Shop:** [shop@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:shop@friendsoffairford.org.uk) 01367 252189

**Bereavement Café:** First Friday of every month in The Heritage Room, Fairford Community Centre, 10am to 12pm. No booking required. For more info, call 07938244335 or email [admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk)

**Charity Craft Fair:** Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, from 2 - 5pm at Lechlade Memorial Hall. Over 20 stalls selling a range of handmade items. Hot drinks and cakes, as well as a raffle and some Easter crafts for the children. FREE ENTRY!

## OIL LEAKING INTO THE RIVER COLN

For several months, oil has been leaking into the river near the foot of Quenington Hill. The source is not known, but oil appears to be coming from a storm drain which empties from the Coneygar Road area. Xylem (Godwin Pumps) have helpfully provided a boom, to reduce the spread of the oil. Local residents are asked to check their oil tanks for leaks, in case that is the source of the problem.

## ST SWITHIN'S CHURCH WINDOWS

The windows at St Swithin's Church are in need of professional cleaning and repair. It has been suggested that the work could be dedicated in memory of a loved one. The cost per window ranges between £252 and £3,036 and the total is £6,680. Contact James Sweeting [jdfsweeting@gmail.com](mailto:jdfsweeting@gmail.com) or 01285 750345.

## ECO CHURCH - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?



Eco Church is a project run in partnership by 'A Rocha UK' and various church groups and charities. Churches complete the online Eco Survey about how they are caring for God's earth in different areas of their life and work. The answers provided give points towards an Eco Church Award. The idea is to complete more actions in order to gain the points necessary for an award, and then to progress to more actions for a higher award. For example, you can switch to a green energy company or start using Fairtrade tea and coffee supplies to gain Eco Church Award points.

*Clare Brignall writes:* We are getting close to being awarded a bronze Eco Church award for at least one of our CHQ churches. Using Fairtrade products is part of the



award scheme. If you don't already do so, I urge you to look for the Fairtrade logo on goods that you buy, or you could go to the Ethical Superstore online and buy Fairtrade goods there. If anyone is interested in buying cleaning products, as a starter, we would be willing to buy the big containers and you could bring your smaller containers to us at the Vicarage in Coln, to refill. We have some washing up liquid, for example, if you would like to try it. If lots of people were interested, we could expand the products on offer. Please get in touch if you are interested [01285 752662 \[clarebrignall@hotmail.com\]\(mailto:clarebrignall@hotmail.com\)](mailto:clarebrignall@hotmail.com) or drop by the Vicarage when you are on a walk.

## THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION

**Save the dates: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June evening and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June afternoon**

The villages of Coln, Hatherop and Quenington are organising joint celebrations.

**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June:** lighting of beacons, ringing of church bells and a general get-together in our two village pubs. **Sponsors are needed** to enable a firework display, so if you know of a local business which could help, please get in touch.

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June:** a joint-village party, with live music, a bar, cakes, Gilo's food van or bring your own picnic, and games and activities for all ages (details to follow in the coming months). **Volunteers are needed** to help on the day, for limited periods so that everyone can enjoy the fun.

If you can help with either **sponsorship or volunteering**, please get in touch:

Hatherop	Jacky Sykes	01285 750354	<a href="mailto:sykes248@btinternet.com">sykes248@btinternet.com</a>
Quenington	Janet Sallis	01285 750438	<a href="mailto:jesqpc@gmail.com">jesqpc@gmail.com</a>
Coln St Aldwyns	Helen Forbes		<a href="mailto:helenandrobforbes@me.com">helenandrobforbes@me.com</a>

## CHEQS INFORMATION

**Email list:** Adrian Goodman, of Coln St Aldwyns, circulates notices of charitable and community events in five CHEQS villages - charity concerts, Coln Cinema, village fetes etc. but no commercial adverts. Get in touch with news of events for circulation, or to be added to the mailing list (give your name and village): [parvo@btinternet.com](mailto:parvo@btinternet.com)



**Village websites:** these are to be found on the Village Contacts page of the CHEQS Magazine (page 7). Hatherop Parish Council have a new website, so do check it out!

## CHEQS SUMMER PROGRAMME

Urgent help is needed to help organise the programme for this summer - activities for children in the CHEQS villages. Two more committee members are needed to help, between now and when it starts in August. If you can help, please contact Claire Morris on 07788 673637 or [claire.e.morris@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:claire.e.morris@hotmail.co.uk)



## HELEN & SAM WADE, EASTLEACH DOWNS ORGANIC FARM

We arrived at Eastleach Downs 30 years ago this year, starting our own business as contract farmers of a 600-sow breeding herd. We are first generation tenant farmers

who met working for a pig breeding company in 1989. Back then, we worked on farms where pigs were kept on concrete (and at times were tethered – which is thankfully now banned in the UK), something that haunts us still, and was the motivation for the high welfare farm we run today. It's a sad fact that even today, fewer than 2% of pigs spend their entire lives outside.

When we started, half the farm was organic, and was owned Sir Thomas Bazley - a man ahead of his time. In 2000, we took on the rest of the farm and converted it all to organic. The farm was bought by the Ernest Cook Trust, along with the rest of the Hatherop Estate in 2002.



We bought our own herd after a few years, at the rate of three sows a week and started to rear pigs that spent their whole lives on the farm here. Today, we have a herd of 50 organic native rare-breed British Saddleback sows who are outside all year round. We are certified organic by the Soil Association and assured by RSPCA Freedom Foods. We joined a Higher Level Stewardship

scheme in 2013, and we have land in various schemes to support farmland birds. We also have some land identified as possible Bronze-Age burial sites and these have been sown with wildflowers and left uncultivated.

Traditionally, we have produced oats for organic porridge and barley for organic beer on our stony soil. Latterly, we have been looking at how sustainable our farm is and how we can work to reduce imported proteins (mainly soya) in our pig feed. We pioneered feeding homegrown silage to our pigs over ten years ago, something we were





told would never work and we still feed it today, getting through 150 big bales of silage a year. Last year, we grew dual crops: peas and barley; and wheat and beans. Together they have made a wonderful feed which our pigs actually prefer to the mass-produced bought-in organic feed that we have always used.

We started our own butchery in 2003, and we run a monthly box scheme in which we make all our own sausages and bacon, and provide pork for the best Sunday lunches at the Victoria Inn. I recently took delivery of my second bacon slicer. The first one having been a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday present 18 years ago!



As pigs give birth all year round, we don't have a season, as such, so are always pretty busy - but especially when silage-making, harvesting etc. We have gone from contracting out our arable cropping to being self-sufficient, and even doing some contract farming for a neighbour. The learning curve has been a steep one at times, having no experienced farming parents to advise us – we have relied on friends, and peering over hedges...!



Seeing a crop through, from planting it ourselves, tending it (weeding) and finally harvesting it when it's ready, is something we never thought we'd be doing. We've become involved in innovative farmer-led research and we featured in the recent 'Rooting for Real Farms' series by Farms Not Factories, which promotes high welfare pig farming.

We are now in our sixth house as tenants and on our second landlord! We started renting one field on a grazing licence and now rent 320 acres on a farm business tenancy. We are fortunate enough to have great neighbours, who are very supportive of the way we farm. Our two daughters were brought up in Eastleach and are sensible enough not to want to farm...! They both went to university and we have them to thank for educating us in issues of equality and diversity.

We feel very privileged to be custodians of such a beautiful farm, and fortunate to have a job we enjoy every day. We recognise that there is a huge imbalance in access to land, and we are committed to doing our bit to change things. Those of us privileged to live and work in such a calm and peaceful space have a responsibility to not only share it, but to ensure that everyone feels welcome here. We have big plans for later on this year...

**CHEQS Magazine** is a free monthly community publication, funded by its advertisers, and delivered by volunteers to about 800 homes in Coln St Aldwyns, Hatherop, Eastleach, Quenington & Southrop.

**Current & back-copies of the magazine are available online at:**

<http://www.whichq.net/cheqs-magazine.html>

Contributions are welcomed **by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.**

They may be edited, and will be included at the editor's discretion.

Contact details for the editor, Margaret Stranks, are: [cheqsmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:cheqsmagazine@gmail.com)  
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