

CHEQS

MAGAZINE



March 2021

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george@ponsonbyfarms.co.uk

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contact Trish Haynes
01367 850233

trish.haynes@btconnect.com

CHEQS Magazine is a free monthly community publication
delivered by volunteers to about 800 homes in

Coln St Aldwyns, Hatherop, Eastleach, Quenington & Southrop.

It is available online (along with back copies) at www.whichq.net/links.html

ADVERTISING

We are grateful to our advertisers for their support, which funds our printing.

To advertise in the magazine, contact cheqsmagads@gmail.com

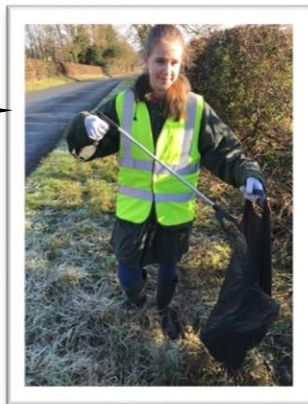
EDITOR

Contributions (and corrections) are welcomed: they may be edited, and will be included at the editor's discretion. All items should include the name and contact details of the sender. Please send **by the 15th of the previous month** to the editor:

cheqsmagazine@gmail.com

Margaret Stranks, 3 Old Orchard Court, Coneygar Road, Quenington
01285 750402 or 07729 129578

*Hello from...
... Laura Garner*



I've lived in Quenington with my family for 5 years now. Some of you may have seen me picking up litter in and around the village since the start of the year. I'm doing this as the 'community service' element towards gaining the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. I also have other elements to do: 'physical exercise' and 'advance in a skill' as part of the DOE, so I've taken up running and am continuing to learn the guitar - I'm now on Grade 6.

I have to do at least an hour a week of community service. The parish council is supporting me by lending me two litter-picker gadgets and hi-viz jackets. A member of my family comes out with me each week, to keep me company. We tend to go out on a weekend morning as it's no good trying to litter pick in the dark in the evening! I've split the village into sections and have been picking the litter up from a section a week, then I send a weekly report to the clerk of the parish council.

I was quite surprised by how much litter we've found. The first week covered The Green, the play park and Snakes Drive. We didn't find that much litter, except in the bus shelter and at the far end of the playground. However, the next two weeks - when I collected along Fairford Road and up to Donkeywell Farm - was a different story. The grass verges out of the village seemed to be packed with litter, particularly things that could be thrown out of car windows. We collected five large bin bags of rubbish from these areas. There were only two bags worth from Coneygar Road, down Fowler's Hill and along Victoria Road. The final section will be around the village and up Rag Hill. Then I'll start again.

So far, we've found 45 kg of litter in total. Included in this weight were: 83 plastic bottles; 14 glass bottles; 66 drinks cans. I've been shocked at the absurdity of some of our finds. We found a three-metre-long skirting board and an air pod holder, as well as three different boots! There are also so many car parts we may end up being able to build our own!

I wasn't sure how much I would enjoy this at the start, but actually it's fun. It's great being outside, even in the cold, and it's good to be doing something to help the village. So, the message this month is to take your litter home!



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

The new variants of the coronavirus are very transmissible, so keep at least 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or bubble, wear a mask when people are around, and sanitise your hands after touching things when out.

VOLUNTEER HELP



Many people now have well-established networks of people who will help in an emergency, or with regular shopping and fetching medicines etc. However, those who normally assist may not always be available. If you need help with essential tasks, contact your village volunteer coordinator. If you are not sure who that is, please contact the editor on 01285 750402 or 07729 129578.

FREE EXTRA SUPPORT DURING POWER CUTS

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) recently contacted Quenington Parish Council to explain how they can help communities become more resilient in the event of a prolonged power cut.

SSEN has a **Priority Services Register** that residents who may need extra support during a power cut can sign up to. Those eligible to join the priority services are:

- Those dependent on electricity for medical home care
- Those who have a chronic illness or short-term medical condition eg recovering from a major operation
- Those who are disabled
- Those who have special communication needs eg blind, partially sighted, deaf or hard of hearing
- Those who have children under five years old
- Those who are over 60 years old

To register with the priority service, you can call FREE on 0800 294 3259 from a landline or mobile. Or 0800 316 5457 from a textphone. Or use the website <https://www.ssen.co.uk/Home/>

Leaflets giving further information and a registration form should be available in Coln Stores and Quenington telephone (book swap) kiosk.

To report all power cuts and emergencies call 105



There is also a **PowerTrack App**, so anyone with a smart phone can log and track a power cut - not knowing how long a power outage will last is often a major cause of concern. The app is continually updated to advise of the estimated time of power restoration.

FREE EASTER MEALS AVAILABLE IN CHQ as a gift from the church



At Christmas time last year, the Gloucestershire Diocese organised an initiative called Comfort and Joy, in which over 3,000 Christmas dinners were paid for and distributed by church communities. The meals had been prepared by The Long Table, and were gratefully received by a host of different people. There is plan for a similar project this Easter, and the church in Coln, Hatherop & Quenington will be joining in. The meals are prepared, cooked and frozen by The Long Table, then distributed by members of the local church.

The Long Table is a Community Interest Company based near Stroud, whose aim is to give people access to great food and people to eat it with. Of course, the latter part of the aim has to be done a little differently at the moment! Gone (for now) are the community meals and gatherings, but instead The Long Table is supplying thousands of meals to people in their homes. And that is only one part of their work. They were featured on BBC's Countryfile earlier in the year and you can find out more about the organisation on their website: www.thelongtableonline.com/about

So, if you or someone you know would appreciate the gift of a meal around Easter time, please get in touch with Clare Brignall, who is coordinating the scheme locally. It would be a pleasure to share some 'comfort and joy' by providing a free, tasty meal for you. You do not have to be 'in need', or living alone - anyone is welcome to have one! There will be a choice of meat or veggie (the veggie option is also gluten free).

To book your meal, or to find out more, please contact Clare: call 01285 752662 or WhatsApp 07798 751417 or email clarebrignall@hotmail.com

QUENINGTON POSTIE TEMPORARILY OUT OF ACTION

Popular postman, Dave Wadge, will be off work for quite a few months, having - and recuperating from - a back operation. He can be assured of the good wishes of his customers, and that they will be looking forward to his return in due course!



The photo shows Dave collecting goodies for NHS staff last year.

WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH!

The problem of littering is one which never seems to go away. Young people are often blamed for dropping rubbish, but some youngsters are actively involved in making the situation better.

Heather Kent, a 12-year-old from Fairford, is a well-known campaigner and activist, who regularly collects bin bags full of litter from the streets in and around Fairford. She has been doing so since starting it as a Lent Challenge several years ago. She was recently a finalist in the Young Litter Hero 2021 awards of the Keep Britain Tidy Network. Fairford Town Council put Heather's name forward as she has done so much to improve the environment in and around the town.



There is action in our CHEQS villages too. As well as the great work Laura Garner is doing (see Hello From...), quite a few individuals in our villages regularly pick up litter as they walk the lanes and roads locally. Each village also has an annual Litter Pick (see below) organised by the parish councils, and we are all encouraged to join in. Normally, it is a good way to get to know other people, but the required social distancing at the moment makes that a little more difficult. However, we can still chat to people on the other side of the road! Please be Covid-aware (the new variants are so much more transmissible) and use masks and sanitiser as appropriate.

ANNUAL CHEQS LITTER PICK

COLN ST ALDWYNS: Our annual socially distanced village litter pick around the parish will take place on **Saturday, 20th March**. We will meet under the Chestnut tree by the Coln Stores at **9.30am**. Do come and join us, as our combined efforts make such a difference to the verges as you enter the village. **Please bring your own masks and gloves**. We will supply HiViz waistcoats, dustbin bags and litter grabbers.

HATHEROP: The village has been divided into zones, with different people responsible for each zone - they will be picking up the litter to their own time scale.

EASTLEACH: Meet at the Victoria Inn car park at **10am on Saturday, 20th March**.

QUENINGTON: Planning for a date in April.

SOUTHROP: Volunteers wanted! **Saturday, 13th and Sunday, 14th March** - please just turn up at the Village Green at **10am** on either day. You will be given gloves, a picking stick, a tabard and bags, and asked to walk a short stretch of our verges collecting the litter into the bags. The bags will then be picked up later by trailer.



GOING, GOING, GONE!

Rotary Club of Cirencester



Cirencester Rotary's BIG CHARITY AUCTION goes LIVE

Come and join the fun with Cirencester Rotary's Charity Live Auction, thanks to the generous support of local auctioneers Moore, Allen & Innocent. The lots are available to view at <https://auctions.mooreallen.co.uk/auctions/7744/srmoo10200> where you can take a look at the 82 exciting offers, watch bids as they are made during the days running-up to the auction, and even make a bid yourself - to bid, you will need to register beforehand with the-saleroom.com - it is straightforward and free.

There is a huge variety of lots - for example

- ◇ Two fantastic "Experiences" at Castle Combe Racing Circuit
- ◇ Beautiful materials for arts and crafts
- ◇ Bottles of wine and spirits
- ◇ A week in a four-star holiday cottage in the Lake District
- ◇ A flying lesson and a "wing-walking" opportunity
- ◇ Hampers from high street retailers
- ◇ A guided tour of Cirencester Church and tower
- ◇ A session with Cirencester handbell ringers
- ◇ A "wow" Cirencester Rugby Club experience
- ◇ Afternoon tea and prosecco at Calcot Manor

**The Live Auction will take place on
Friday, 12th March 2021 at 6.30pm**

Winning lots can be delivered to you or taken when current restrictions allow. The auction is supporting local charities: The Big Yellow Bus Project (helping homeless people); Cotswold Counselling (people coping with difficult challenges); and other local people in need.



Philip Allwood at Hatherop Primary School's Auction of Promises in 2018

A VERY BIG THANK YOU for supporting CIRENCESTER ROTARY



CLOCKS GO FORWARD

Don't forget to put your clocks forward by an hour on the night of Saturday, 27th March for British Summer Time. Sunday, 28th March is Palm Sunday, and the First Day of Pesach (Passover).



Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities

Formerly The League of Friends of Fairford Hospital

CHANGES TO ARRANGING VOLUNTARY PATIENT TRANSPORT

To request a driver for transport to and from appointments contact Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities direct through the following methods:

Telephone: 07540 798226 on Monday-Friday between 10am and 1pm

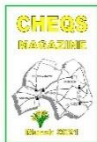
If the line is busy you will be able to leave a message and you will be called back. Or you can email voluntarycarservicelof@gmail.com

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE FUND RAISING EVENT 2021

This is the second year this important fund raiser for Community Friends has been cancelled due to Covid. The event normally raises between £17,000 and £20,000 each year. If you would like to donate please do so via our website www.friendsoffairford.org.uk or by sending a cheque made out to 'Friends of Fairford' and posting to Ms Andrena Miles, AMM Bookkeeping and Accountancy, 2nd Floor, 11 High Street, Fairford, Gloucestershire GL7 4AD

We thank you in anticipation of your support.

DELIVERERS NEEDED IN COLN ST ALDWYNS



Deliverers are needed for the CHEQS Magazine in: Main Street (31) & Church Road (20). If you would like to help with this each month, please contact the Coln delivery coordinator, Fiona Davidson: 01285 750465 or fiona@colnstaldwyns.com

EVENTS: POSTPONEMENT & CANCELLATION

Fresh Air sculpture show 2021

It is with great sadness and regret that the difficult decision has been made to postpone this year's Fresh Air Sculpture Show. The revised show dates are:

Sunday, 5th June 2022 – Sunday, 26th June 2022.

Royal International Air Tattoo, RAF Fairford

It is with great regret that the Directors of RAF Charitable Trust Enterprises have taken the difficult decision to cancel this summer's Royal International Air Tattoo.

VILLAGE CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCILS

Coln St Aldwyns

Chair: David Hicks Beach 01285 750482

Clerk: Clare Brignall 01285 752662

colnsaparishclerk@gmail.com

Hatherop

Chair: Bob Iles 01285 750729

Clerk: Jane Skinner 01285 712662

jane_skinner928@yahoo.co.uk

Eastleach

Chair: VACANT

Clerk: Ann Tyldesley 01367 860130

www.eastleachparishcouncil.org

eastleachpc@btinternet.com

Quenington

Chair: Mike Scott 01285 750433

Clerk: Penny Ibbotson 01285 750000

www.queningtonvillage.uk

queningtonpc@gmail.com

Southrop

Chair: Tim Guest 01367 850189

Clerk: Vanessa Lawrence 07876 252398

www.southrop.org.uk

sppclerk2017@outlook.com

VILLAGE HALLS

Eastleach Flo Dixon 01367 850641

eastleachvhall@gmail.com

Quenington www.queningtonvillage.uk

queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Southrop Caroline Simmons 01367 850171

southropvillagehall@gmail.com

Jubilee Field 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 GROUPS (grey if not happening at the moment)

S & E Friendship Circle

Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 & Sally Parris 01367 850321

Southrop Ladies Beryl Whiteley 01367 850373

Quenington Baby & Toddler Group (CHEQS+) please check if open, & pre-book margaret.stranks@gmail.com 01285 750402
07729 129578 (WhatsApp preferred)

COLN COMMUNITY STORES



	Shop	Café (takeaway)	Post Office
Monday - Friday	8am - 4.30pm	8am - 3.30pm	9am - 12pm & 2pm - 4pm
Saturday	8am - 2pm	8am - 1pm	9am - 12pm
Sunday	9am - 1pm	9am - 12pm	CLOSED

Advance notice of Coln Stores Easter opening times:

EASTER 2021	Shop	Café	Post Office
Good Friday, 2 nd April	9am - 1pm	9am - 12pm	CLOSED
Easter Saturday, 3 rd April	8am - 2pm	9am - 1pm	CLOSED
Easter Sunday, 4 th April	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Easter Monday, 5 th April	9am - 1pm	9am - 12pm	CLOSED

SOUTHROP SHOP & POST OFFICE



Southrop Village Hall
Shop & Post Office:



Wednesdays 9am to
11.30am

See local publicity for any news of the
Coffee Morning

Fresh sourdough bread available to order - call Helen on 01367 850047 by midday on Sunday at the latest.

CHEQS DIARY

Fri 12 th March	6.30pm	LIVE charity auction online (Cirencester Rotary Club)	p5
Sat 13 th March	10am	Southrop litter pick, meet on village green	p4
Sun 14 th March	10am	Southrop litter pick, meet on village green	p4
Sat 20 th March	9.30am	Coln litter pick, meet by chestnut tree, Coln Stores	p4
Sat 20 th March	10am	Eastleach litter pick, meet at the Victoria Inn car park	p4



CHURCH SERVICES

Government guidelines and regulations may change. It is currently a government requirement that people at indoor church services must wear a face covering, in addition to having coronavirus prevention measures in place (social distancing, hand sanitising, no congregational singing).

ANGLICAN SERVICES

MP=Morning Prayer, HC=Holy Communion, EP=Evening Prayer

Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

Service details for readers etc. are on the CHQ churches website: <https://www.chqchurches.net/> PLEASE LET VAL TRAFFORD KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, so seating can be socially distanced: valerie.trafford@btinternet.com



CHQ Services during Lent and Easter

All services will continue to be held in St John the Baptist Church, Coln until further notice.

14 th March	11am Mothering Sunday
28 th March	11am Palm Sunday
2 nd April	6pm Good Friday 'Tenebrae'
4 th April	11am Easter Communion

Southrop & Eastleach

Please check local publicity about any services which may be taking place.

Worship at Home

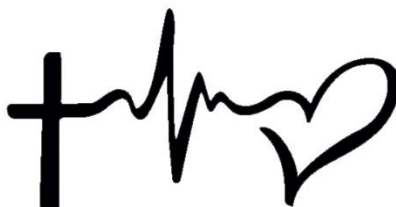
Services and the shorter 'devotionals' can still be found at: <https://worship-at-home.weebly.com/>

Williamstrip Chapel

Mass is usually celebrated on Sundays at 9.30am

Fairford Churches

For details of services in Fairford, please check notices boards and websites, or phone the church contact person.



FAITH · HOPE · LOVE

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

EASTLEACH & SOUTHPROP CLERGY

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

C of E CHURCH WARDENS

CHQ Val Trafford 01285 750504
Eastleach Tim Lawson 01367 850756 or 07855 264360 timglawson@me.com
Southrop Jerry Hibbert 07766 084051 jerry@hibbertralph.com

C of E SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

CHQ Edwina Hicks 07970 799270 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

CATHOLIC PARISH PRIEST

Father Michael Robertson 01285 712586 michael.robertson@cliftondiocese.com

WILLIAMSTRIP CHAPEL CHAPLAIN

Rev J Felix Stephens OSB 01285 740374 jfs.osb@ampleforth.org.uk

FAIRFORD UNITED CHURCH

Rev Wendy Tucker 01285 653655 Secretary: Stuart 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

GCC COMMUNITY WELL-BEING SERVICE 01452 528491

PHARMACIES Boots, Fairford 01285 712350, Lechlade Pharmacy 01367 252285

POLICE non-emergency: phone 101 or email 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!

Bus Service 76 Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat: Southrop 09:42, Eastleach 09:50, Hatherop 09:56, Coln 09:59, Quenington 10:02, to Fairford & Cirencester. The return service leaves Cirencester at 13:50 and Fairford at 14:33.

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.

PESACH

Merri Mayers, of Quenington, shares some thoughts about Pesach:

Passover, or Pesach, is a Jewish holiday celebrating the freeing of the Jews from their enslavement in ancient Egypt. “Passover” derives from the last of the ten plagues that G*d visited on the Egyptians as Pharaoh refused to release the Jews despite the requests of Moses. This last plague was the killing of the first born and the angel of death “passed over” the Jewish houses, sparing those inside. The Jews left Egypt in such a hurry, chased by Pharaoh, that their bread hadn’t time to rise which is why we honour our freedom by eating, over the eight days of Pesach, matzoh (or unleavened bread). Several thousand Jews left Egypt and journeyed to Mount Sinai.



We celebrate with feasts called Seders on the first two days of Pesach, reciting the Haggadah - our liturgy describing our release from slavery and our flight from Egypt. It is a family and friends celebration and, perhaps, the one holiday for which one makes every effort to be home. I think this is because Pesach marks the beginning of a sense of “home”, a journeying towards, and a coming together around it. I have very fond memories of Seders where all participated. The cooks would compare matzoh ball recipes with friendly competition around

whose were the fluffiest (top tip: add sparkling water to the mix!). All joyful and loving.

The deeper meaning to this holiday is one of hope. During the Seder we eat bitter herbs, remembering the bitterness of slavery and reminding us that we can work, as individuals, for all freedoms. Hope lives in our hearts, generation after generation. As the late Rabbi Sacks said: “It is the story of the defeat of probability by the force of possibility.” In an increasingly uncertain, divided world, what better message to celebrate?



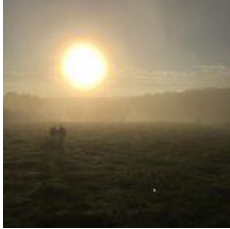
BUSINESS GRANT APPLICATIONS

The application process for all Covid-related business grants via Cotswold District Council reopened in January with individuals encouraged to check their eligibility and apply, if necessary, through the Council website. The application form covers the latest lockdown grants as well as those relating to previous restrictions in force since November. Any business waiting for payment, unsure of the status of their application or wondering whether they should apply for a grant, should see the council’s dedicated web page:

<https://cotswold.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/coronavirus-business-and-licensing/coronavirus-business-grants/>

COUNTRYSIDE CODE QUIZ

How much do you know about how we should behave in the countryside? Test your knowledge with this quiz (taken from one compiled by www.curlewcountry.org). Hopefully, most answers will be obvious, but maybe not! Answers at foot of page 14.



1. Who should adhere to the Countryside Code?

- A: People living in the countryside
- B: People visiting the countryside
- C: People managing the countryside
- D: All of the above



2. Which of the following statements is true for bridleways?

- A: Cyclists must give way to walkers and horse-riders
- B: Horse-riders must give way to walkers and cyclists
- C: Walkers must give way to cyclists and horse-riders



3. You should leave gates...

- A: Open
- B: Closed
- C: As you found them



4. You should only leave the designated footpaths if...

- A: There is a shorter route across a field
- B: You can't see any farm animals around
- C: You are walking in an open access area
- D: You are local and know the area
- E: All of the above



5. Which of these should you do when in the countryside?

- A: Always take your litter home with you
- B: Leave farm machinery and animals alone
- C: Try to get close to wild animals
- D: Always pick up dog poo and dispose of properly



6. Keeping dogs under effective control means...

- A: Keep your dog on a lead
- B: Keep your dog in sight at all times, and be confident that it will return when called
- C: Either of the above, and ensure that it does not stray from the permitted area



7. When going through a field containing livestock, when should you take extra care?

- A: When there is a bull, or cows with calves in the field
- B: When there are sheep with lambs in the field
- C: When you have a dog with you
- D: All of the above



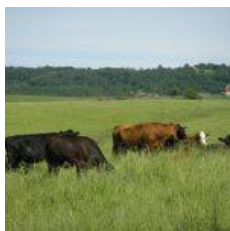
8. Footpaths are usually marked with a yellow arrow, but who can use them?

- A: Horse-riders
- B: Walkers
- C: Cyclists
- D: Quad bikes



9. Why might it be harmful to stray from rights of way if you cannot see any livestock?

- A: You could frighten other wildlife
- B: You could get lost or in danger
- C: You could cause damage to crops or protected areas
- D: All of the above



10. If livestock start to chase your dog, you should...

- A: Stand your ground and protect it
- B: Let go of your dog and exit the field
- C: Walk away with your dog on a lead

Answers at bottom of page 14 - congratulations if you got 10/10.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB - FEBRUARY WINNERS

1st Prize (£15) no. 15 - Jessie Ann Lees

2nd Prize (£10) no. 37 - Judith King

ARE YOU FED UP WITH DOING THE SAME OLD WALKS?

The website Walking in Gloucestershire may have the answer!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a family group, all the information is there in one place.



John Harris, of Walking in England, said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it can be difficult to find. Walking in Gloucestershire is part of the Walking in England suite of websites – one for each county in England. Information has been brought together in one place so you should be able to find a walk suitable for you'.



With walks from as short as half a mile to some over twelve miles, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone will hopefully find an appropriate walk to enjoy.

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

FRIENDS OF HATHEROP PRIMARY SCHOOL

During the half term break, all the children were invited to join together to see if collectively they could clock up 700 virtual miles - the distance from Hatherop to Itzehoe in Germany (which has been twinned with Cirencester since 1982).

Children could walk/run/cycle, keeping a running total and at the end of half term submitted the mileage achieved. Each child who took part will receive a special bespoke Hatherop Primary lockdown challenge medal and certificate.

The GoFundMe page is available for anyone who would like to donate towards the online learning subscriptions which have been so necessary during recent times:

www.gofundme.com/f/hatherop-primary-schools-virtual-challenge

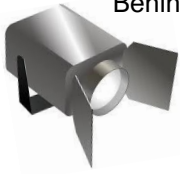


Countryside Code Quiz Answers (view or download the Countryside Code:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>)

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------------|
| 1. D | 2. C | 3. C | 4. C | 5. A, B, C |
| 6. C | 7. D | 8. B | 9. D | 10. B |

HIDDEN BUSINESSES



Behind the walls of some of our CHEQS residences, people are busy running small businesses.

This month we put the

SPOTLIGHT ON...

... Alun Davies



Having loved and owned dogs throughout my life, I'm lucky enough to be able to say I have my dream job, owning a dog home-boarding business in Quenington. The Cotswolds are the canine capital of the UK – and it's not all Labs and Springers, so I can't imagine a more perfect location for a dog sitting business!



For nearly 10 years my team and I have helped many thousands of customers have their dream holiday, safe in the knowledge that their dog is having its very own 5-star holiday. My team consists of not only work colleagues - who help transport, care for, and organise all the holiday dogs - but also the host families that care for the dogs while their owners are away. The hosts are often

people who don't want a full-time dog of their own with all the cost that incurs, but who are genuine dog lovers and previous owners who now want a part-time dog to care for when it suits them. We are often told that the dogs have enabled them to become part of a wider dog community in their village or town, getting them out and about and meeting people. This interaction has helped many of our hosts combat loneliness, something which is especially important now.

Some of our hosts dog-sit in our customers' homes, as an alternative to home-boarding. This offers the added bonus of house security while they are away. During the pandemic we have been pleased to be able to help key workers care for their dogs during this stressful time.



Many families have purchased a dog during lockdown and we have been very happy to offer advice on breeds and puppy care, and when things finally get back to some sort of normality, we really look forward to offering dog behaviour training as well as showing these pups what a Barking Mad Cotswold holiday is all about!

If you'd be interested in becoming a host, or have any dog queries, I'm happy to help. Please call me on 01285 711650 or 07770 887950 www.barkingmad.uk.com

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