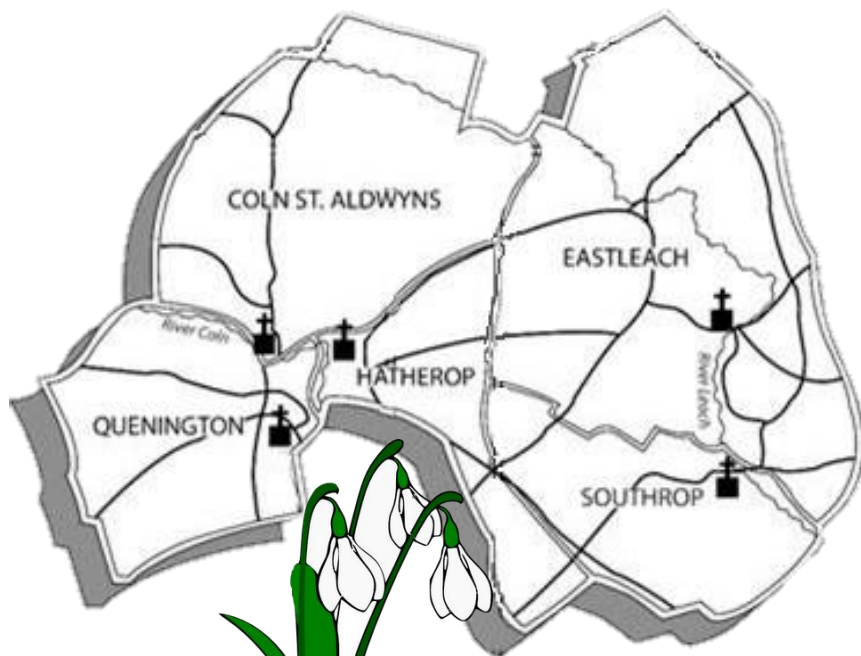


CHEQS

MAGAZINE



February 2022

COTSWOLD TREES

Professional Tree Surgery - over 21 years' experience

- Conservation Area and Tree Preservation applications
- all aspects of tree surgery, including
 - veteran tree management
 - crown reductions
 - fruit trees
 - thinning & lifting
 - stump removal
 - custom shaping
- trained & qualified with NPTC and Ancient Tree Forum
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Call Wayne for a free quote, or further information
OFFICE: 01285 750082 MOBILE: 07479 464292

TRADITIONAL DRY STONE WALLING



- new walls, wall repairs and rebuilds
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- wall maintenance & ivy removal

no job too small

contact Joe: 07799877122
email: info@cotswolddrystone.com



Farmer George



Supplied and delivered to your door

- Well rotted and screened horse manure
- Sieved multi purpose top soil
- Small bales of wheat straw

The quality is SUPERB.

Let your horses and ponies be bedded in the utmost comfort and may your broad beans be as big as bananas.

Contact George on:

george@ponsonbyfarms.co.uk

www.ponsonbyfarms.co.uk



**FAIRFORD
BADMINTON
CLUB**

WE'RE LOOKING FOR

**3 FREE
SESSIONS**

**NEW
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We're a friendly and sociable club,
blending badminton skills with fun and enjoyment.

Just come along 8-10pm Monday;
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For more information call Jo Blair on 01285 851313
or email: enquiries@fairfordbadmintonclub.co.uk
www.fairfordbadmintonclub.co.uk

THE KEEPERS ARMS, QUENINGTON



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01285 750 349

landlord@thekeepersarms.co.uk

*Hello from...
Veronica
Carbone*



We (myself, my husband Jim, and eight rescue dogs) have lived at Netherton Lodge, Quenington, for three years. Some of you will have been greeted by the dogs as you walk past! We're very grateful to you for being so tolerant of their idiosyncrasies. We have a daughter, Cecily, who lives in London with her husband, baby, and rescue dog - who you may also have heard when she visits.

I lived in Paris, New York, Tokyo and London before moving to Gloucestershire thirteen years ago, always with a selection of dogs beside me. My first rescue was a stray I found by the side of the road in New York. I scooped him up and he became my loyal companion.



Once back in England, I became involved with Dogs Trust, whose work of rehoming dogs is quite well-known. There are 22 centres, with Evesham, Newbury and Salisbury being the closest - at the moment, the Evesham centre is looking for foster homes for dogs who struggle in a kennel environment. I'm so proud of being involved with such a fantastic organisation, and am thrilled to be able to tell you about some of their lesser-known activities: the **Hope Project** helps

homeless people with veterinary care for their animals, and works with shelter organisations to make them pet friendly; the **Freedom Project** finds temporary foster homes for dogs whose owners are fleeing domestic violence - sadly needed in much greater numbers since the lockdowns; in addition, there are education programmes in schools and prisons, as well as courses for the Post Office!

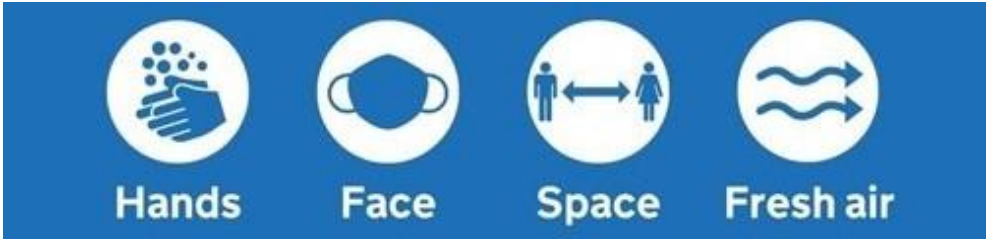
We also give grants and advice to smaller organisations, including veterinary training courses in India, Thailand and Bosnia. We are particularly proud of our work funding the vaccination of dogs against rabies, starting in Goa in 2014, which has resulted in the Government of Goa declaring the state to be "rabies controlled" with not a single case of rabies in humans since 2018. This work continues to expand into other parts of the world.

As my family knows, I could go on and on... but do look up dogstrust.org.uk to find out more, and I look forward to meeting you out and about, perhaps walking dogs.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Recently, a few people have taken the time to get in touch in response to articles in the magazine, which is very much appreciated! If you have a suggestion for an article, or know someone who would be willing to write the Hello From... feature, do let me know (contact details p16).



Covid is a continuing threat in our communities, so please continue to follow government guidelines. We have already seen a few cancellations at short notice this winter, so please check local publicity if there is any uncertainty about an event.

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Business grants - Omicron financial support grants

Just before Christmas, the Government announced two additional business grants that Local Authorities will be administering: the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant and a new round of Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG).



Cotswold District Council is working to set up the processes to get these grants out to support eligible businesses, and aims to keep all businesses updated via their Business Matters newsletter, their website, and through social media. Please check, if you think your business might be eligible for help.

The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant will support hospitality, leisure and accommodation business premises. The Government have set out the eligibility criteria for this grant. CDC aims to have emailed all those businesses which previously received a grant from them, and those believed to be eligible, by the end of January. An application form on their website will be available at the end of January for any new applicants.

For the ARG funding, CDC received limited amounts of money from the Government to distribute to businesses which have been severely impacted by the recent surge in cases but not covered by the other grant. An application form for this grant, with a list of eligible businesses and criteria, should be available on the website towards the middle of February.

SOUTHROP VILLAGE POST OFFICE

Sadly, for the second time, the 40th Anniversary celebration for Southrop Village Shop was postponed due to Covid precautions, but last month another special event did manage to take place. The Post Office's Shelagh Benfield was presented with a voucher as a token of thanks from the community for 21 years of service in the weekly Post Office in Southrop Village Hall. Shelagh was new to the village when she took the job on, and saw it as a good way to get to know people locally.

At the end of last year, the Post Office also gave Shelagh some recognition of her good work, awarding her with a hamper for the most Special Deliveries by a small Post Office in the area.



EASTLEACH & SOUTHROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Normally the first Thursday of the month

CANCELLED FOR NOW - HOPEFULLY RETURNING IN MARCH, covid permitting!



The Friendship Circle offers company, a tea with home-made cakes and sandwiches, and often some form of entertainment. If you - or someone you know - would like to join, please contact Sally Parris 01367 850321 or Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393. Members are welcomed from all the surrounding villages, although the meetings alternate between the village halls of Eastleach & Southrop.



WORKING FOR WELLBEING

After only six months, Working for Wellbeing is now a registered charity (No. 1197291), with some exciting new projects for 2022:

Digital inclusion programme Workshops hosted virtually by Barclays Digital Eagles can be accessed from home, or in a community space where computer Buddies will be able to assist you. The Digital Eagles sessions will start off with the basics - aiming at beginners - but we will have a more developed programme as we go along so, whatever your skill level, please get in touch. The workshops will run over four consecutive weeks starting on 24th February at 12pm. They'll be dealing with the basics of internet devices, scams, internet safety and using internet devices for entertainment. To sign up, please contact me. If you're digitally confident and could offer your skills during the workshops as a Buddy, I'd also love to hear from you.

DigiBus This is a mobile digital lab in an accessible converted double-decker bus. It's fitted with computers, laptops, tablets, a 3D printer, robotics and coding, and a virtual reality system. An onboard trainer will provide personalised sessions for visitors, so they can learn as much or as little as they like - whether it's how to order medication or groceries online, chat to friends and family, stay safe using the internet, or find out about important services or social networks that can provide further support. For those who want to be inspired, you can experience virtual reality or try out coding or even robotics - get in touch to find out more!

LEGO Club, Lechlade Last month saw the start of W4W's LEGO Club in Lechlade. It's on the last Saturday of the month 10.30am - 12pm at St Lawrence Church. Please contact me to register your interest. This is a FREE group - donations welcome.

Fairford Crafters are coming to Fairford on the 1st Wednesday of the month, starting on 2nd February 2pm - 4pm at Fairford Community Centre. This is a social group for all skill levels and all types of crafts. You will attend each week, with your craft (in any medium) and share with the group what you've been working on - and take ideas from others and their projects. This is a FREE group with donations welcome.

Men's Shed is coming soon! Do keep a look out for updates or contact me to be added to the Men's Shed emailing list.

Talking Café Every Wednesday the Coordinator can be found at the W4W Talking Café at Fairford Community Centre 10am - 12pm. Sometimes we have invited speakers, and there is a book swap on the last Wednesday of the month.

The Beans Café Lechlade Baptist Church have a lovely café which they run every Saturday, 10am - 12pm including homemade cakes! I'm grateful that they host me on alternate Saturdays so I can pop in and say hello, and offer any support and signposting anyone in the area needs.

Mary Ann Dibbs, Community Wellbeing Coordinator 07555 738138
coordinator@working4wellbeing.org.uk

BRIDGE IN THE CHEQS AREA



Steve Love, of Quenington, writes: Playing bridge is a socially interactive past-time – or passion to many! The first Covid lockdown therefore appeared to be a hammer-blow to bridge in the area but, on the contrary, bridge-playing has gone from strength to strength. Our local club, Fairford Bridge Club, decided to go online, and was one of the first to institute weekly online tournaments using the rapidly expanding online bridge platforms.

This has now been extended to two evenings each week - Tuesday and Friday - where there are regularly 8-12 tables of duplicate bridge. Details can be found by searching for Fairford Bridge Club on the internet, and new experienced players are always welcome.

We have also resumed (Covid permitting) our weekly face-to-face Improvers Group, which meets in Fairford Community Centre each Monday. This is aimed at those with some bridge experience, looking for tips to improve and to play some social face-to-face bridge.

We are now in a position to offer lessons for **absolute beginners** who are keen to enter the magical world of Tricks and Trumps! It's great socially, and to keep the little grey cells active.

These lessons will take place in Quenington while we gauge the level of interest. If you are tempted to give it a try, please contact Steve Love on 01285 750359. No prior experience is needed and all equipment is provided.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB - JANUARY WINNERS

1st (£15) no. 43 - Steve Paterson

2nd (£10) no. 41 - Anne Goddard

The 100 Club is open to all CHEQS residents. If you'd like to join, please contact Antonia Faulkner on 07581 294139 or email queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com

FEBRUARY SNOWDROP GARDENS

Painswick Rococo Garden: open daily until Sunday 27th Feb.
Batsford Arboretum: open daily - must book tickets in advance
Colesbourne Gardens: open Sat & Sun through Feb.
Cerne House Garden: open every day - no need to book
(please check details before visiting, in case of changes)



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

Southrop Church of England Primary School *Together we can fly*



As term progresses, we are really getting into our topic work.

The Swans have been thinking about why Angles, Jutes and Saxons felt able, and were even invited, to invade Britain once the Romans had left. We can see around us some of their influence in place names which are familiar to us, such as -ford, -ham, -stow. We are exploring their lifestyle, religious beliefs and culture, and will be designing and making 'Anglo-Saxon' brooches. And of course, we are really looking forward to a great trip to the Corinium Museum at the end of term.

The Cygnets have been thinking about famous people, from Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton, to the two longest-serving British monarchs, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. The study of William Shakespeare includes a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, to explore the Bard's birthplace. We are very grateful to our PTA, who make such inspiring trips possible by paying for the transport.

In Computing the whole school is exploring algorithms and the coding possibilities available with Scratch software. This is always a very popular area of our study. Y3&4 will be creating a quiz, and Y5&6 a game - with a final version relating to our topic.

We are also excited to be getting out to participate in sports events, including a gymnastic festival and cross country runs.

Please take a look at our website www.southrop.gloucs.sch.uk/ and our Facebook page to keep up-to-date with what is going on in school.

Hatherop Church of England Primary School *Caring, Believing, Achieving*



This term our value is perseverance. We have thought about what it means to keep going even when things are tough, and about how making mistakes help us to learn. We are also beginning to look at some well-known people in history who at first failed, but later succeeded, after persevering through difficult times.

We were very pleased to have Liz MacKenzie from the Ernest Cook Trust in school working with staff to develop our outdoor learning area. Pupils and staff now look forward to joining her for some exciting outdoor activities linked to our curriculum.

We are preparing for a few upcoming sports events, including cross country, netball and swimming. We have lots of enthusiastic sports stars who are ready to take part!

We currently 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 Further information about our school can be found on our website: www.hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk/

VILLAGE CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCILS

Coln St Aldwyns

Chair: David Hicks Beach 01285 750482
Clerk: Clare Brignall 01285 752662 colnsaparishclerk@gmail.com

Hatherop

Chair: James Hart hatheropparishcouncil@gmail.com
Clerk: Jacky Sykes as above

Eastleach

Chair: VACANT www.eastleachparishcouncil.org
Clerk: Ann Tyldesley 01367 860130 eastleachpc@btinternet.com

Quenington

Chair: Mike Scott 01285 750433 www.queningtonvillage.uk
Clerk: Penny Ibbotson 01285 750000 queningtonpc@gmail.com

Southrop

Chair: Tim Guest 01367 850189 www.southrop.org.uk
Clerk: Vanessa Lawrence 07876 252398 spcclerk2017@outlook.com

VILLAGE HALLS

Eastleach eastleachvhall@gmail.com

Quenington www.queningtonvillage.uk
queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Southrop Caroline Simmons 01367 850171
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 07729 129578 (WhatsApp preferred)

COLN COMMUNITY STORES



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**

SHOP & POST OFFICE - SOUTHPROP VILLAGE HALL



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

FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES VOLUNTEER TRANSPORT

To request a driver for transport to and from appointments:
email voluntarycarservicelof@gmail.com

or call **07540 798226** on **Monday-Friday between 10am and 1pm**
(if the phone line is busy, leave a message and you will be called back)

For more info: www.friendsoffairford.org.uk/voluntary_car_service.htm



CHEQS DIARY 2022 (COVID PERMITTING!)

Wednesdays	10am - 12pm	Talking Café, Fairford Community Centre	p4
Wed 2 nd Feb	2 - 4pm	Fairford Crafters, Fairford Community Centre	p4
Fri 4 th Feb	10am - 12pm	Bereavement Café, Fairford Community Centre	p11
Sun 6 th Feb	4-5.30pm	Messy Church, Quenington Village Hall	p11
Thu 17 th Feb	11am - 12pm	Fairford Library Club, Fairford Library	p12
Thu 24 th Feb	midday	W4W Digital Inclusion sessions start	p4
Fri 25 th Feb	7 for 7.30pm	Coln Cinema - Munich: The Edge of War	p13
Sat 26 th Feb	10.30am-2pm	W4W LEGO Club at St Lawrence Church	p4

CHURCH SERVICES



PLEASE CHECK & ABIDE BY THE LATEST GOVERNMENT COVID REGULATIONS

Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

Feb 6 th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
	4pm	Messy Church	Quenington Village Hall
Feb 13 th	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln St Aldwyns
Feb 20 th	10.30am	Plough Sunday Family Service	St Nicholas, Hatherop
Feb 27 th	10.30am	Holy communion	St John the Baptist, Coln St Aldwyns
	6pm	Taizé Service	St Swithin's, Quenington

St Andrew's Church, Eastleach

On any 5th Sundays, the service is also usually at 11am, but on **30th January, the morning service will be cancelled in favour of Choral Evensong at 5pm.** This service will be with the choir of St Lawrence's, Lechlade, to mark Candlemas.

Feb 6 th	11am	Holy Communion with Andrew Cinnamond
Feb 13 th	11am	Morning Prayer with Gordon Land
Feb 20 th	11am	Morning Prayer with Gordon Land
Feb 27 th	11am	Morning Prayer with Gordon Land

Please note services may vary each month due to staff constraints, but will be advertised on the church noticeboard. 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

Feb 6 th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Feb 20 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer

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

EASTLEACH & SOUTHPROP CLERGY

Rev Andrew Cinnamond 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 VACANT
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: 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

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.

The CHQ
 Messy Church
 at
 Quenington Village Hall
 on
 Sunday 6 February
 4pm to 5.30pm



Join us for a fun filled time together for all ages,
 with hot supper for all provided.
 This month we are exploring what family means
 with songs, craft, games and a talk.



All Welcome



FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES

New Administrator Kerry Simms has been appointed as the new administrator. Her email address is: admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk so do get in touch if you would like to know more about the work done by the Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities.

Volunteers needed Our wonderful volunteers play a vital role in the support we can deliver to the communities. We are currently recruiting for volunteers to assist in our Lechlade shop and to join our team of drivers. If you could help, please contact:

Patient Transport - Val Harvey 07540 798 226 or voluntarycarservicelof@gmail.com
 Lechlade shop - 01367 252 189 or pop in and talk to Nicola.



Bereavement café...

...for people who have suffered a loss, and would like to talk. One of our nursing team will be there to welcome you with a hot drink and some cake. Trained support will be available. No booking required. Donations welcome. 10am - 12pm at The Heritage Room, Fairford Community Centre, on the first Friday of every month, starting Friday, 4th February. If you have any questions, please call 07938 244335 or email admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

Fairford Library Club



**3rd Thursday of each
month**

11.00am-12.00pm

Call 01285 712599 to
book.

We meet on a monthly basis to choose books and chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

It is a lovely, informal group and everyone is welcome.

The library supplies books in a variety of tastes and styles, in normal print or large print, and audiobooks are also available. Our staff and volunteers will be more than happy to help you choose something you would like.

Do you, or someone you know, have difficulty getting into the library?

We provide free community transport for customers who need help getting to and from the Library Club.

Please telephone the library to arrange this, and for more information.

Fairford Library, London Road, Fairford, GL7 4AQ 01285 712599

COLN CINEMA

Friday, 25th February at 7pm for a 7.30pm start
Vicarage Cottage Barn, Coln St Aldwyns



Friday 25 February

Munich: The Edge of War

Vicarage Cottage Barn, Coln St Aldwyns

Cert PG-13, 123 minutes

Only released last month and a Bafta contender, be among the first to see the film adaptation of Robert Harris's historical thriller.

Set during the September 1938 summit that led to the Munich agreement, it stars George MacKay (of *1917* fame) and Jeremy Irons as Neville Chamberlain in a portrayal that challenges his "appeaser" reputation.

Join us for a drink beforehand. Doors open 7pm. Film starts 7.30pm
All proceeds to St John the Baptist parish church

The Covid situation means numbers are restricted so please email Nick Brett on nrjbrett@gmail.com or phone or text 07713 981 753 to reserve a seat. Check the *What's Happening...* website for the latest updates www.whichq.net

FRESH AIR SCULPTURE SHOW 2022

The Old Rectory, Quenington, 5th – 26th June

The sculpture show returns after a forced absence last year due to Covid caution. In order to run smoothly, a large team of volunteers is required. People are needed to help staff the gates: morning slots 10am - 2pm and afternoon slots 1 - 5pm. The one-hour overlap allows for a handover, and flexibility for lunch. Three volunteers are needed for each morning and each afternoon session at weekends, and two for each morning and afternoon slot on weekdays. An online calendar system has been set up with 'Teamup' <https://teamup.com/kswuh9dwwaniom1z9y> which shows all the sessions needing volunteers in green. You cannot edit the calendar yourself, just look at dates when people are still needed. If you would like to help, please contact Judy and Mike Francis at gardencottage453@btinternet.com or 01285 750453 to let them know your preferred dates and sessions. More details next month!

FOCUS ON FARMS



TIM MORRIS, CONEYGAR FARM, QUENINGTON

If you are used to driving out of Quenington up Coneygar Road you will already know our farm, which is on both sides of the lane for nearly two miles. Similarly, if you take the footpath up the Coln the river on your right, that is our

valley from Coln St Aldwyns towards Bibury with the northern boundary. The Morris family has farmed here for more than sixty years. My parents, Tony & Betty Morris, first took tenancy of the farm in 1959 - it was then part of the Williamstrip Estate. Julia & I have taken over in more recent years and our sons, Dominic and Oliver, are both active on the farm too. We consider ourselves immensely privileged to live and work in such beautiful surroundings.

Like all farmers, our lives are ruled by the seasons and by the weather, a strangely comforting situation since one can do nothing about either. Not so welcome sometimes are the host of other factors which affect us: markets, currencies, climate change, fertiliser and fuel prices and, most of all, government regulations.

Over the years, we have simplified our enterprises and mixed farming has gradually given way to specialist cereal production - wheat, barley and oats. Today we find ourselves in the midst of one of the biggest upheavals in farming since the 2nd World War and, after years of being encouraged to produce food, we are now being advised to diversify into other sources of income, as subsidies are gradually removed and agriculture is de-intensified - and more of the nation's food will have to be imported.



Back in 2001, Tim was one of the Farmers Weekly 'barometer farmers' who gave regular reports on their farms, to contribute to an overall picture of British farming.





Emphasis is now on improving the environment, particularly by raising the organic content of our soils i.e. carbon capture. For arable farmers, this means a change in our cultivations policy, with a marked reduction in ploughing (since this is seen as harmful to the environment) and an increase in direct drilling - the practice of placing the seed into an undisturbed soil surface (alongside debris from the previous crop). 'Green is good, brown is bad' has become the mantra and observant passers-by may already have noticed a marked reduction in the number of fields which are left brown over winter. Some may also have noticed the distinct absence of the yellow oilseed rape crops up Coneygar Road in the last three years. This is following the ban on the use of neonicotinoid seed dressings and the loss in 2019 of over 100 acres of our rape crop due to Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle - and our subsequent abandonment of the crop.

The latest issue to occupy our minds is the trebling in the price of fertilisers for this coming year, and we are looking into ways of reducing our reliance on this finite resource, whilst at the same time minimising the inevitable reduction in crop yields.

Finally, having celebrated a milestone birthday recently, it will soon be time for me to take a step back in the running of the farm. Somewhat unexpectedly, my retirement will coincide with what many see as the end of an era in British agriculture. Who knows what the next chapter will hold?



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 15th 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
 01285 750402 or 07729 129578 3 Old Orchard Court, Coneygar Road, Quenington

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES: cheqsmagads@gmail.com

HOUSE & GROUNDS

Michael Rixon Building & Roofing Ltd building, roofing, Cotswold stone tiling etc. office@rixbuild.co.uk	01285 750517
SN Complete Groundworks drainage, driveways, fencing etc. 07738937697	01367 850717
Keith Ford garden work - pruning & hedge cutting, sheds re-felted etc.	01285 750406
The Garden & Plant Co. design & landscaping info@gardenandplantco.com	01285 712663
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