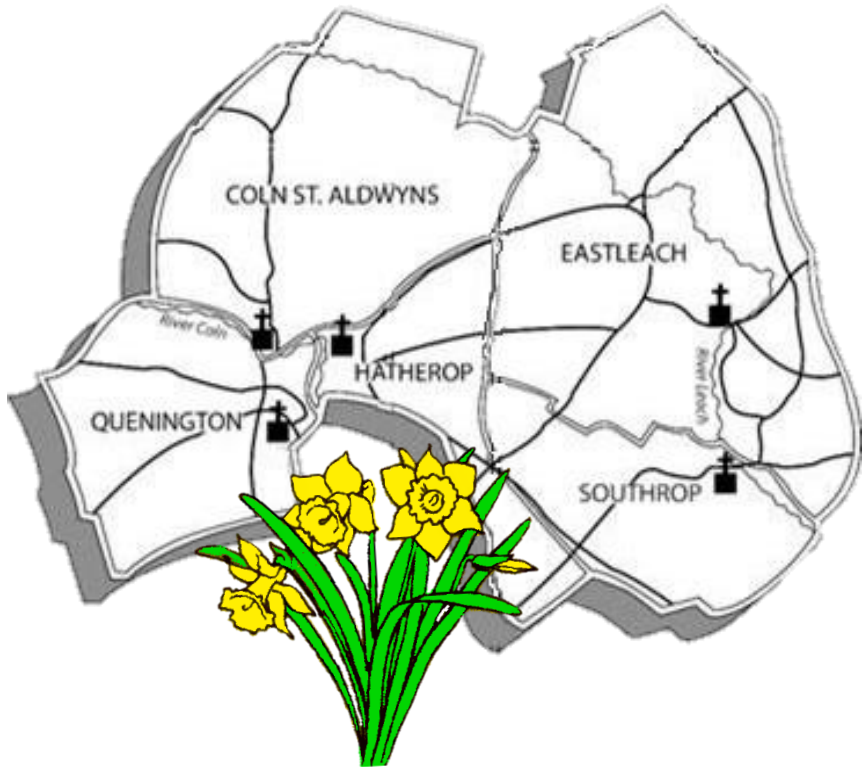


# CHEQS MAGAZINE



March 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
- fully insured

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
- retaining walls & mortared walls
- garden features & patios
- wall maintenance & ivy removal

**no job too small**

contact Joe: 07799877122

email: [info@cotswolddrystone.com](mailto: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](mailto:george@ponsonbyfarms.co.uk)

[www.ponsonbyfarms.co.uk](http://www.ponsonbyfarms.co.uk)



## Hill & Valley Tennis Club invites you to a FAMILY FUN DAY!

FREE TENNIS AND GAMES FOR ALL AGES AND LEVELS!

**SUNDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 10am - 4pm**

**CHEDWORTH GL54 4NE**

Bring your friends and family  
If you've never played but always wanted to try  
now's your chance to give it a go!

GAMES ALL DAY ON THE PLAYING FIELD

REFRESHMENTS, BBQ & PIZZA VAN

- 10-11am KIDS COACHING
- 11-11.30am KIDS CARDIO
- 11.30-12am ADULTS CARDIO
- 12-1pm ADULT QUICK FIX CLINICS
- 1-2pm RACKET EMOS & SERVE SPEED CHECK
- 2-3pm KIDS COACHING
- 3-4pm ADULT & CHILD FUN MATCH

East Glos Pro Shop Vouchers, Prizes and Raffle



<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/Events>

## THE KEEPERS ARMS, QUENINGTON



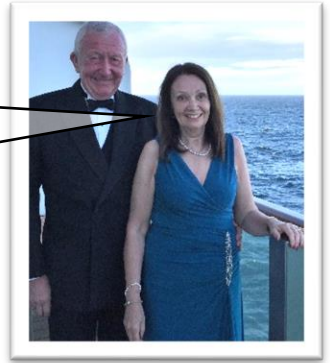
- FREEHOUSE
- 4 en-suite B&B rooms
- CAMRA Good Beer Guide
- Great Food and Champion Ales

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

01285 750 349

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

*Hello from...  
Annie Alberto*



Peter and I moved to Green Cottage, Quenington in September 2021 from Aldbury, Herts. We originally saw the cottage in August 2020, and it became ours in October 2020. We then spent the next eleven months with architects and builders moving walls, changing the stairs and installing new bathrooms, windows, kitchen and a downstairs loo! I'm sure many people will be pleased the road is no longer filled with builders' vans, so thank you to all those who put up with the inconvenience.

We have two children Danielle and Ross, both married, and five grandchildren. Our son Ross and his family live near Ampney Crucis, which is one of the reasons we wanted to move to the area. Ross went to Cirencester Agricultural College and loved the area and finally moved his family here in July 2015. Our daughter Dani and her family live near Tring, which is near where we lived.

We are semi-retired, if that is the correct expression. We've had a varied working life... eleven years owning and running The Full Moon pub in the Chilterns which was 24/7 - so a way of life rather than a job, as we lived above the pub. Since leaving the pub in 2012, I have scanned and archived documents for 'Scanning and Data Solutions Ltd' - the company owned by our son-in-law, Michael. This is now part time for me, at Air Tanker based at RAF Brize Norton. Peter is a shooting instructor for Holland and Holland in Northwood.

Over the years we've had many horses (from Thelwell to competition), dogs (terriers to gun dogs), cats (rescue to Persian) and other animals - but currently don't have any. We enjoy spending time with friends in this country, and also cruising - especially in the Caribbean in February.

Quenington is a lovely place to live; the main criteria of a new home was to be in a friendly community, walking distance of a pub and local shop. It's lovely to walk to Coln Stores across the fields, stop for a coffee, and amble home. The Keepers Arms is a cosy, friendly pub, and well worth a visit. Thank you, Jon and Michelle, for making us feel welcome; also, to Grace and Clare and the other staff who are behind the scenes.

We're looking forward to meeting more local CHEQs readers in the coming months.

## VIRTUAL BIKE RIDE FOR HATHEROP PRIMARY PUPILS

Parent Teacher Association half-term fundraiser



In light of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the challenge for the pupils during half-term was to collectively walk, run, or cycle the distance from Buckingham Palace to Windsor Castle, Sandringham, and Balmoral, and then back to Buckingham Palace - 1,000 miles in total. Check out their GoFundMe page to see if they completed their mission! Organised by the school's PTA, all funds are for the school, and further donations are welcomed:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/hatherop-primary-schools-half-term-challenge>

## MACARONI WOOD - VOLUNTEER INVITATION

Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March from 1 to 3pm, Macaroni Woods (near Eastleach) GL7 3NF



Do you enjoy being outside in a woodland environment? At Macaroni Wood there are woodland areas, an allotment with a greenhouse, animals, a pond, an adventure play area, bike track and store and more. Come along and meet other volunteers for a chat, and a look around to see how you might like to help in these outside areas. Tea & cake will be provided! If you can't make that date or would like more information, please call 01367 850356.

## QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB - FEBRUARY WINNERS

1<sup>st</sup> (£15) no. 56 - Fiona Mann    2<sup>nd</sup> (£10) no. 7 - Jen Harris

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](mailto:queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com)

## COMPUTER SKILLS NEEDED FOR QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Volunteers are needed for the IT support of the village hall - keeping the website up to date, and being responsible for the online booking system and its associated tasks. If you would like to be at the heart of the community, and you have the necessary skills and time, this would be a very rewarding role. Please contact [queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com) to find out more.

## QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> March from 10.30 to 11.45am



Re-launching: FREE drinks and cakes, donations to charity! Do come and meet up, new residents or old, all are welcome. PLUS the return of the raffle!



## WORKING FOR WELLBEING

You can just turn up to the café meetings, but for the other groups please contact Mary Ann (details below) to book a place.

**Digibus:** a mobile digital lab in an accessible double-decker bus: computers, laptops, tablets, a 3D printer, robotics, coding and a virtual reality system. Get in touch if you'd like to join the programme, either as a service user or as a volunteer.

**LEGO Club, Lechlade:** Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March from 10.30am to 12pm at St Lawrence Church cottage. FREE group, donations welcome, please register.

**Fairford Crafters:** Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, from 2 - 4pm at Fairford Community Centre. Bring your craft project, tell the group about it, then hear what others are doing. FREE group, donations welcome, please register either for the Wednesday group or a potential new evening one.

**Youth Club:** taster session Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30 - 8.30pm at Fairford Community Centre for school years 6 to 9. Please register, or get in touch if you'd be interested in attending a Youth Club.

**Talking Café:** Wednesdays, 10am - 12pm at Fairford Community Centre. Sometimes we have invited speakers, and there is a book swap on the last Wednesday of the month. Just turn up! I'll be there if you want to chat about anything.

**The Beans Café:** Lechlade Baptist Church, every Saturday 10am - 12pm. I'm there on alternate Saturdays, to offer support and signposting to anyone in the area.

Mary Ann Dibbs, Community Wellbeing Coordinator 07555 738138  
[coordinator@working4wellbeing.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@working4wellbeing.org.uk)

## EASTLEACH & SOUTHPROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 3pm at Eastleach Village Hall



The Friendship Circle offers company, a tea with home-made cakes and sandwiches and, this month, some musical entertainment. Meetings alternate between the village halls of Eastleach & Southrop, but members are welcome from all the surrounding villages. Contact Sally Parris 01367 850321 or Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393.

## ST SWITHIN'S CHURCH WINDOWS

The windows at St Swithin's Church are in need of a professional clean and some repairs. This specialist work is expensive, so if anyone would like to contribute towards the cost it has been suggested that the restoration and repairs could be dedicated in memory of a loved one. The costs range between £252 and £3036, and the total is £6680. If you would like to support this work, please contact James Sweeting [jdfsweeting@gmail.com](mailto:jdfsweeting@gmail.com) or 01285 750345.

## COLN MILL DIARIES: #1 - WHAT NEXT FOR THE COLN MILL?



*Rob & Helen Forbes write:* Given local interest in what will happen to the derelict Coln Mill (the traffic obstacle on the blind bend at the bottom of Coln!), we thought that people might appreciate regular progress updates in CHEQS magazine. After all, what better way to share with you the ebbs and flows of a challenging, yet rewarding (?!), mill restoration

project, that we hope will also deliver some long-term community benefits.

To be totally honest, we hadn't really expected to become owners of the Mill, but after an initial look we were blown away with the magic of the building and the potential to restore the water mill to working order. Once the grinding heart of the community, providing flour and bread for all, the Mill has been inactive since the 1960s and is now the crumbling home for a variety of birds and bats. Many of the parts and features, though covered in cobwebs, jackdaw nests and bat poo, are still intact and provide a fascinating insight into old engineering feats that our modern-day brains struggle to comprehend!

While the attached Millers cottage is suitable for residential renovation, we felt that it would be a huge waste for the Mill itself, with its characterful grain bays and shoots, grinding stones, cogs, pulleys and bread oven, to also be turned into a private dwelling. It remains to be seen exactly what can or can't be done, and there are certainly plenty of heritage, ecology and financial challenges ahead, but we hope to bring the magic of the Mill back to life and blend old fashioned grinding with modern day hydro power. We'll be exploring grants to assist with this and also hoping to provide spin-off commercial, community and educational opportunities. We hope to involve locals along the way and would welcome any input or ideas... Anyone for insect flour or a pint of Mill House IPA?

We very much look forward to sharing our journey with you. It may take a while!

[helenandrobforbes@me.com](mailto:helenandrobforbes@me.com)



### CHQ MESSY CHURCH

**Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 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 **'prayer'**, with songs, craft, games and a short talk. **Everyone is welcome!**



## LITTER PICKING IN THE VILLAGES



Our villages are mostly clean and tidy but the roads in and out of them are often not. Join your fellow residents to make a difference in your village - and have a sociable time too.

**Coln St Aldwyns - Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am** - meet under the chestnut tree by the Coln Stores. All necessary equipment will be supplied... and please bring back the pickers some folk took home last year!

**Hatherop - Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10am** - meet outside the primary school gates and routes will be delegated. Please bring gloves, bags and hi-viz vests if possible.

**Quenington - Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> March at 10am** - meet outside the village hall. All equipment will be provided. QPC has a stock of litter pickers, gloves and hi-viz vests available if anyone would like to carry out litter picking in their own time.

**Southrop - Saturday and Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - see next month's magazine!

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS



### Southrop Church of England Primary School

*Together we can fly*

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

The spring term is always a busy one. The whole school participated in the Big Garden Birdwatch, and we were excited to spot 15 different types of birds - including a tiny wren, a green woodpecker and a great spotted woodpecker.

The School Council and Maths Coordinator organised another successful Number Day, raising funds for the NSPCC. We had some very inventive dressing up - including a human die and a calculator! During the day we learnt maths through stories, played mathematical 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire' and made gymnastic numbers. The afternoon was a frenzy of weighing, measuring and baking mug cakes. In addition, everyone got to take home a number biscuit. Wow – what a day!



To support our study of Judaism, the whole school had a Zoom call into Cheltenham Synagogue. Mrs Silverston told us how objects and the building are used, and explained the various festivals. It was a great opportunity for the children to connect their learning in class with real life.

Our pupils' health, safety, happiness and wellbeing are always our paramount concerns. Each year we invite Coram Life Education (the leading provider of relationships, health, wellbeing, and drugs education) to deliver sessions to all our year groups, to help the children make healthy choices. It's an opportunity to have fun, and learn at the same time. Some children caught up with Harold the Giraffe to

learn from him about sharing, others acted out the workings of the digestive system, and some took a trip to planet 'Conformatron', to learn about the value of diversity. Our first group of children have started their Beanology sessions, with Lizzie Skinner, which have kindly been funded by the Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities. In this group, art and craft activities are used to explore emotions and techniques for coping with feelings. So far, members of the group have made a 'worry box', and a fabulous light house - held up by the people, objects and mantras which support and make them each a shining light. Each week the children practise their mantras, and 'breathing in' their superhero!

We are also very grateful to have received a £1000 donation from the CHEQS and Local Villages Trust to spend on supporting the children's wellbeing. We are currently looking at how this can best be used to encourage a connection with nature and hands-on activities, which are so important for everyone's mental health.



### **Hatherop Church of England Primary School**

*Caring, Believing, Achieving*

[www.hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk/](http://www.hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk/) & Facebook

This term we have enjoyed taking part in Outdoor Learning at Lea Wood with the Ernest Cook Trust. The year 4,5 and 6 children had an amazing morning in the woods. After their safety briefing, they were sent off in teams to create forest shelters. Every group demonstrated exceptional team-building skills and some wonderful structures were created.



The focus of Reception and Year 1's visit in the afternoon, was to explore the natural world around them and observe seasonal changes. They enjoyed taking part in a treasure hunt looking for signs of winter - including pinecones, skeleton leaves, sticks with lichen on and evergreen leaves. They finished their visit by finding good places for some cuddly hedgehogs to keep cosy in the winter.



Earlier in the month our school took part in the cross-county qualifiers and did incredibly well with six pupils qualifying to represent Cirencester District in the Gloucestershire Championships in March. In the Year 6 race, Ellie-May led the race all the way round and finished in first place. In the year 5 race, Persie lead neck and neck with another runner, finally coming 2nd. We are very proud of all our runners.

We currently have spaces in our Year 4,5 and 6 classes. If you are interested, please contact the office [admin@hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk)



# VILLAGE CONTACTS

## PARISH COUNCILS

### Coln St Aldwyns

Chair: David Hicks Beach 01285 750482  
Clerk: Clare Brignall 01285 752662

[www.colnstaldwyns.com](http://www.colnstaldwyns.com)  
[colnsaparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:colnsaparishclerk@gmail.com)

### Hatherop

Chair: James Hart  
Clerk: Jacky Sykes

[www.hatheroppc.com](http://www.hatheroppc.com)  
[hatheropparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:hatheropparishcouncil@gmail.com)

### Eastleach

Chair: VACANT  
Clerk: Gina Pearce

[www.eastleachparishcouncil.org](http://www.eastleachparishcouncil.org)  
[eastleachclerk@gmail.com](mailto:eastleachclerk@gmail.com)

### Quenington

Chair: Mike Scott 01285 750433  
Clerk: Penny Ibbotson 01285 750000

[www.queningtonvillage.uk](http://www.queningtonvillage.uk)  
[queningtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:queningtonpc@gmail.com)

### Southrop

Chair: Tim Guest 01367 850189  
Clerk: Vanessa Lawrence 07876 252398

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

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.friendsoffairford.org.uk/voluntary_car_service.htm)



## CHEQS DIARY 2022

<b>Wednesdays</b>	10am - 12pm	Talking Café, Fairford Community Centre	p3
Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	3pm	Friendship Circle, Eastleach Village Hall	p3
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9.30 & 10am	Coln & Hatherop litter picks	p5
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	4-5.30pm	Messy Church, Quenington Village Hall	p11
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.30 - 11.45am	Quenington Village Hall Coffee Morning	p2
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10am	Quenington litter pick	p5
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7 for 7.30pm	Coln Cinema - The Dig	p12
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	7pm	Race Night, Southrop Village Hall	p13
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10am	Southrop Shop 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration	p13

# CHURCH SERVICES



## Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6pm	Ashing service	St Swithin's, Quenington.
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
	4pm	Messy Church	Quenington Village Hall
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Family Service	St Nicholas, Hatherop
	6pm	Evensong	St John the Baptist, Coln

## St Andrew's, Eastleach

March 6 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Prayer with Andrew Cinnamond
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Holy Communion with Gordon Land and Gareth Griffiths
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Prayer with Neal Cotton
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Mothering Sunday Family Service with Gordon Land

***Please remember that Summer Time begins on March 27<sup>th</sup>!***

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

March 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Family service

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



## CHQ LENT LUNCHES

Everyone is invited to the CHQ Lent Lunches. 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, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Clare Brignall, The Vicarage, Coln St Aldwyns
Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Helen Owen, Sharringtons, Hatherop
Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Hugh Poole-Warren, 9 The Stables, Lechlade GL7 3FE
Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Joey Casey, Mawley Barn, Mawley Road, Quenington
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

## THE FAIRFORD GOSPELS: STARTING 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

March 11 <sup>th</sup> Mark's gospel
March 18 <sup>th</sup> Matthew's gospel
March 25 <sup>th</sup> Luke's gospel
April 1 <sup>st</sup> John's gospel

Churches Together Around Fairford are reading the whole of the four gospels during Lent. You can hear the whole story of Jesus, the man from Nazareth who changed the world. Each of the gospel writers has his own distinctive style. Come and listen to the story they tell and what it means

for them, starting with the one that was written first. On Fridays from midday, in the United Church, Milton St, Fairford. A soup lunch will be available. Come when you can. Listen to all or part of the reading. You don't need to belong to any church; all are welcome. For more details: Maureen Partington 01285 712480 or [mandgpartington@gmail.com](mailto:mandgpartington@gmail.com)



## FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES

**Bereavement Café:** Run by the Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities Nursing Team. A drop in café for anyone that has suffered a loss and would like to talk. First Friday of every month in The Heritage Room, Fairford Community Centre, 10am to 12pm. No booking required. Donations welcome. If you have any questions, please call 07938244335 or email [admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk)

**AGM:** The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March at Fairford Community Centre. All are very welcome to come and hear about our work last year and plans for the year ahead.

**CHARITY CRAFT FAIR:** Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2 - 5pm at Lechlade Memorial Hall, with over 20 stalls selling a range of handmade items. We will also have hot drinks and cakes, as well as a raffle and some Easter crafts for the children. **FREE ENTRY!**

## LECHLADE GARDENING CLUB COACH TRIP

**Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, leave Lechlade 8.30am**

Lechlade Gardening Club have organised a coach trip to Ashwood Nurseries and John Massey's private garden at Kingswinford, West Midlands. The cost is £21 to include coach, entry to gardens and driver's tip. Coach departs Lechlade 8.30am and returns for 5.45pm. There may be a few seats left - to find out, contact Audrey Barnes 01367 252242. Payment by cheque (Lechlade Gardening Club).

## COLN CINEMA - THE DIG

**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, Vicarage Cottage Barn, Coln**

Join us for a drink beforehand. Donation requested £4 per person - all proceeds go to the parish church, St John the Baptist.



As WWII looms, a wealthy widow (Carey Mulligan) hires an amateur archaeologist (Ralph Fiennes) to excavate the burial mounds on her estate. When they make a historic discovery, the echoes of Britain's past resonate in the face of its uncertain future. Based on the true story of the discovery of the Sutton Hoo treasure.

[Cert 12A, 112 minutes]

**Numbers are restricted, so please email Nick Brett on [nrbrett@gmail.com](mailto:nrbrett@gmail.com) or phone or text 07713 981753 to reserve a seat.** Check the *What's Happening...* website for the latest updates [www.whichq.net](http://www.whichq.net)

## QUENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Councillor Vacancy:** Due to Mitch Watkins moving away from the area, there is a vacancy on Quenington Parish Council. If you are interested in supporting your local community by becoming a parish councillor then please email the clerk on [queningtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:queningtonpc@gmail.com) by Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March.

**Annual Village Meeting:** Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the village hall. The parish council will give a review of the year, and hear any public questions. Due to the ongoing pandemic, there will be no guest speakers, to keep it a smaller event.

**Dog Waste:** There have been complaints about dog waste being left in bags, on the side of footpaths or hanging in hedges. Please always take your dog waste bags with you *immediately*, even if the intention is to collect them on your return.

## RACE NIGHT

Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm, Southrop Village Hall

Come for a flutter! Open bar, with snacks.  
More information via local publicity in due course!



## CLOCKS GO FORWARD

Don't forget to change your clocks where necessary: 1 hour forward during the night of Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March and Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March. A lovely Mothering Sunday / Mother's Day gift of an hour's less sleep!



**40 YEARS OF SOUTHROP VILLAGE SHOP**  
Weds, 30<sup>th</sup> March from 10am, Southrop Village Hall

The celebration will take place after being postponed twice due to Covid. All present and past customers are very welcome to come along.

## FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, at 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Fairford

Various pieces including: Mozart Missa in b flat major (with four professional soloists); Brahms Geistliches Lied; Mendelssohn Hear my Prayer and Jauchzet dem Herrn; and Schubert Magnificat. Tickets are £15 from Fairford Opticians.



**FAIRFORD 'FIRECRACKERS' WOMENS INSTITUTE**  
Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm, Palmer Hall, Fairford

Visitors are welcome to the meetings (up to 3 before joining as a member). This month's meeting is a talk and demonstration - woven textile design and hand-weaving. For more information, contact Carol Doherty on 01285 711473 or 07710 502168.

## AN EVENING OF MAGIC, COMEDY AND THE QUENINGTON BULLDOGS' LIVE AUCTION

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

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

More information next month, but if you can't wait, email [paulmwilson@hotmail.com](mailto:paulmwilson@hotmail.com)



**STUART EMMERSON,  
MERRYFIELD FARM,  
COLN ST ALDSWYNS  
(NEAR ALDSWORTH)**

My family had farmed in Nottinghamshire for over 100 years, but our increasing numbers meant that the farm wasn't large

enough to support us all. My brother Anthony and myself started to look for two farms which were near enough to farm together. We sold our original farm in 1993, and it took over two years to buy somewhere (gazumping was a big problem in those days) and Swyre Farm was bought as much out of desperation as anything else! It was a good size, around 750 acres, but had no farmhouse - only two pairs of cottages which were three miles apart by road - one of which, extended and adapted, we live in today. The original farmhouse had been sold off years before, and was used at one time by the Beshara Trust, a spiritual group. Nearby farm buildings had been converted to dwellings. After a few planning pitfalls, permission was given for a new farmhouse, barns and storage, and eleven members of the family made the move to the Cotswolds: Anthony and myself, our wives, our mother and her six grandchildren.

In 2010, when the next generation were all adults, it seemed sensible to divide the farm into two, thus fulfilling the original plan. There were already a few buildings at the Aldsworth end of the farm so I added to these, and created a new farmstead. This was named Merryfield Farm because it was sited between two fields called

Merrybottom North and Merrybottom South. The origin of these names is unknown but it has been suggested that Merrybottom should be Mary's bottom field. Another explanation is that 'merry' is an old word for stream. The river Leach, in stream form, flows through the farm giving name to the field Leachbank. There is also a man-made lake which attracts various birds including many ducks.



When we arrived to farm the stony land, we were told that there had been quarries on the land for all sorts of stone, from building and walling stone to slating stone. One of the fields was called Slat Quarry Hill and this had very thin, flat stones. Much of the land had belonged to the Williamstrip Estate and some to the Hatherop Estate. In addition to the original farm, four fields were purchased later. They had a connection to the church and manor at Aldsworth, including reference in the deeds to Chancel Tax, a levy that could be imposed on property connected to parish land for the upkeep of the church - fortunately rarely collected! As there seemed to be no



knowledge of the names of these fields, we named them descriptively. One is called triangle for obvious reasons, one with a pool in it is Poolpiece, and a meadow which was used by a local resident, Bula Brazil, to home her horses and a visiting donkey, is known as Bula's Meadow. A sloping field is called Bulaslad as 'slad' means slope.

My father, grandfather and great grandfather - and probably previous generations - were farmers and I worked on the farm before and after leaving school. Having three sons, we thought at least one might want to farm. At one point this seemed unlikely as Edward, who had shown interest and obtained an agriculture degree, worked in finance for several years. Eventually, he decided to switch career to farming. Then the farm was mainly arable, but now we have over 400 sheep and up to 200 calves. The sheep are lambed in late February. Most of the lamb goes to supermarkets, but in 2020 we started selling lamb boxes to local residents. The calves come from dairy farms across the country and are about four weeks old when they arrive. They are fed warm milk until they're weaned onto solid food. After three months, they go to new owners - though in recent years we have started to keep some to rear ourselves. They're fed on crops grown on our own land.



Our crops are wheat, barley, oats and beans.

The grain store holds 1000 tonnes of grain. Having a mixed farm is good for business diversity and helps in the balance of nature. The bales of straw produced are mostly used to bed down our cattle and then are spread back on the land as manure. Oilseed rape is no longer grown as it is no longer financially viable on poorer land, due to the banning of some herbicides and insecticides. Organic farming doesn't seem a desirable thing because the fall in production of food here is often met by countries who can ill afford to export crops. The great increase in wildlife we've seen on the farm leaves us unconvinced that modern farming is catastrophic to nature. Hares and skylarks abound, and the number of birds of prey has increased massively over the past few years. What is worrying is the number of diseases affecting trees. The farm had many elm tree stumps when we came, and now other varieties of trees are affected.



Farming life is not without its problems: security can be difficult because of the isolation, and times of drought or floods are very stressful. However, during the last two years of Covid, our farming has been relatively unaffected. The supply of calves was difficult when restaurants

were shut and milk not needed, as farmers kept their calves on cows to use up the milk. Although some people diversify into other business areas, there is nothing most farmers would rather do than farm.

**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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