# CHEQS MAGAZINE



May 2022

# COTSWOLD TREES

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# THE COLN VALLEY MIXED DOUBLES OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH

**CHEDWORTH GL54 4NE** 

A day of social and competitive tennis played on delightful local private courts. Celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year, this unique event raises funds for the club & the churches of Coln St Dennis, Coln Rogers & Chedworth. Early booking advised.

For full details and to enter https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandVall eyTC/Events

colnvalleytournament@gmail.com Caroline Baker 07733 322176

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**Contact the editor** 

cheqsmagads@gmail.com

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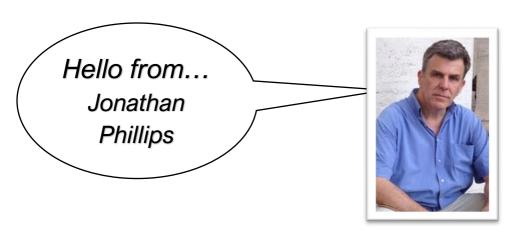
# THE KEEPERS ARMS, QUENINGTON



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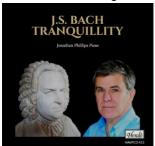


I've lived in Quenington since 2000. Local residents may have seen me running along the Coneygar Road from time to time, or heard me playing the piano as you walk down past Spring Gardens! Tani, my wife, is a singer and teacher and has taught at Hatherop Castle, Farmor's and Rendcomb. Our sons, Sam and Alex, went to Hatherop Primary school. We were drawn to the area not just by the excellent schools, but because I lived in Carterton as a boy and, for a time, went to Burford School. I spent many a summer pulling wild oats on farms in Westwell!

We found a fantastically warm welcome when we moved here 22 years ago, and have made a great group of friends. We have a Saturday morning cycling group, which takes us to various eateries in the area from Gilbertine Kitchen and Linwoods to 7A. There's no incentive like a great cup of coffee.

As our boys flourished at primary school, I became involved as a parent governor - and in the Summer Programme, helping John Reeves with the fishing activities.

I'm a pianist, rather than an organist, but I have stepped in on occasion for friend, farmer and organist, Tim Morris, at St Swithin's Church. Since graduating from the Royal Northern College of Music (where Tani and I met), I've played the piano all over the world. But although I've travelled far and wide to play, I've also enjoyed and appreciated some of our local music making: the Williamstrip Park Concert Series provided an opportunity to play, to a small audience, some of my favourite music in the setting of the wonderful drawing room there. The informal River Room



sessions at the Upper Mill, have also been memorable - playing Bach next to the river, overlooked by a couple of inquisitive swans! What a scenic way to raise funds for the 'music for dementia' charity, Mindsong, amongst others. In fact, one of those sessions was part of the inspiration for my latest recording, Tranquillity, a CD of pieces by J S Bach, which I hope exudes just that - a sense of stillness, calm, radiance and... 'Tranquillity'. info@jonathanphillips.net

#### **EASTLEACH & SOUTHROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**

Thursday, 5th May at 3pm, Eastleach Village Hall



Join the Friendship Circle, for company, tea (and home-made cakes and sandwiches), and often some form of entertainment. Alternating between Eastleach & Southrop village halls, members are welcomed from all the surrounding villages, for a small annual subscription, and a

small weekly charge. Contact Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 for more information.

#### SOUTHROP ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday, 5th May at 6.30pm, Southrop Village Hall

All residents are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting. Short presentations will be made on behalf of village organisations - drinks and refreshments will be available.

#### SINGING FOR SYRIANS

JUBILEE CONCERT - Music & Words for The Queen Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, wine & canapés 6.30pm, concert 7 - 8.15pm at St Mary's Church, Bibury



Jackie Colburn writes: Sadly, we had to cancel our Christmas concert last year at the very last minute because of Covid, so we're trying to raise much-needed funds for the civilian population in Syria where people are still suffering so much. The Hands Up Foundation supports hospitals and schools - indeed they lost a maternity hospital there last autumn, which the charity re-located and then helped re-build the damaged hospital. I hope people feel, even in the light of present atrocities elsewhere, that our continued support of the beleaguered Syrian population is worthwhile. www.handsupfoundation.org (charity number 1156491).

Tickets £12 from Coln Stores, Kate Hicks Beach <u>katehb@btinternet.com</u> or Jackie Colburn <u>jackiecolburn@me.com</u> or on the door on the night.

# **BOOKS NEEDED**



There will be a second-hand book sale in St Swithin's Church, Quenington, during Fresh Air Sculpture Show, 5th - 26th June. If you have any unwanted books in good condition, please leave them in bags at the back of the church. Thank you!

# **QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL - 100 CLUB - APRIL WINNERS**

1st prize (£15) no.20 Keith Ford, 2nd prize (£10) no.36 Graeme Holton

# LECHLADE REPAIR CAFÉ

# Saturday, 7th May from 9.30am - 12.30pm, Lechlade Memorial Hall

In recent months, the Lechlade Repair Café has been launched in the Memorial Hall, Lechlade. The Repair Café concept was started by Martine Postma in Amsterdam in 2009. A few years later, the Repair Café International Foundation was established, which has grown to 2,333 registered Repair Cafés globally.

As a journalist reporting on the ever-evolving issues around global climate change, Martine saw a significant annual increase in the volume and range of household appliances and personal tech ending up in landfill - primarily because of manufactures being allowed to build in obsolescence, limiting spare parts' availability and pushing the consumer to have the 'latest and greatest gizmo', with total disregard for the environmental impact.



For the past four years Colin Thompson has helped organise and run the successful Cirencester Repair Café, as the technical lead repairer - helping other volunteers develop their skills and confidence to repair their own, as well as customer. items. The oldest kitchen appliance he has been able to repair and extend its working life is a 53-year-old Kenwood Chef food mixer. The list of portable household appliances

volunteers will attempt to repair or fix is extensive: kettles, toasters, hairdryers, food mixers, soup makers, vacuum cleaners, clocks, TV's, radios, CD players, PC's, laptops, bicycles. Also, some sewing and textile repairs are undertaken.

In March, Colin and three like-minded volunteers opened the doors at the Lechlade Memorial Hall to offer this valuable repair service to the communities of Lechlade, Fairford, Highworth and the surrounding villages.

As a 'not for profit' volunteer group, they rely on generous customer donations to cover the cost of hiring the Memorial Hall room, and for buying the items required for the repairs - they need some specialist tool kits and a Portable Appliance Tester, which are expensive but necessary items.

The Lechlade Repair Café meets every second Saturday of the month. Doors open to the public at 9.30am and items for repair are accepted up until midday.

New volunteer repairers are always welcome. If you are a skilled trades person, a DIY repairer, or would be willing to help with receiving and booking in customer items, please contact Colin: <a href="mailto:lechlade.repaircafe@gmail.com">lechlade.repaircafe@gmail.com</a> or 07554 230323.

## **CHQ MESSY CHURCH**

# Sunday, 8th May from 4 to 5.30pm, Quenington Playing Field



Join us for a fun-filled time for all ages - picnic supper provided. Everyone is welcome!

This month we are exploring Creation (so expect to get muddy), alongside the usual songs, craft and talk.



#### **KEBLE SERVICE**

## Wednesday, 11th May at 6.30pm, St Peter's Church, Southrop

Margaret Davey writes: This normally annual event has not been held for the past two years, so we are delighted to be welcoming the Director of Music and the choir of Keble College, Oxford, to lead our Keble Evensong service. We are also looking forward very much to welcoming back a previous CHEQS vicar, Craig Bishop, to give the address. We invite people from all the CHEQS villages to this service.

#### QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 14th May from 10.30 to 11.45am

A good number of people met together in April, with £134.20 being given for Afghanaid. Do come along this month, and perhaps invite a friend or neighbour who doesn't normally come. Refreshments are free, but you can donate to our nominated charity - this month it's the **Trussell Trust**, who not only help support Food Banks, but also campaign to end the need for them in the UK.

## **COLN CHOIR MUSICAL EVENING**

Friday, 20th May at 7pm, The Elephant Barn, Beer Furlong, Eastleach



Kindly hosted by the Ernest Cook Trust, the concert is in aid of the Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities. Drinks afterwards, by donation. Tickets £10 each, £5 for under 10s, available from

Coln Stores or by email: <a href="mailto:mandyrambaut@gmail.com">mandyrambaut@gmail.com</a>

# **VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR FRESH AIR**

5th - 26th June at The Old Rectory, Quenington

Many thanks to those who have signed up to help at the Fresh Air Sculpture Show. There are a few slots not yet covered, and extra volunteers would be welcomed to cover for breaks/illness or to help out in general around the grounds. The time slots are 10am - 2pm or 1 - 5pm. If you would like to help, or to find out more, contact Judy and Mike Francis at gardencottage453@btinternet.com or call 01285 750453.

#### SOUTHROP OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND

Saturday, 21st & Sunday, 22nd May from 1.30 - 4.30pm



Come and look around ten or so beautiful village gardens (map provided). Tickets are £5 for one day, or £7 for both days, from Southrop Village Hall or at sign-posted gardens. Teas will be available at the village Hall, and there will also be plants and planted hanging baskets for sale.

Proceeds will be put towards the development of a Garden of Remembrance in the churchyard, and the refurbishment of the village hall.

## **QUENINGTON CAR BOOT SALE**

Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Quenington Village Green, 9am (no set up before 8.45am)



Weather dependent - check our Facebook page on the day. Other dates for the diary are: 3<sup>rd</sup> July & 31<sup>st</sup> July, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 18<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October.

# **NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS**



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

Website: www.southrop.gloucs.sch.uk/

Facebook page Southrop C of E Primary School

The summer term is always a lovely time in school. After SATs are over the Year 4s, 5s and 6s will be off for a residential to the Wilderness Centre in the Forest of Dean, along with pupils from Bibury and North Cerney schools. Activities include a wildlife safari, orienteering, crate stacking, a night walk, and a campfire.

We are looking forward to the prospect of getting out onto the field twice a week, hopefully in the sunshine, for more outdoor sports opportunities. In addition, we are keen for all our pupils to experience some alternative sports. Year 4, 5, and 6 are learning to fence. Year 2 and 3 children will be completing 'Scooter Wise', a programme which helps children ride a scooter safely so that they can enjoy the freedom and fun. Scooters help improve coordination and enable children to learn how to balance using their weight. Reception and Year 1 will start Balanceability, a programme designed to help children gain the confidence and skills required to ride a pedal bike independently.

In the Swan classroom the topic this term is Crime and Punishment. We will research some criminals from the past and decide whether they were fairly treated by today's

standards. We will also learn about the different kinds of criminal courts that people could face, from the Anglo-Saxon times to the present day, and undertake reenactments of trials. This topic involves lots of role-play and debate, which should be good preparation for the Year 5&6s, who are competing in the Mock Trial competition in Cheltenham in June. We are also planning a visit to Oxford Castle and Prison.

The Cygnets are in for a treat next term as we delve into Queen Victoria's 63-year reign and explore the differences between Victorian Britain and Britain today. We will also visit Sevington Victorian School in Wiltshire, to find out what it was really like to be a school child in those times.







We are very grateful to our PTA who have been busy over the Easter break refurbishing our wildlife garden, which will be open for the Southrop open gardens. We would also like to thank David Chapman and Kathy Newton for the time they have spent with the team preparing for the Gloucestershire Wildlife Quiz.



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

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



Earlier last month, a group of pupils went to Kingshill School to take part in a netball competition. They all played incredibly well against some much bigger schools. Their hard work paid off and they were victorious, winning the whole competition.

Kingfisher class had a super Outdoor Learning Day at Lea Woods in spite of the pouring rain. They started their visit with a walk

around the wood searching for items that might be useful in our Stone Age camp. Then they mixed paint using earth and water and covered our shelter in cave paintings and finally worked together to build dens. They finished off a very soggy day with toasted marshmallows around the campfire.



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 <a href="mailto:admin@hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk">admin@hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk</a>

#### VILLAGE CONTACTS

#### **PARISH COUNCILS**

Coln St Aldwyns (website <a href="https://www.colnstaldwyns.com/council.html">www.colnstaldwyns.com/council.html</a>)

Chair: David Hicks Beach 01285 750482

Clerk: Clare Brignall 01285 752662 colnsaparishclerk@gmail.com

**Hatherop** (website www.hatheroppc.com/)

Chair: James Hart hatheropparishcouncil@gmail.com

Clerk: Jacky Sykes as above

Eastleach (website www.eastleachparishcouncil.org )

Chair: VACANT

Clerk: Ann Tyldesley 01367 860130 eastleachpc@btinternet.com

Quenington (website www.queningtonvillage.uk )

Chair: Mike Scott 01285 750433

Clerk: Penny Ibbotson 01285 750000 queningtonpc@gmail.com

Southrop (website <u>www.southrop.org.uk</u>) Chair: Tim Guest 01367 850189

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

**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

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

## **BANK HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS**

	Shop	Café	Post Office
Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	9am - 1pm	8am - 12pm	CLOSED
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	9am - 1pm	8am - 12pm	CLOSED
Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	9am - 1pm	8am - 12pm	CLOSED

# SHOP & POST OFFICE - SOUTHROP VILLAGE HALL



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

# **CHEQS DIARY 2022**

Wednesdays	10.30am -12pm	Talking Café, Fairford Community Centre	
Thur 5 <sup>th</sup> May	3pm	Friendship Circle - Eastleach Village Hall	p2
Thur 5 <sup>th</sup> May	6.30pm	Southrop Annual Parish Meeting, village hall	p2
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> May	6.30 for 7pm	Singing for Syrians, St Mary's Church, Bibury	p2
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am - 12.30pm	Lechlade Repair Café, Lechlade Memorial Hall	р3
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> May	4 - 5.30pm	CHQ Messy Church, Quenington playing field	p4
Wed 11th May	6.30pm	Keble Service, St Peter's Church, Southrop	p4
Sat 14th May	10.30 - 11.45am	Quenington Coffee Morning (Trussell Trust)	p4
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> May	7pm	Coln Choir Musical Evening, Elephant Barn, Eastleach	p4
Sat 21st May	1.30 - 4.30pm	Southrop Open Gardens	p5
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	1.30 - 4.30pm	Southrop Open Gardens	p5
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	9am - 12pm	Quenington Car Boot Sale	p5
Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	from 11.30am	Eastleach Frolics	p11
Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	evening	CHQ Jubilee beacons etc	p12
Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	10am - 4pm	Southrop village archives, village hall	p12
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	10am - 4pm	Hornby Dublo trains, Southrop village hall	p12
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> June	from 2.30pm	Eastleach Jubilee Celebrations	p12
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> June	5 - 8pm	Fresh Air Private View for CHEQS residents	p13

#### CHURCH SERVICES

Check out the church websites, where available, for more information!



#### **CHEQS CHURCHES:**

#### Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

1 <sup>st</sup> May	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
8 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln St Aldwyns
	4pm	Messy Church	Quenington Playing Field
15 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln St Aldwyns
29 <sup>th</sup> May	10.30am	Eco Sunday	St Nicholas, Hatherop
-	6pm	Evensong	St Swithin's, Quenington

#### St Andrew's Church, Eastleach 11am

1st May

8 <sup>th</sup> May	11am	Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup> May	11am	Morning Prayer
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	11am	Morning Prayer
29th May	11am	5th Sunday Special: Some Music, Some Hymns: All Worship!

Morning Prayer (with Neal Cotton)

Details of readings and readers, will be available on the church porch notice board.

# St Peter's Church, Southrop

1 <sup>st</sup> May	9.30am	Holy Communion
8 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am	Morning Prayer
15 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am	Morning Prayer
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	6pm	Evensong
29 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30am	Morning Prayer

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

#### **FAIRFORD & LECHLADE CHURCHES:**

RC Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, Horcott Road, Fairford Mass is usually held on Saturday 10am & 6pm, Sunday 11am, Wednesday 6.30pm, and Thursday 10am, but please read the latest Newsletter before setting out, to check for any changes.

Fairford United Church Milton Street, Fairford Sunday worship is at 10.30am.

St Lawrence Church, Market Place, Lechlade Sunday services at 8am, 10am & 5pm, and Thursdays at 10am.



#### CHURCH CONTACTS

#### **COLN ST ALDWYNS, HATHEROP & QUENINGTON CLERGY**

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Coln St Aldwyns GL7 5AG Rev Simon Brignall

(Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun) 01285 752662 chqvicar@gmail.com

#### **EASTLEACH & SOUTHROP CLERGY**

The Vicarage, Sherborne Street, Lechlade GL7 3AH Rev Andrew Cinnamond (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

CHO **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

CHO Edwina Hicks 07970 799270 chgsafeguarding@gmail.com

Eastleach Nicole Backhouse 07780 605717

Rhona Reid 01367 850295 Southrop

#### 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 ifs.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 Circh 14:20 Fairford 15:05

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

#### QUENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Church Road Closure:** A short section of Church Road is to be closed (near St Swithin's Church) from 9-11<sup>th</sup> May for fire hydrant repair. Further details can be found on the village notice boards.

**Councillor Vacancy:** There is still 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 <a href="mailto:queningtonpc@gmail.com">queningtonpc@gmail.com</a>.

**Tree Warden:** There is also a vacancy for a Tree Warden in Quenington, the main role being to investigate and comment on planning applications for work to trees; please contact the clerk as above if you would be interested in this role.

**New Trees:** Three new trees have been planted in the Green and one in the playing field as part of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme. Two small oaks were donated by the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire and an oak and whitebeam were planted following a crowd funding scheme organised locally.

Annual Village Meeting: minutes on www.queningtonvillage.uk (Council Minutes).

#### LOTS OF EVENTS NEXT MONTH:



#### **EASTLEACH FROLICS**

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June (Bank Holiday) Eastleach Playing Field

# Midday:

Children's football

# 12.30pm

Children's and adults' touch rugby

# 1pm

Adults' football (married vunmarried!)

# 2pm

Children's races & obstacle course, plus BBQ, bouncy castle etc

# 5pm

Fun and games at the Victoria Inn, then down to the river for...

**Frolics Regatta** - £1 entry fee - bring your own boat made from recycled materials (no motors!), prizes for winners, and 'best looking boat'. Open to all ages.

And finally... the legendary Tug-of-War!

#### SOUTHROP JUBILEE PUBLIC EVENTS

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 10am - 4pm, Southrop Village Hall

The village photographs and archives will be on display.

#### Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 10am - 4pm

A display of working Hornby Dublo model railways - all are welcome, and can participate in the action!

#### SOUTHROP JUBILEE VILLAGE EVENTS

News of weekend events just for the villagers will be sent to each household.

#### EASTLEACH JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Saturday, 4th June, Eastleach Village Hall

2.30 - 5.30pm

Cake & Tea Dance (dress vintage)

#### 6pm

Locally-sourced BBQ (including vegetarian)

## 7.30 - 9.30pm

Bar & local live bands: Mouth of the Thames and Periculum

Dress code: red, white and blue - or come as your favourite Royal!



# **CHQ PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**



**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June:** lighting of beacons, ringing of church bells and a general get-together in our two village pubs.

**Sunday**, 5<sup>th</sup> **June**, 1 - 5pm: a joint-village party, with live music (jazz band), beer tent, teas & cakes, Gilo's food van or bring your own picnic, slippery slide, bouncy castle, duck race, maypole dancing, dog show, tug-of-war, and games and activities for all ages. **Volunteers are needed** to help on the day, for limited periods so that everyone can enjoy the fun. If you can help, please contact:

Hatherop Quenington Coln St Aldwyns Jacky Sykes 01285 750354 Janet Sallis 01285 750438 Helen Forbes

sykes248@btinternet.com jesqpc@gmail.com helenandrobforbes@me.com

#### FRESH AIR SCULPTURE - PRIVATE VIEWING INVITATION

Saturday, 4th June, 5 - 8pm, Quenington Old Rectory, Church Road

# FRESH AIR SCULPTURE 2022

The **Trustees of the Quenington Sculpture Trust** invite CHEQS Magazine readers to the **Private View** of:

- Refreshments by Gilbertine Kitchen
- Chedworth Silver Band from 6.30pm
- Cash Bar run by Hatherop Primary School PTA

#### SOUTHROP VILLAGE FETE

Saturday, 11th June from 1 - 4pm





# ROB EMMERSON, SWYRE BARTON FARM, COLN ST ALDWYNS

As I sit down to write this, April showers are pelting hail stones before stopping, as if a tap turned off, to reveal blue sky and a little spring sunshine. Yes, two miles up

the road from Coln St Aldwyns, at Swyre Barton Farm, it very much feels like spring is in full swing. The early crops are almost all planted, lambing almost complete and calving well underway. It's a joy at this time of year to see so much new life out in the fields, and extremely rewarding to see the results of many long days' and nights' work, helping and assisting these new lives get the best start.

Swyre Barton Farm is a mixed arable and livestock farm, with the main farm growing arable crops of barley, wheat, oats, peas and beans and herbal legume mixes, under the Countryside Stewardship scheme. Our 350 head of beef cattle and 120 ewes and lambs enjoy the rented grazing pastures around the Coln and surrounding area,



and the farm, in recent years, has also become the home of the Swyre Knoll Pedigree Polled Hereford herd. Established in 2012 we started with a couple of in-calf heifers and a young bull bought from the annual Hereford Cattle Society show and sale in Hereford market. Since then, the herd has grown to around twenty breeding cows.



We're starting to build a name for the breed, selling breeding bulls - and hope to do some showing, possibly this autumn at the Moreton-in-Marsh Show in September. The breed is credited for its great efficiency of grass-to-meat conversion. In this day and age we are forever being urged to be as green as possible and to be conscious that everything we do has an impact on the environment. That's why I think that this breed not only has a great past, but also a role to play in the future.

Life on the farm is forever changing and evolving. I run the farm in partnership with dad (Anthony) and mum (Rosie). My wife Jane, along with our two boys Joshua and Isaac, all take a great interest in the farm and love to get involved where they can. We're expecting our third child in August, so hopefully we'll have a good team of workers in a few years!



Yesterday was a sad day for us on the farm as we had to say goodbye to Milly, my 12-year-old working border collie, which some of you may have seen from time to time rounding up the sheep in the fields around Coln. Nobody looks forward to the day their beloved pet dies, but I think it's even more of a challenging when it's a work mate as well as a pet. She was always good company and, boy, was she a good sheep dog! I remember the day I bought her: driving three hours in my green Land Rover Defender to west Wales, and then looking at her shaking and with a petrified look,

as she sat curled up against my hip on the central seat - the Land Rover sounded like a tornado batting along the M4. I'm going to miss that dog, and she will take some replacing! The unexpected loss of Milly does highlight one thing though, that no two days are ever the same and in 'this farming life', as much as you plan, plan, plan, you have to realise that there is an awful lot that is out of our control, and, as farmers, we have to be ready to change course more often than we would probably like to.



Looking forward, we have a new enterprise on the farm, which Jane

is starting: our bees arrived on Easter Saturday. If you'd like to follow the progress of Jane and the bees, you can take a look at the Facebook page of Cotswold Nectar



where you'll find some fascinating videos about setting up the new project.

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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.

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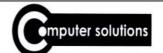
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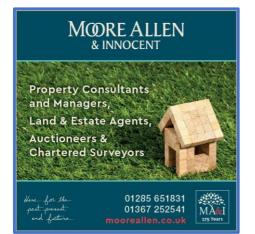
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