

CHEQS MAGAZINE



July 2022

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Hello from...
Adrian Goodman



Shena and I came to live in Coln St Aldwyns in 2000, to be near her mother in Chedworth, and I have been involved in a variety of activities over the years. I have always loved the sound of church bells, so on coming to Coln, I decided to try my hand at ringing – St John the Baptist Church has a fine ring of eight bells. I was warmly welcomed by John Reeves and the small band of ringers, and began to learn under John's patient teaching. Once, I pulled the treble bell too hard and broke the safety stay - which pulled me up off the floor. Everyone shouted "let go", which I did. Luckily, the ceiling of the ringing chamber is high and I didn't hit my head! I never progressed very far, but when it goes well it is very satisfying - the nearest comparable thing I know is the satisfaction of rowing well in an eight.

In 2003, with the help of fellow Coln residents Ray Michael and Linda Bolter, I started 'Coln Cinema', raising money for local charities. We applied to join the CDC Rural Cinema scheme and started with *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. CDC provided the equipment and a film once a month. It was hard work collecting and setting up the heavy equipment - which was not always reliable! We used the Reading Room at the Malt House for nine years, then Nigel Hugh-Smith offered us the use of his fully equipped barn, and we could become independent of CDC - audience numbers also noticeably increased. I retired from Coln Cinema in 2019 and I am glad it is being carried on so well by Nick Brett.

My CHEQS Mailing list developed out of Coln Cinema. I was walking round the village pushing flyers through letter boxes when I realised I had email addresses for all these houses, so I sent the flyers by email. Much easier, and it now has 515 addresses!

Neighbourhood Watch was another occupation. Jean Sinton, the then chairman of the Parish Council, told me I had 'been chosen' to represent Coln. No option! I learnt a lot about the parish, and the Gloucestershire police - their relationship with NW has much improved in recent years.

Another interest was the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. A very worthwhile charity supporting our lovely ancient churches; they gave a substantial grant to Coln church. The annual Ride and Stride takes place each September, and the cycling is the easy part - the hard work is raising the sponsorship. I enjoyed the cycling, but never got round more than about 10 churches. However, one year I managed to win the Holmes Salver for the person aged over 70 raising the most money. The salver was presented by Diana Holmes in memory of her husband, Francis. He was nearly blind but could follow her, brightly dressed, on a bicycle in the Historic Churches Ride and Stride when he was still in his 80's.

LOOKING BACK AT A FEW OF LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

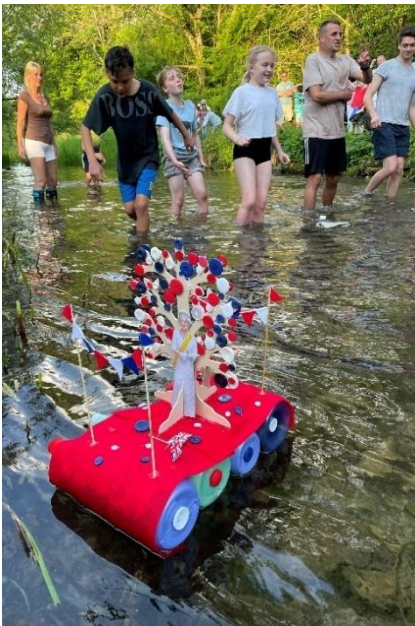
There were lots of opportunities for CHEQS residents to get together over the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend. It was a joy to meet up with friends and neighbours, and to join in with community events, after two years of separation because of Covid. Here are a few photos of just some of the events - sorry it is only the ones the editor was able to attend!

Bells were rung at Hatherop and Coln churches. A gas-fuelled beacon was lit on the church tower at Coln, while residents of Quenington, Coln & Hatherop chatted and celebrated below.



EASTLEACH FROLICS

A lot of family fun was had, both at the games in the afternoon and on the river in the evening. And also, it must be said, at the Victoria Inn in between times!



A splendid selection of creative craft floated down the River Leach, eagerly watched by a large number of spectators. A royal theme was in evidence, not surprisingly, with a lot of work having been done by some... and a valiant last-minute effort by others! All were entertaining, and much appreciated by the on-lookers.

The evening ended with the usual tug-of-war in the river, with a team each side of Keble Bridge. The teams appeared to be rather unbalanced, both age-wise and in their stability! But then, most people had spent the afternoon at the Vic. After the best of three pulls, changing ends each time, it seemed that the down-river side had the advantage, but everyone enjoyed the struggle. There must have been not only sore heads the next morning, but also sore arms, legs and other parts as well!

HORNBY DUBLO TRAIN LAYOUT – SOUTHROP VILLAGE HALL

People of all ages enjoyed the Hornby Dublo train demonstration. The most fun seemed to be had when things went wrong, and problem-solving skills came to the fore. The bright eyes and nimble fingers of one young visitor (who helps her dad with his set up at home) were much appreciated. Not only did everyone enjoy the fun of the various engines, coaches and goods wagons, but also the nostalgia of the 1950s cars and buildings which made such an excellent backdrop to the trains.



As with all the events and celebrations over the Jubilee weekend, many thanks are due to those who gave their time, effort and expertise to put on such entertaining and fun events for everyone to enjoy.



QUENINGTON, COLN & HATHEROP JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Thankfully, the awful weather forecast proved wrong, and the three villages were able to celebrate in style, with a jazz band, Gilo's innovative food van, a fun dog show, duck race, face painting, a slippery slide, tug-of-war and much more!



EASTLEACH & SOUTHPROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Thursday, 7th July 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. Small annual subscription, and a small charge for the tea. Contact Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 for more information.

TOUR DE FARCYCLES

Saturday, 9th July – stopping off at Quenington Village Hall

Farcycles is a cycling group with a difference. It consists of people of all ages and abilities who enjoy cycling together in the countryside around Faringdon in Oxfordshire, and into Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Berkshire. However, their aim is to improve the infrastructure for cyclists, and each year they organise a fundraiser - Le Tour de Farcycles. All event proceeds go to building sustainable, healthy and inclusive transport facilities in the region around Faringdon. Last year their support included:



- Building a cycle training park
- Training more than 200 children, young people and adults to ride
- Commissioning infrastructure projects, such as cycle repair stations
- Developing safer cycle routes (with town & district councils) in Faringdon

There will be three different routes on the day of Le Tour, covering 33 miles, 51 miles and 80 miles, but each of these will be using Quenington Village Hall as a 'feed station' (and toilet stop!), so our villages are likely to see a large number of cyclists passing through. Please be considerate towards them (as we hope they will be, as they cycle around), and perhaps cheer them on. If you would like to register to join Le Tour, see the Farcycles website for information: <https://farcycles.weebly.com/>

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 16th July from 10.30 - 11.45am



Everyone is welcome to enjoy drinks, cakes and chat – no charge, as is the 'new normal' for QVH Coffee Mornings. If you would like to make a donation, the charity being supported this month is **Water Aid**, an international not-for-profit organisation which aims to provide clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene for everyone, everywhere. Check out their website for more information:

<https://www.wateraid.org/uk/>



QUENINGTON CAR BOOT SALE

Sunday, 3rd July and also Sunday 31st July, from 9am to midday.

Sellers arrive NOT BEFORE 8.30am - no need to book - just turn up and pay £5. Other dates for the diary are: 21st August, 18th September and 1st October.

INTERESTED IN CRICKET?

Poulton Cricket Club is looking for new recruits, especially for under-nine girls and boys. Contact Will Bathurst 07765 251951 or poultoncc@hotmail.com



WILLIAMSTRIP CRICKET CLUB

Williamstrip always welcomes supporters, or indeed, players! jpwhite79@gmail.com
The ground can be found via the footpath from Coln, past the estate lodge, or via the entrance from the road as you leave the village just before the Salt Way turning to Bibury. Upcoming Williamstrip fixtures are as follows (home matches in **bold type**):

Saturday, 2nd July at 1pm

Williamstrip CC- 1st XI Vs **Rusthall CC**

Saturday, 9th July at 1pm

Williamstrip CC- 1st XI Vs **Fairford CC- 2nd XI**

Saturday, 16th July at 1.30pm

Williamstrip CC- 1st XI Vs **Poulton CC- 3rd XI**

Saturday, 23rd July at 1.30pm

Buscot Park CC- 2nd XI Vs Williamstrip CC- 1st XI

Saturday, 30th July at 1.30pm

Williamstrip CC- 1st XI Vs **Langford CC, Oxon- 3rd XI**

Saturday, 6th August at 1.30pm

Cirencester CC- 4th XI Vs Williamstrip CC- 1st XI

Saturday, 13th August at 1.30pm

Fairford CC- 2nd XI Vs Williamstrip CC- 1st XI

Saturday, 20th August at 1.30pm

Williamstrip CC- 1st XI Vs **Cricklade CC- 2nd XI**

Saturday, 3rd September at 1pm

Williamstrip CC- 1st XI Vs **Bibury CC- 1st XI**

Saturday, 10th September at 1pm

North Cerney CC- 1st XI Vs Williamstrip CC- 1st XI

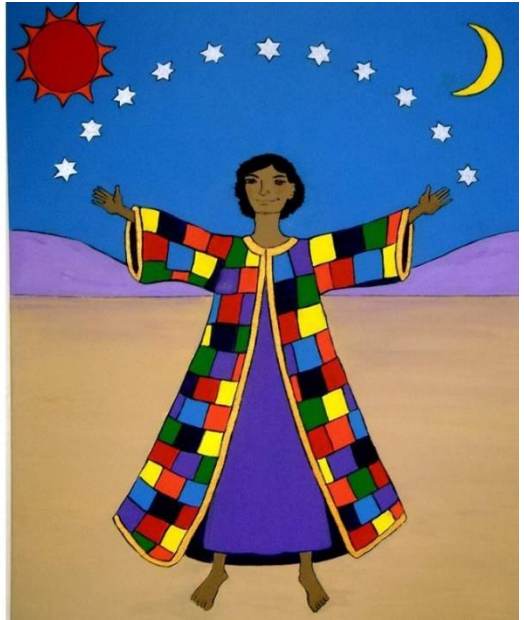
The CHQ Messy Church

Quenington Playground
Sunday, 3rd July
4pm to 5.30pm

Join us for a fun-filled time together, for all ages, with picnic supper for all provided.

This month we are exploring the story of Joseph, so expect to get colourful with songs, craft and talk.

Everyone Welcome



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS



Hatherop Church of England Primary School

Caring, Believing, Achieving

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



The **Jubilee Picnic** in the playground was a big success with royal themed games organised by each class, a picnic on the grass, as well as plenty of cakes to enjoy! The children ended the afternoon by singing the national anthem.

Year 5 and 6 Residential – quotes from some of the children

“We all enjoyed the residential trip and we had been looking forward to

it for a long time. But it was definitely worth the wait!” **Hunniece**

“One of our activities was the giant swing, which personally is my favourite activity.”
Ebba

“The food was AMAZING 10/10 if you ask me. We always had a huge variety of fruit and vegetables and they had lots of giant black boards telling you what you can and can't eat depending on what you are allergic to.” **Ellie-May**

VILLAGE CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCILS

Coln St Aldwyns (website www.colnstaldwyns.com/council.html)

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: Stephen Wells 01367 850 028

Locum Clerk: Vanessa Lawrence 07876 252398 eastleachclerk2022@outlook.com

Quenington (website www.queningtonvillage.uk)

Chair: Mike Scott 01285 750433

Clerk: Penny Ibbotson 01285 750000 queningtonpc@gmail.com

Southrop (website www.southrop.org.uk)

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

*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

LLOYDS BANK MOBILE UNIT



The mobile bank is due to outside the Community Centre, High Street, Fairford on: Wednesday, **6th July** and Wednesday, **20th July**, from **10am to 12.15pm**. To check on the day, call the mobile branch hotline on [0345 601 6943](tel:03456016943) before you travel.

CHEQS DIARY 2022

Wednesdays	10.30am -12pm	Talking Café, Fairford Community Centre	
Thursdays	10.30am -12pm	Talking Café, Jó Szerencsét Café, Lechlade	p14
Sun 3 rd July	9am – 12pm	Quenington Car Boot Sale, the Green	p7
Sun 3 rd July	4 – 5.30pm	CHQ Messy Church, Quenington Playing Field	p8
Thu 7 th July	3pm	E & S Friendship Circle, Eastleach Village Hall	p6
Sat 9 th July	9.30am-12.30pm	Repair Café, Lechlade Memorial Hall, Oak Street	p15
Sat 9 th July	10am – 1.30pm	“ “ Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane	p15
Sat 16 th July	10.30 – 11.45am	Quenington Village Hall Coffee Morning	p6
15 th – 17 th July		Royal International Air Tattoo, Fairford	p16
25 th – 30 th July		Cotswold Arcadians, Hatherop Castle	p14
Sun 31 st July	9am – 12pm	Quenington Car Boot Sale, the Green	p7
Sat 13 th Aug	9.30am-12.30pm	Repair Café, Lechlade Memorial Hall, Oak Street	p15
Sat 13 th Aug	10am – 1.30pm	“ “ Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane	p15
Sat 27 th Aug	2 – 4pm	Eastleach Fete	p16
Sat 3 rd Sep		Jumble Trail, Fairford	

CHURCH SERVICES

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



CHEQS CHURCHES:

[Coln, Hatherop & Quenington](#)

3 rd July	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
	4pm	Messy Church	Quenington Playing Field
10 th July	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln
17 th July	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
24 th July	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln
31 st July	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hatherop
	6pm	Evensong	St John the Baptist, Coln

[St Andrew's Church, Eastleach](#)

3 rd July	11am	Morning Prayer with Neil Cotton
10 th July	11am	Holy Communion with Canon Tony Ross
17 th July	11am	Morning Prayer with Gordon Land
24 th July	11am	Morning Prayer with Gordon Land
31 st July	11am	5th Sunday Special with Gordon Land

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

[St Peter's Church, Southrop](#)

3 rd July	9.30am	Holy Communion
10 th July	9.30am	Family Service
17 th July	9.30m	Morning Prayer
24 th July	6pm	Evensong
31 st July	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](#) online 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

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

Congratulations to the CHQ churches! They have each achieved a bronze award from



Eco Church, the organisation which encourages churches to extend the way in which they care for God’s earth.

Clare Brignall writes: If you add the area of all the churchyards in the country together, they make up roughly the size of the Isle of Wight – and they’re mostly land which hasn’t been cultivated and therefore full of wildlife habitats. It’s great to use these spaces to encourage diversity of plants and insects. Some of you will have noticed the beautiful long grass in our churchyards as part of No-Mow May. This was part of our Eco Church programme. Eco Church aims to help us make our churches more environmentally friendly in five core areas: worship, buildings, land, community/global concern and our own lifestyle. As part of the worship element, we had an Eco Sunday service at which we reminded ourselves of God’s amazing creation and our part in sustaining it. We did this through worship, prayer, a talk, and some practical activities, including making bug hotels!



There’s a bug village in Hatherop churchyard, which has been added to with the help of the primary school children at the ‘Churches Count on Nature’ day, where we investigated the flora and fauna in our churchyards. There’s still more to be done, and it’s a project which can include the whole community - in our lifestyle choices and our



commitment to the plants and insects in our beautiful villages: it’s a very long-term project. Targets which will enable us to gain a silver award are connected with our carbon footprint, our use of water and other resources, using more Fairtrade products, working with other environmental groups... and so much more. An exciting and challenging time ahead!



Eco-tip for this month is: to be aware of our use of water – in toilets, showers, baths, gardens – see if we can cut down on both use and waste.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL - 100 CLUB - JUNE WINNERS

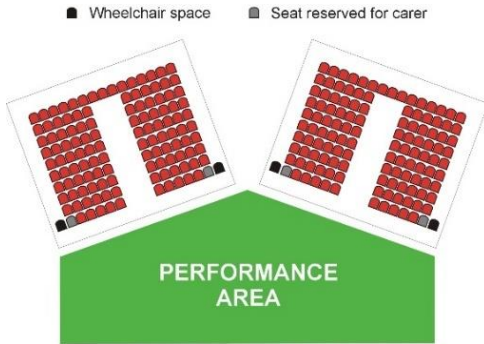
1st prize (£15) No. 25 – Sandra Lawrence 2nd prize (£10) No. 32 – Graeme Holton



COTSWOLD ARCADIANS – THE WINTER’S TALE

Monday, 25th July – Saturday, 30th July, Hatherop Castle grounds

The Winter’s Tale runs from Monday, 25th July at 7.30pm to Saturday, 30th July. Go to www.ticketsource.co.uk/cotswold-arcadians to see the layout of the grandstands, select your seats, pay by credit/debit card and have an e-ticket emailed to you.



Ticket	Monday to Thursday and Matinee	Friday and Saturday
Standard	£19	£21
Senior	£18	£21
Student/U18	£10	£11
Saturday matinee Family Ticket (2 Standard + up to 4 U18)		£45



NEW TALKING CAFÉ IN LECHLADE

Thursday, 10.30 – midday, Jó Szerencsét, Lechlade

Mary Ann Dibbs, W4W Coordinator, writes: So, it’s official - we have landed in Lechlade. The new Talking Café takes place in every Thursday 10.30am-12pm. Are you new to the area and would like to meet new people, find out what is going on in your area? Maybe you’ve lived in Lechlade all your life and you could tell us some great facts about the town. Do you need help with digital devices, heating bills, food vouchers or forms? W4W can help. Come for a FREE cup of tea or coffee and a lovely biscuit (donations are welcome). Come and join the chat.

The Jó Szerencsét is a Hungarian Café Deli and Restaurant which opened early this year. The name means *good luck* and is a traditional greeting for miners – hence the tools in the logo.



QUENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Vacancy for Parish Clerk:

Quenington Parish Council is seeking to appoint a new Parish Clerk. Candidates must be well organised, able to use their initiative and have strong administrative, communication and financial skills. This is a permanent part-time vacancy (approx. 5 hr/wk) and the Clerk will be required to attend all Parish Council meetings, which are generally held every two months on a Thursday evening.

Salary: Negotiable depending upon experience but based on NJC scale LC1.

Start date: 1 August 2022

For a full job description and person specification, please visit the Quenington website on www.queningtonvillage.uk Applications should include a covering letter and CV and be sent to: Mike Scott, Chairman of Quenington Parish Council via email mikeQPCscott@outlook.com For more information about the role please contact the current Clerk Penny Ibbotson via email queningtonpc@gmail.com

Closing date for applications: Friday 8th July 2022.

Playground Survey: QPC is building up funds to carry out improvements to the playground facilities and would be grateful for feedback from residents on the current equipment and what they would like to see installed in the future. A link to the survey is available on the Quenington website as above.

Councillor Vacancy: There is still a vacancy on QPC for a new councillor; candidates can be co-opted onto the council and the next opportunity is at the parish council meeting on 14th July, please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

Speedwatch: Following the hard work and determination of Bob Passmore, the parish council's Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator, we are getting closer to having automated speed watch cameras installed in Quenington and Honeycomb Leaze. These cameras will provide a more enduring deterrent to help reduce the numbers of vehicles speeding through the villages. Bob is currently working closely with Glos. Police and Glos. Highways to make sure all necessary permissions and requirements are in place, including data protection.

LOCAL REPAIR CAFÉS

Lechlade 9.30am - 12.30 Lechlade Memorial Hall, Oak Street

Cirencester 10am - 1.30pm Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane

Both take place on the second Saturday of the month: **9th July and 13th August**. Take along an item you would like to be mended, and see what the volunteer experts can do! A small donation is requested to cover the costs of the Repair Café.

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL AIR TATTOO

Friday, 15th – Sunday 17th July

There may still be some tickets left – check the website: <https://www.airtattoo.com/tickets> or perhaps cycle over to Fairford, Horcott or Whelford and see where you can stop safely to watch or photograph the planes!



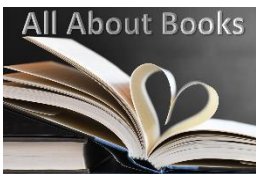
EMBRACE IN A BOX

‘Embrace’ is a local support group for people experiencing infertility or baby loss. It started five years ago, and has provided a listening ear, and love and support to numerous women - and men - who have experienced infertility, miscarriage, or the death of a baby. There have been two Baby Memorial Services in conjunction with St Mary's Church in Fairford, and an event marking Baby Loss Awareness Week at The Bull Hotel. All this has enabled the group to provide people with the space and support they have needed in order to process their loss and grief.



Embrace has now launched "Embrace in a Box" - boxes full of comforting goodies for anyone in our area experiencing miscarriage. The boxes have been made possible due to funds raised by Embrace member Lizzie Garthwaite, who was sponsored in 2020 to cut off her long, blonde hair. Other members will continue to fundraise in order to allow them to support people over the next five years.

If you are interested in going to an Embrace meeting or would like information about getting an ‘Embrace in a Box’ for you or someone you know, please contact the group on: embracefairford@gmail.com



NEW OCCASIONAL FEATURE - COMING SOON

All About Books will feature book reviews, information about local Book Clubs, and any other topics of interest to bibliophiles. If you would like to submit a review, write about your favourite author, or discuss the illustrations in a much-loved children’s book, for example, do get in touch with the editor (contact details on p20). It is planned that the feature will start in September.

EASTLEACH FETE IS BACK

Save the date: Saturday, 27th August 2 – 4pm

All the traditional stalls, games, grand draw, teas etc. More details next month.



THE MADHATTER BOOKSHOP

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We are here to match you with something to help make your adventures happen, to make you smile, to make you cry, to educate you, to amuse you, to comfort you, to enlighten you, to shock you and to soothe you, for inside our black doors on Burford High Street is a wonderland of your making, just add a little imagination and the wonders of the written word.

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22 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2022

Join us for our annual Literary Festival, where we can yet again promise talks and workshops set in beautiful Burford by a diverse selection of authors from every genre. Sign up for our newsletter for more information.

WWW.BURFORDLITFEST.CO.UK

FOCUS ON FARMS



JAMES HART, GLEBE FARM, HATHEROP

When I came to Glebe Farm in 1969, aged 3, with my mother, father (the new tenant), and sisters, the farm looked very different. Cart horses had only just been removed from the Nag Stables, the four staff

were paid a few pounds a week, and the wheat yielded about 1½ tonnes/acre. The last 50 years have been full of change; sizeable cattle- and pig enterprises have come and gone, yields are now 3½ tonnes/acre, but overhead costs are up 10-fold. Wheat prices have only slowly increased until recently, but are now unusually high due to the war in Ukraine and poor harvests in North and South America, due to drought.

My father's aim at the start was to create a profitable business that could afford to look after the staff, animals and the environment. To achieve that, he needed to increase the income from the farm - at the start only 550 acres. He started a pig business, and rented another small area of land at Homeleaze Farm. Over the next eight years he built two pig units, and by 1977 there were another eight families living off 800 acres... and Fraser Hart was the official Meat & Livestock Commission national "Pig Farmer of the Year"!

When my wife and I succeeded the tenancy, in 1999, the pig units were old and in need of massive reinvestment - at a time of falling pig prices, increasing welfare regulations, and a drive to produce cheap meat. We needed to grow the business again so, two years later, we joined forces with our neighbouring Ernest Cook Trust tenants, Bob and Jeremy Iles, giving us greater economy of scale, and freedom to pursue other areas of farm business.



In 2009 we were selling pigs and wheat for nearly the same price as my father had been in the 1980's so, a few years later, we made the difficult decision to revert to purely arable farming at Glebe Farm, along with the investment we had made in an Anaerobic Digestion plant. An AD plant uses a carefully balanced mix of organic matter and methane-producing bacteria to generate renewable electricity - we have now injected over 31 million kW into the local grid. As a joint business, the AD plant allows us to keep more livestock and have a wider crop rotation. We also use less artificial fertiliser, as the digestate by-product is used to fertilise the soil. Now, after years of using animal manures and the natural digestate fertiliser from our AD plant, our soils are much healthier - the occasional smells have been worthwhile! As well as enabling us to farm more ecologically, the AD plant provides an income source, more employment and, we are told, a much more stable electricity grid for local users - a win-win for all.

Government input over this time has been good and bad in equal measure, at times pushing us in directions that we wouldn't always favour but which, financially, we cannot ignore. The historic drive to reduce costs and/or increase production in farming is the same as in any business, but it does put pressure on wildlife. However, new government policy is, frighteningly, based on turning our land into a large garden, with no mention of food production anywhere. At the same time, consumers have become ever more detached. Supermarkets provide so much choice and "value" (i.e. cheap food). Sadly, survival when supplying a supermarket means producing more cheaply, regardless of the effects on your community and its habitat.

My father was, and remains, a passionate - and much sought-after - local source of knowledge and experience on matters of flora and fauna. His countless hours of work and investment have reaped rewards: on two short walks last year through a standard arable area of the farm, we counted 11 different butterflies and moths including Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Dark Green Fritillary, Chalkhill Blue and Six-spot Burnet moth, as well as birds including White Throat, Wheatear, Green Sand Piper and Linnet. Brown hare numbers have also rebounded.

Our current aim includes adopting Regenerative Farming techniques across all areas of the farms – ensuring soil health, conserving water, increasing biodiversity etc. We aim to actively support wildlife on our poorer land, while attempting to make a profit on the land that is suitable for cropping. We've reduced the use of insecticides over recent years to absolute necessity levels, and many fields have been free of insecticides for some time now. The products we spray are vastly safer than 30 years ago, and increasingly, we are spraying only natural products; trace elements such as copper, boron, silicon, manganese, phosphorus and many others, all timed to help the plants fight disease and pests, hopefully negating the need for follow-up pesticide use. These trace elements still cost, and require spraying onto the plants, but the soil and plant health should benefit from this change. It is not "organic" but we believe that we can produce high levels of more nutritious food and still farm in an environmentally aware manner. Currently, there is no market for this "nutritionally better" food – the supermarkets cannot sell it cheaply, so they are not interested... yet! The new trade agreement signed with Australia (a country that can produce food more cheaply, but with far lower welfare standards) shows how we remain pressured to produce more food, at a lower cost.

In 2020 Jeremy and I merged our joint arable farming business with the Backhouse family at South Farm, to create a business of around 1,200 hectares. Our goal is to become carbon neutral, which will take some time to achieve. You may notice some changes: more sheep and cattle on our farms on cover crops over the winter, where we are planning a spring crop, and a greater mix of crop types. At times, it may look scruffier, but the soil and wildlife should thrive. Our 25-year-old son, currently serving in the Parachute Regiment, plans to return to the farm one day. Hopefully, he too will be lucky enough to raise a family at Glebe Farm, and the land will generate profits that enable it to flourish, both financially and environmentally, over the next 50 years.

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