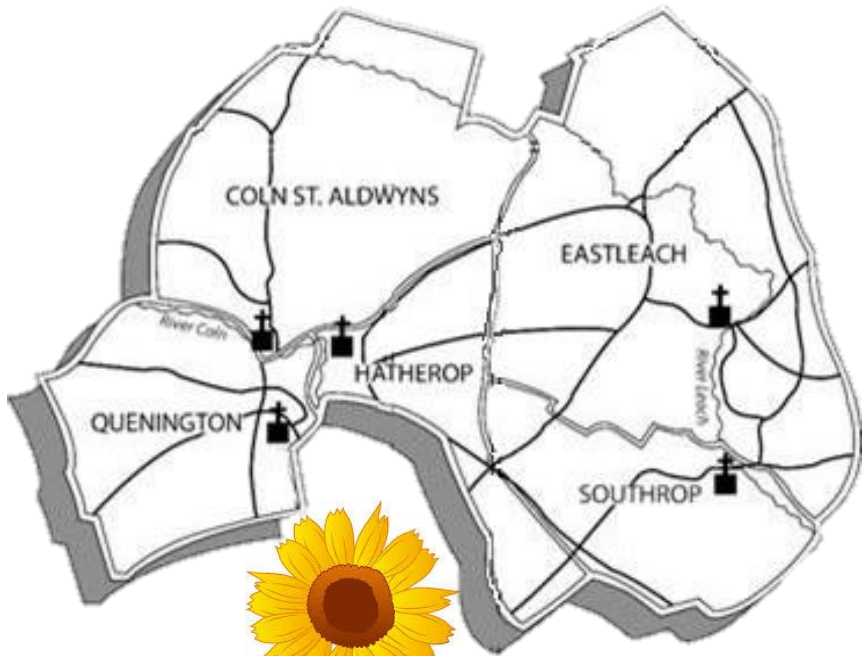


CHEQS MAGAZINE



August 2022

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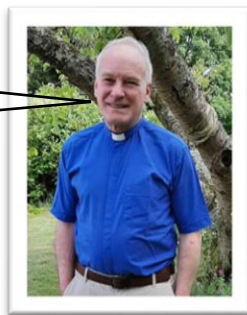
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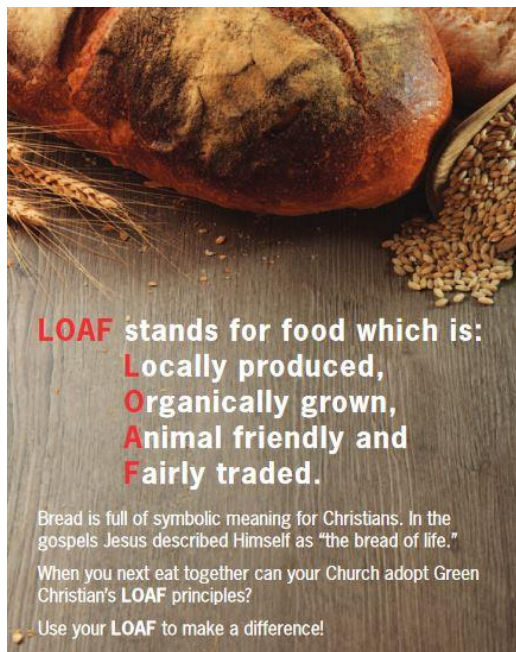
landlord@thekeepersarms.co.uk

*Hello from...
Simon Brignall*



On 7th August, the CHQ Parish will be holding a LOAF service. You may wonder what that's all about! So, here's an explanation.

Down the centuries, some churches have celebrated an ancient service called Lammass, on the first Sunday in August. The service is first recorded in the time of King Alfred and the word is thought to be derived from the early English word for 'loaf' - so the translation would be Loaf Mass. It was a festival in the church calendar to thank God for, and to bless, the 'first fruits' of harvest, with a loaf of bread being brought to the church for this purpose. The loaf was traditionally made from the grain of the first crop of wheat being harvested that year.



Today, many churches use the festival to celebrate their local farming community. The organisation Green Christian developed an acronym for LOAF, which ties farming and ecology together:

L for **Local**,
O for **Organic**,
A for **Animal-friendly**, and
F for **Fairtrade**.

Farming methods change and evolve over the years, as we have seen in the Focus on Farms feature in the magazine this year. It is good to know how our farmers are producing the food we eat, in these challenging times.

Last year, we invited Laura and Matt Elliot, who produce pasture fed beef, to

tell us about how they farm their beef herd. This year, we have invited Tim Morris to tell us about arable farming in the Cotswolds. We do hope that you'll come and enjoy this celebration of our local farming community.

EASTLEACH & SOUTHPROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Thursday, 4th August at 3pm, Oxleaze Farm



This month, thanks to the kind invitation of Charles & Chipps Mann, the Friendship Circle will be gathering at Oxleaze Farm for their summer garden tea. For more information, or if you would like to join the usual Friendship Circle meetings starting in September, please contact Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393.

LIMITED CHEQS SUMMER PROGRAMME

Sadly, due to a lack of committee volunteers, the Summer Programme this year is **only open to Southrop Primary School pupils, and children living in Southrop and Eastleach**. Hopefully, next year there will be more parents available to help out, and it will be open to all CHEQS families once again.

If you would be willing to join the committee for 2023, please contact Claire Morris 07788 673637 or Kelly Smith 07713 881167.

PICNIC
8th August 12pm-2pm Eastleach Village Hall
IN THE PARK

Working 4 Wellbeing
A national award winning scheme

Bring your own picnic, we provide the entertainment for FREE!

Crafts by Arty Crafty Little Monkeys
Circus Skills and Drumming by World Jungle

Booking Advised for crafts but last minute attendees still welcome
Contact W4W 07555 738 138

world jungle

charity number 319791
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However, although there is no Summer Programme for all the villages this year, **all CHEQS children** are invited to a 'Picnic in the Park' at Eastleach Village Hall.

PICNIC IN THE PARK Monday, 8th August 12 – 2pm

Bring your own picnic and come and enjoy all the entertainment provided:

- Crafts by 'Arty Crafty Little Monkeys'
- Circus Skills and Drumming by 'World Jungle'.

Booking advised for crafts, but last-minute attendees will still be welcome!

Contact Working 4 Wellbeing to book, or for more info: 07555 536136.

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, 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



Ian Powell writes: Williamstrip Cricket Club is running its lottery again this year. The cost is £25 per number, and it runs from 13th August 2022 to 28th January 2023. The weekly prize will be £20 and there will be two special prizes of £75 & £150. The easiest way to enter is to make an online payment to the club's bank account, then email me confirming how many entries you would like and I will email you your numbers: Sort Code 30-92-06; Account No. 01629083. powellim@tiscali.co.uk

EASTLEACH PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE & EMAILS

www.eastleachparishcouncil.org

The Eastleach Parish Council website has been re-designed, and is in the process of being re-populated with information relating to the Council and Eastleach village. There is also a new generic mailbox for the clerk and councillors:



Vanessa Lawrence (Locum Parish Clerk)

Stephen Wells (Chairman)

Didi Ivey

Miranda Lawson

Merry Baskin

Paul Bailey

clerk@eastleachparishcouncil.org

Stephen@eastleachparishcouncil.org

Didi@eastleachparishcouncil.org

Miranda@eastleachparishcouncil.org

Merry@eastleachparishcouncil.org

Paul@eastleachparishcouncil.org



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Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities

Formerly The League of Friends of Fairford Hospital

CAN YOU HELP? We need people to help in our Lechlade Charity Shop, and drivers for our Patient Transport Service. If you can spare a few hours a week, please do get in touch. **Charity Shop:** call 01367 252189, email shop@friendsoffairford.org.uk or pop in to speak to a member of the team. **Patient Transport:** contact Val Harvey on 07540 798226 or transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk

THANK YOU! The Community Friends are very grateful for all the time and effort put in for the return of our House-to-House Collection this year. Together, we raised a huge £17,435.50, which will help us continue to provide our vital health and social support to the local community.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

25th September: Pamper Afternoon, Fairford Community Centre - a mini treatment, with products available to buy. To book, contact admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk or 01285 707300.

15th October: Quiz and Chilli Night at Fairford Community Centre.

27th November: Festive Craft Fair and Annual Raffle.

LUNCH CLUBS

We hope to bring back our lunch clubs for older people towards the end of the year, to provide a meal and social interaction for those at risk of loneliness or isolation. If you know somebody who would benefit from this, or if you would be able to help, please get in touch to be added to our interest list: Contact Kerry on admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk or call 01285 707300.

PRESCRIPTION SERVICE

We offer a free local prescription delivery service. If you know someone who is entitled to free prescriptions but is unable to collect them, please call or email our patient transport coordinator who can provide more information: Val Harvey on 07540 798226 or transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

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

REPAIR CAFES

Saturday, 13th August

If you have broken items which you would like repaired, take them to either of the local Repair Cafés on the second Saturday of the month. They are based at:

- Lechlade Memorial Hall, 9.30am – midday
- Cirencester Baptist Church, 10am – 1.30pm



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](https://www.facebook.com/SouthropCofEPrimarySchool)

Julia McLellan writes: Another extraordinary school year has come to an end. Though there have been many challenges, with staff and pupils off with Covid, it hasn't stopped us enjoying the rich variety of activities we so love at Southrop School.

Our Year 5 and 6 participated last month in the Cheltenham Mock Trial - as the prosecuting team - and were delighted to gain a conviction against a team from St Gregory's. In addition, Millie won the award for the best court reporter.

Both classes were kindly hosted for visits at Lemhill Farm, by George and Millie Ponsonby. It was fascinating to find out about their organic methods of farming, to sweep the wild flower borders to find the variety of bugs they provide a habitat for, and to have the opportunity to sit in the combine harvester and tractor.

The Swans were delighted to be back in the village hall for their annual play, which was the pantomime, Cinderella Rockerfella. All members of the cast threw themselves into their roles with maximum enthusiasm: the wicked fairy, ugly sisters, talking dog, beautiful Cinders, hunky Rockerfella et al. It was a joyful team effort - and boos, hisses and calls of "look behind you" abounded!

Inspired by the Fresh Air Sculpture Show, we created and displayed our own show in the wildlife garden. It's always great fun inviting in the school community, and sharing our creativity.

We are very sad to be losing our Year 6s, but we're very proud of all they've achieved, and we know that each of them is ready for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead at their next school.

A thought for September: **reading** is a big focus for us, as we know that confident readers are better able to achieve in every area of the curriculum. We are looking for buddy readers to come in each week and give the children some extra one-to-one reading time. If you think you might have the time to spare, please contact us on 01367 850246 or email admin@southrop.glouc.sch.uk.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL NEWS

from the trustees



COFFEE MORNING

There will be no Coffee Morning in August – but it'll be back on Saturday, 17th September, supporting the eye charity, ORBIS.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

We're looking for two volunteers to join our small, friendly team of seven who manage the hall for the community. This involves about six committee meetings a year, helping at coffee mornings and the annual Apple Day in October, and with other ad-hoc events. We would particularly welcome enquiries from younger people. If you are interested, please email queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com or drop into a coffee morning or the AGM for a chat.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL AGM

Thursday, 6th October at 7.30pm

All local residents are invited to come to the AGM, at the hall.

QUENINGTON APPLE DAY

Saturday, 15th October from 10.30am at Quenington Village Hall.

Apple pressing (until 3pm), seed swap, apple cakes, coffee, teas, apple juice (!) and the return of local craft stalls. We do have **two** craft stall spaces remaining. If you'd like to come and join us, please contact Val Trafford for more details val.trafford@me.com Don't forget to start saving containers for your apple juice!



QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL - 100 CLUB - JULY WINNERS

1st prize (£15) No. 27 - Jan Evans

2nd prize (£10) No. 48 – Mike Stranks



QUENINGTON CAR BOOT SALE

Sunday, 21st August, from 9am to midday

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

*COCONUT SHY*SPLAT-THE RAT*CHILDREN'S TOYS & GAMES*TEAS*HOME-MADE CAKES*GRAND DRAW*

EASTLEACH FETE

*WHITE ELEPHANT * TOMBOLA * BOOKS * ICE CREAMS * PIMMS * BARBECUE * HOME PRODUCE * PLANTS*

SATURDAY
27th AUGUST
2.00 pm

AT EASTLEACH VILLAGE HALL * SORRY NO DOGS

www.eastleach.org

Saturday, 27th August, from 2 – 4pm, Eastleach Village Hall and playground
entrance £1 (children under 12 free), car parking free

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 850028

Stephen@eastleachparishcouncil.org

Locum Clerk: Vanessa Lawrence 07876 252398 clerk@eastleachparishcouncil.org

Quenington (website www.queningtonvillage.uk)

Chair: Mike Scott 01285 750433

Clerk: 01285 750000 queningtonpc@gmail.com

Southrop (website www.southrop.org.uk)

Chair: Tim Guest 01367 850189

Clerk: Vanessa Lawrence 07876 252398 spccclerk2017@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**

BANK HOLIDAY TIMES

	Shop	Café	Post Office*
Monday, 29 th Aug	9am - 1pm	8am - 12pm	CLOSED

SHOP & POST OFFICE - SOUTHTROP 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, 3rd August** and **Wednesday, 17th August**, 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	
Thurs 4 th Aug	3pm	Friendship Circle Garden Tea, Oxleaze Farm	p2
Mon 8 th Aug	12 – 2pm	Picnic in the Park, Eastleach Village Hall area	p2
Sat 13 th Aug	9.30am-12.30pm	Repair Café, Lechlade Memorial Hall, Oak Street	p6
Sat 13 th Aug	10am – 1.30pm	“ “ Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane	p6
Sun 21 st Aug	9am – 12pm	Quenington Car Boot Sale, the Green	p7
Sat 27 th Aug	2 – 4pm	Eastleach Fete	p8
Sat 3 rd Sept	10am – 2pm	Jumble Trail, Fairford	p15
Sat 10 th Sept	all day	Ride & Stride	p15
Sat 17 th Sept	10.30 – 11.45am	Quenington Coffee Morning	p7

CHURCH SERVICES

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



CHEQS CHURCHES:

Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

7 th August	10.30am	LOAF Service	St Swithin's, Quenington
14 th August	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln
21 st August	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
28 th August	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hatherop
	6pm	Evensong	St Swithin's, Quenington

St Andrew's Church, Eastleach

7 th August	11am	Morning Prayer with Neil Cotton
14 th August	11am	Holy Communion with Canon Ron Lloyd
21 st August	11am	Morning Prayer with Gordon Land
28 th August	11am	Morning Prayer with Gordon Land

Dates for your diaries in Eastleach (at 11am unless otherwise stated)

25 th September	Harvest Festival in Bouthrop Church
30 th October	Informal Family Service
13 th November	Remembrance Sunday - 10.45am (Church & War Memorial)
17 th December	Carol Service in Bouthrop Church (this is a Saturday at 5pm)
Christmas Day	Family Service

St Peter's Church, Southrop

7 th August	9.30am	Holy Communion
14 th August	11am	a 'Bring your Pet to Church' special service
21 st August	9.30am	Morning Prayer
28 th August	6pm	Evensong

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 check [the latest Newsletter](#) online before setting out.

Fairford United Church Milton Street, Fairford

Sunday service 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 James Sweeting jdfsweeting@gmail.com David Hicks Beach 01285 750482
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

SOUTHROP'S SPECIAL PET SERVICE

Sunday, 14th August at 11am

All pets are welcome to come to St Peter's Church for a special service.
(NB: Pets, please bring your families with you!)



 **Eco-tip for this month is:** see if there is one permanent change you can make to swap a plastic or disposable product for something re-useable or refillable e.g. deodorant, washing-up liquid, clothes detergent, cloths. Of course, do not throw away any non-eco ones you may have – use them up first! For a wide range of eco-, vegan and Fairtrade products, check out the Ethical Superstore <https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com/>

SWAP ONE THING... AND THEN ANOTHER ONE...

At least one person locally has made the switch from plastic, disposable deodorant containers to an ethically produced re-usable one, after seeing it pitched to the investors on the TV programme Dragon's Den. 'Fussy' is the unusual name of the brand, chosen because its creators wanted to show that they cared about quality, design, effectiveness, and sustainability. Interestingly, Fussy is at the top of the list of

a review of ethical deodorants on the website, Zero Wasted, which was set up to help guide people through the maze of eco-shopping.

So, if you want to make one simple change (and then move on to another one...!) have a look at your baby-changing bag, your make-up, or your kitchen and bathroom products. See which ones you could swap for something which will do less harm to the planet – and may help your bank balance too.

NEWS FROM THE CIRENCESTER DEANERY

The Cirencester Deanery have drafted a plan in response to financial problems, and a projected decline in the number of clergy in the coming years. Amongst the proposals and ideas within this draft plan is that Coln St Aldwyns, Hatherop and Quenington would lose its minister post and merge with the Bibury Benefice. This is only a proposal at this stage and there will be a meeting in September for parishioners to meet a member of the Deanery Standing Committee to discuss it. This meeting will be advertised in the September CHEQS Magazine and on Church Notice Boards.

A MESSAGE FROM SOUTHROP VILLAGE FETE COMMITTEE

We are thrilled to announce that an amazing, record-breaking £11,000 was raised at Southrop Village Fete in June. Thank you SO much to everyone who came and supported it. Special thanks to all the volunteers who turned out in force, and showed what a fantastic community we have. The proceeds are shared between Southrop Village Hall, St Peter's Church, Southrop C of E Primary School, and Jubilee Field.

Calling all singers !

Come and join our fun and friendly 4-part choir!

The Hill and Valley Singers

(formerly the Chedworth Singers)



There are no auditions and it's not essential to read music. Just bring your enthusiasm, commitment and enjoyment of singing. You can be sure of a warm welcome!

We meet on **Thursdays 7.30-9.00 pm**, at St Andrew's School, Chedworth GL54 4AJ

Rehearsals start on **September 22nd**

Musical Director - Shirley Jee
Accompanist - Rachel Emmerson

For more information contact our
Chairman, Neil Irving 01285 720403

FREEDOM SUNDAY IN THE CHQ CHURCHES

Freedom Sunday will be celebrated in the CHQ churches on Sunday, 25th September, and the work the International Justice Mission (IJM) will feature in the services. Everyone is welcome to come and learn more about this important work.

International Justice Mission (IJM) is a global organisation working to protect people from slavery and violence. IJM's European Anti-Trafficking Programme has been working on cross-border trafficking in Europe, based out of Romania, for the last two years. In partnership with police, IJM helps to bring people who have been trafficked for labour or sexual exploitation to safety, supports survivors as they heal, helps bring traffickers to justice, and works to prevent trafficking. The following is just one person's story about how the IJM has helped changed their life:

While fleeing the conflict in Ukraine, Larysa (not her real name) was robbed, and abandoned at the Romanian border by a man who had approached her and promised to take her to safety. She was picked up and cared for by an IJM-trained local shelter, who helped to arrange a safe - and vetted - onward journey to Nuremburg in Germany, where she wanted to go. But part way through her journey, Larysa was contacted by another man, online. He convinced her to get on a bus to Berlin instead, with the promise of a job – a method we know is commonly used by traffickers.

Thankfully, the shelter team remained in close contact with Larysa, and became aware of this man's suspicious behaviour. They quickly warned her that the job offer could be exploitative and, with their support and advice, she got off the bus to Berlin. Larysa continued her journey by train to Nuremburg, where a trusted partner NGO picked her up. Now she is safe.

COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER



Fairford Jumble Trail, Saturday, 3rd September from 10am to 2pm: maps of the households taking part will be available beforehand and on the day (£1 each). More details on Facebook in due course, and posters around Fairford. Proceeds to Fairford United Church. Contact Margaret Stranks for more information 07729 129578 or margaret.stranks@gmail.com

Ride & Stride, Saturday, 10th September: Fundraising for the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, and your nominated church. More details next month, but the following reps. have asked to be included this month, so you can get planning:

Hatherop – Brian Say briansay@gmail.com or you can donate via Just Giving:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-nicholas-hatherop-2022

Quenington – Anthea Palmer anthea.palmer@gmail.com

St Swithin's Churchyard Clean-Up (Quenington) on Saturday, 10th September from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

FOCUS ON FARMS



CHARLES MANN, OXLEAZE FARM, FILKINS & BRADBOROUGH FARM, SOUTHROP

The history of life on this part of the Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire borders goes back a long way. Metal detectorists have come up

with all sorts of ancient relics – a bronze-age axe head and an incredibly sharp spear head in almost perfect condition, a Roman soldier's frying pan (now in the Corinium Museum), bits of 2,000-year-old pottery and floor mosaic, and coins - from Roman denarii through to silver coins from the Jacobean kings. Going back even further, we regularly unearth fossils of cockle shells from a time when the whole area was submerged under the warm shallow waters of the Rheic Ocean during the Cambrian period, 485 million years ago!

The Romans established a farm on the banks of the River Leach and we have the remains of a Roman villa on the farm. It is a scheduled monument, but sadly now only a mere hump in the field. There are ancient field workings known as 'ridge and furrow' creating patterns across many of our fields – and which can be seen in the fields on the left when you arrive at the farmstead. These were made in Saxon times and are a sign of good grazing land.

Moving on a few hundred years, the Cotswolds became a vastly wealthy farming economy based on the 'Golden Fleece'. Huge flocks of sheep (originally brought over by the Romans) grazed the landscape and provided the local mills with high quality wool that was transformed into the finest cloths and exported across Europe. The meat, then mutton, was only a by-product. The red serge of the soldiers of the Empire, and the green baize of the snooker tables all came from the Cotswold mills.



Farming in England hit rock bottom during the Agricultural Depression, 1875 to the Second World War. This was caused by the ability to import cheap grain and frozen meat from the colonies. During this time much of the land was left untended and here at Oxleaze Farm the only 'harvest' was the long-netting of coney, the local name for rabbits.



As a family, we started farming here in 1949 when my father, Jock Mann, bought 400 acres and farmed traditionally, with oats and hay grown for 'fuel' for the horses that were even then working on the farm, as well as growing wheat, and rearing pigs, sheep and cattle. In those days the water was spring-fed and pumped to the farm with a 'ram' pump which has to be the most eco-pump ever

invented. This has now been superseded by a more reliable source of pure water via a bore hole. I can remember feeding cattle in the winter months with horse and cart loaded with turnips or mangolds. We had what was termed a 'house' cow for milk and butter for the farmhouse and cottages – it was great fun learning to milk her and getting frothing fresh milk to drink, with rich full fat creamy milk for our corn flakes – delicious.

My father died following a fall from his horse while out hunting in 1978. Chippy (my wife) and I then took on the farming. This was the era of the 'green revolution' - in hindsight, a ridiculously ill-chosen term for our management of the land and well before the meaning of 'green' as we know it today. However, we knew no better and both the Government and consumers demanded cheap food which is what we, as farmers, were proud to produce. We enthusiastically sprinkled on the nitrogen, phosphates and potash, liberally sprinkled with the condiments of chemicals to enable even our stony Cotswold brash soils to produce valuable quantities of wheat, barley and oilseed rape. At this time livestock became too costly to manage with rising wages, so monocultures of crops became common practice across the lowlands of England. It was in the mid-90s that we began to comprehend the damage that we had been doing to the biodiversity of the environment. The government



introduced funding for some conservation measures to address this, but the EU strategy had produced the mountains of wheat, the frozen stores of butter, the lakes of wine and the heaps of dried milk powder; a horrific embarrassment to all. The bureaucrat's immediate answer to this was the introduction of set-a-side, an equally manic policy but in the reverse direction, paying farmers to do absolutely nothing with their land! Politicians!

Progressively we increased our involvement with conservation measures, working with the likes of the Wildlife Trusts and Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) as well as Natural England, to begin to rebuild our connection with nature. Now, as fully organic members of the Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier programme and also Phase 1 Pilots for the new, post-Brexit Environmental Land Management Scheme, we are seeing a fantastic revival of so much: from Barn Owls and fallow deer to massive numbers of voles, field mice, worms, and all the little bugs that are

the foundation for the biodiversity that makes England's countryside so spectacular. The farm has finally come alive once again! What we are doing to make a difference:



- Our Aberdeen Angus Cattle are 100% pasture-fed (on herbal-rich leys and grasses rich in chicory and sainfoin), slowly and extensively reared to enhance the healthy eating experience, rich in Omega 3.
- 35 acres of species-rich semi-natural grasslands (equivalent to 17 football pitches)
- A long-term project for carbon sequestration. We have planted 30,000 new trees, and 26,000 hedging plants
- Oxleaze Farm holds membership and accreditation with the leading associations for organic farming and conservation to ensure welfare of our animals
- All heating and hot water for the farm comes from our biomass boiler, with locally sourced wood chip (50% from our own woodland). Solar panels supply green electricity to 24 commercial and residential properties on the farm.
- Hedgerows, shrubbery and wild bird mix for birds, butterflies, bees, bugs and insects to live in and survive from
- Expanses of woodland for cricket bat willows, firewood and woodchip
- Barns converted into eleven workshop units
- Converted C18th threshing barn for weddings, parties – and even funerals!
- A maturing Cotswold Garden, open to visitors by arrangement
- Three colonies of bees producing honey from the organic meadows

Three miles from Oxleaze Farm, we have another 450 acres of land in Southrop which is used for further grazing for cattle, and light industrial units for businesses.



Bradborough Farm is a hive of wildlife activity with 14 hectares of wild bird mixture, and a further 60 hectares of plants that provide pollen and nectar to pollinators such as bees and butterflies. There is a key focus on conservation here. Bradborough is home to many families of lapwings, which nest and rear their young in the middle of fields, thanks to the planting strategy which is perfect for their habitat. We plan to increase planting woodland to continue our project of carbon sequestration. Our tree planting in 2017 has seen an increase in birds, insects, voles and rabbits providing habitats and food as well as improving our carbon efficiency.



We are now farming as a family partnership with our three children all actively involved: Katie overseeing the Oxleaze Barn venue – www.oxleaze.co.uk ; Will with the cattle, and conservation; and Jo taking a less hands-on role, with her own lighting business based in an office on the farm - www.light-housedesigns.com

Nearing retirement and preparing to hand on the baton to the next generation, we have seen a full circle of agriculture. With bird and butterfly species increasing year on year, and an entire underclass of bugs and beetles on the march, we definitely know which kind of stewardship we like the best.

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They may be edited, and will be included at the editor's discretion.

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