

CHEQS MAGAZINE



November 2022

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email: info@cotswolddrystone.com



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Cotswold Property has recently expanded into the area and would be delighted to discuss your renovation or extension project with you.

01451 509380

www.cotswold-property.com

*Hello from...
Martin Mulligan*



I live in Southrop, and have done for about 28 years - Katharine and I moved here in 1994, with three very young children. Southrop was a clear choice for us, with an excellent primary school, beautiful open countryside, long dog walks along the lovely Leach valley, and a vibrant village and pub.

When two Covid years came along, activity felt like it took a back seat as we all hunkered down. Entering 2022, I felt I needed to set a target that would force me into action, and so the idea of running the London Marathon started to take shape.

I contacted SENSE, a UK charity that believes 'everyone should be able to take part in life, no matter their disability', to support their fundraising efforts. Their acceptance was my 'no turning back' moment, as I was now committed to run the 26.2 miles!

Training got underway in late June, much to the delight of Tobi our active dog, who accompanied me on every mile of my training. Tobi was certainly more recognized than the sweating, panting guy with him, who looked like he was on his last legs.

Resuming business travel took me to Amsterdam then on to Canada during September, not the best of pre-marathon preparations, but I get my excuses in early.

Carb-loading in the final few days... picking-up my running number... meeting the SENSE team... then off to Greenwich Park for the Marathon starting zone. The first Sunday in October was much warmer than expected. My family and Tobi were positioned at strategic points along the course to provide much needed encouragement. By the half-way point (Tower Bridge), I knew I was in for a tough second half. But the unbelievable support from the thousands watching made sure we all kept going. For those who don't know, the last 5-6 miles are a real mind/body struggle, but I managed to get over the line in 04:32:24 and was pleased to provide some much-needed funds for SENSE.

The cost-of-living crisis particularly impacts those marginalised in society. There are currently 4 million disabled people living in poverty. SENSE supports people who are deafblind, and those with complex disabilities - helping them to be understood, connected and valued. The charity is there for everyone who faces communication barriers, in a world that relies on being able to see and hear well to be connected. Thank you to all who sponsored me, and helped support this worthwhile cause.



EASTLEACH & SOUTHROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Thursday, 3rd November at 3pm, Southrop Village Hall

For more information, or if you would like to join the Friendship Circle meetings for afternoon tea and entertainment, please contact Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 or Caroline Simmons 01367 850171.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 12th November from 10.30 – 11.45am



All are welcome to come to the coffee morning, to enjoy chat, and FREE home-made cakes and a hot drink. There will also be an opportunity to donate to the work of the Royal British Legion.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

As a result of the First World War, Britain's economy plummeted - in 1921 there were two million people unemployed. Over six million men had served in the war, and of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability - half of these were permanently disabled. Their dependents, of course, were also affected - wives and children, widows, orphans, and parents who had lost sons on whom they were often financially dependent. The British Legion was formed on 15th May 1921, bringing together four national organisations of ex-Servicemen that had established themselves after the war. Its aim was to care for all those who had suffered as a result of their First World War service. The first ever Poppy Appeal was held that year, and the poppies sold out almost immediately, raising over £106,000 - a huge sum at the time. This money was used to help the war veterans with employment and housing.

In 1971, the British Legion marked its 50th anniversary and became the *Royal* British Legion. Now, having celebrated its 100th anniversary last year, the organisation continues to give vital help and support to the Armed Forces community, along with their families. You can support the work of the RBL at the Coffee Morning, or by donating online, or by buying a poppy at Coln Community Stores (as well as some schools and other shops). You may even find a hard-working volunteer coming to your doorstep with a box of poppies and a collection box!

FAIRFORD ART SOCIETY

<https://fairfordartsociety.weebly.com/>

Sallie Seymour writes: Our next session is on 3rd November at 2.30pm in the Farmor Room at Fairford Community Centre. Visitors are always welcome.



The painting group, for those who wish to further practise their painting skills, meets on the first Tuesday afternoon and the third Thursday afternoon of the month from 1.30 until 4pm in the Barker Room at the centre. Visitors also welcome.

COME AND BAG A BARGAIN AT THE SOUTHROP SCHOOL PTA



SOUTHROP VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2022

1 - 2.30PM

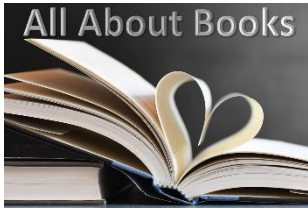
CLOTHING, BOOKS, TOYS, BRIC A BRAC

ENTRANCE £1

Donation Times: Wednesday 2nd November 8.45-11.45am

Friday 4th 1-2.45pm, Saturday 5th 9.30-11.30am

For more information contact PTA@Southrop.gloucs.sch.uk



LECHLADE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Alan McSherry (Lechlade Library Volunteer and Director) writes: When we were asked to write an article about Lechlade Community Library we were very happy to do so, as quite a few of our regular customers live outside of Lechlade. Some CHEQS residents may not be aware that they and their children can join the libraries at Lechlade (and Fairford).

So, why is the Lechlade library called a Community Library, and how did it become one? Just over 10 years ago, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) wanted to close Lechlade Library in order to save money, including staff costs, and to concentrate local services in Fairford - not a popular decision in Lechlade! Led by the Town Council, and supported by strong lobbying from residents - with a petition of many signatures - we prepared a business plan to show how local people could manage the library and continue to deliver a library service 'to the community, by the community'.

Following negotiations with GCC, it was agreed that a community library could be established with an annual grant of £10,000 to cover books, running costs and internal maintenance, with GCC retaining responsibility for the maintenance of the building. To enable this, we set up a charity and limited company to provide governance for the community library, and set about recruiting a team of volunteer librarians, some of whom also act as directors.



A decade on, and we're still here and flourishing. Although a small library compared to some, we're well stocked with books, DVDs and audio books for adults and children, with a good spread of fiction and non-fiction, including reference books and biographies. Books are bought from our budget, providing a stream of new stock, and whatever we don't have can be reserved online from libraries across the county.



We also run Tourist Information for Lechlade and the surrounding area, and have public information literature for the Council and local government services.



To join the library, you'll need proof of identity and address (and a parent or guardian must be present for children to join). We look forward to seeing you - as a customer or as a volunteer! We're situated at the heart of Lechlade, just below St Lawrence Church spire. **Our opening hours are:**

- Mondays & Fridays: 1 - 4pm (perfect for pick-ups from St Lawrence School!)
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays: 10am - 1pm

Phone 01367 252631 or check out the website www.lechladelibrary.co.uk



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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CHRISTMAS @ THE MADHATTER BOOKSHOP

Let us help you give and receive the best gifts this Christmas.
We love to help you choose gifts for others, or give us your wishlist and we will help your loved ones shop for you.
Interested? Pop in or email to discuss what we can do for you!

CHEQS CHARACTERS – JOHN HAYWARD

It is a while since we had a look into the life of a ‘CHEQS Character’, so thanks to Clare Brignall and David Hicks Beach for helping John Hayward to give some snippets of his life story:

I came to Coln St Aldwyns in 1938, when I was two, originally in the Bibury Road, but I’ve lived in the same house in Church Lane since I was four. I lived here with my mother and father and brother and sister, and my brother was born in the house. I went to school at Coln School until I was 11. In Coln School, the boys had to wait for the girls to go out, and hold the door for them. Miss Knapp was the headmistress, helped by Miss Wastnage. We used to have a third of a pint of milk every morning, but you had to go home for a meal at dinner time.



From there I moved to Hatherop “Big School”, where I stayed until I was 15. Then I went to work with Mr Stephens, who had a farm in Manor Road, where I helped the carter, John Reeves, whose son (of the same name) is known to most of you in Coln. We used to clear the muck out of the yards where the cattle were kept for fattening, and take it onto the fields to spread it. There were no fancy tractors or forklifts in those days – it was all done by hand. Back then, there were sand pits, up to 15 or 20 foot deep, in the meadows behind where the pub is, where we used to swim. Sadly, a boy drowned and they filled all the pits in after that. The New Inn was there, run by

Jesse Blackwell, and owned by Lord St Aldwyn. Mr Blackwell used to be a butler up at Williamstrip when he wasn’t in the pub. He was only allowed to open for a few hours in the evening, and not at all in the daytime and eventually the pub had to close, partly because Jessie Blackwell gave away so many free pints to the villagers.



When I was a boy, you could find mostly everything in the village. There was Jim Hunt, the carpenter and undertaker, who used to bring coffins to your house on a two-wheeled hand cart. There was Mr Bartlett, the blacksmith, who lived at the bottom of Hatherop Hill, and who shoed all the horses and mended machinery. Bill Jowsey was the farm manager at Cockrup Farm – he was a fighter pilot in the war, and still had his survival ration pack, which was full of the shrapnel that would have killed him when his aircraft was hit. He always looked very smart, and had a bottle of Old Spice in his car.

There used to be a herd of Guernsey cows, kept by Lady Victoria and Lady Susan Hicks Beach, which produced cream and butter for Williamstrip. The Guernsey cows sadly nearly all died of Johnne's disease, but were later followed by flocks of prize Suffolk sheep and Oxford Downs, Large White pigs and Hereford cattle, which were sent all over the world.

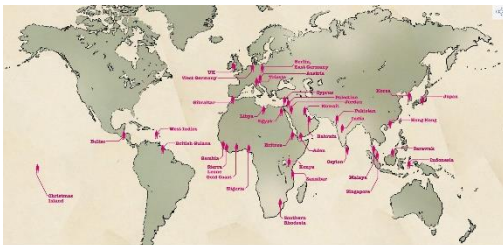


In their younger days, one of the Hicks Beach daughters was the model for Britannia, on the back of the silver florin in King Edward VII's reign. Their father, Sir Michael Hicks Beach, was Chancellor of the Exchequer and Master of the Mint in those days.

My sister worked in the manual telephone exchange which was where the Old Post Office is now. She was covered by the official secrets act, because the American GIs at Williamstrip had to go through her to ring Fairfield.

There was a bakery, near where the shop is now, run by Tom and Evelyn Lemon. They made really delicious lardy cakes, covered in treacle, which they made in a steam baking oven. You could not wish for better bread than came out of that oven. It was delivered round the village by Jack Wingfield in a van. John Reeves's grandfather, Ernie Reeves, used to collect coal from Fairfield Station, bag it up in the Co-op yard (what is now the Community Stores' yard), and then deliver it round the village. There was also a community bath in the same place where people could go once a week if you didn't have a bath at home. Most houses didn't have baths, but had a tin bath hung outside the back door. You heated up the water and put the bath in front of the fireplace. Lady Lucy Cottage used to be a laundry for the big house, which was looked after by Bill Keen. My aunt used to work there and she used to do all the shiny stiff collars, but I never did find out how she shone the collars.

There was a garage next to the old Post Office going down Main Street, which was run by Freddie Kiddle, who had a Mascot bus which he took to Cirencester once a week, taking anybody who needed a lift, until he had an accident with an army lorry on the bridge. After that Reggie Dingle took over with a 30-seater bus, which he used to take to Cirencester two or three times a week. His wife was the conductor and she knew the ages of all the children and when they had to start paying a fare. The garage sold petrol right up into the eighties.



When I was 18, I joined the army as part of National Service. I trained in Wales for six weeks and then we came home on leave for a fortnight and then up to Woolwich barracks and from there abroad. I was sent to Hong Kong for nearly three years, at the end of the Suez Crisis in 1956, and then I was

demobbed and came back to Coln to work as an under gardener at Williamstrip, under Philip Bullimore. We used to grow all the pot plants for the house, including 23



orchids in the green houses, and all the cut flowers, which were taken up to London by the chauffeur. I also did all general duties in the garden, using a big 3' Ransom cylinder mower. When the previous Earl St Aldwyn died in 1992, I was one of the coffin bearers, as it was the custom for the estate workers to be asked. In fact, I also dug the grave, as it was part of my job. I was at Williamstrip for 40 years, for which I have a certificate

from the Royal Horticultural Society and a medal, which not many people get, and which Lord St Aldwyn presented to me. I retired over 20 years ago and have been living peacefully in Coln St Aldwyns - except for one occasion when some people broke in and knocked me down. For some years I used to judge the Coln Horticultural Show, and I'm still growing all kinds of flowers and vegetables in my garden. Once a gardener, always a gardener!

TOP GUN: MAVERICK COMES TO CHEQS – CHOICE OF VENUE!

Friday, 25th November at 7 for 7.30pm

SOUTHROP VILLAGE HALL:



MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2022

7:00PM DOORS & BAR OPEN

7:30PM FILM STARTS

OPEN BAR

POPCORN & SWEETS



COLN CINEMA:

Come and join us on Friday, 25th November for **Top Gun: Maverick**.

Coln Cinema brings you one of this current season's blockbusters – Top Gun: Maverick. It's the sequel to the 1986 classic, with Tom Cruise and Val Kilmer reprising their original roles. Widely praised for its flying scenes, it's the world's highest grossing film of this year. The Times called it "a blockbuster... all shot on celluloid rather than sketched in by celluloid". [Cert 12A, 131 minutes]

Vicarage Cottage Barn, Coln St Aldwyns - enter via the churchyard and follow the signs. Bring a torch!

Join us for a drink beforehand. Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30pm.

Proceeds to St John the Baptist Church.

Advance notice: Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story* on Friday, 30th December, 7.30pm.



**QUENINGTON
FIREWORKS
ARE BACK!**

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 5TH, 2022**
GODWIN'S FIELD, QUENINGTON, GL7

18.30: Doors Open

18.45: Bonfire Lit

19.15: Fireworks Display

After a three year hiatus, the Quenington Fireworks are back! Run by the Quenington Bulldogs, a local organization involved in numerous projects to help local people in need, come and join us for the most spectacular fireworks display in the area. Soup, burgers, hotdogs and glow sticks also available. CASH ONLY.

ENTRANCE BY CASH DONATIONS (PLEASE BE GENEROUS!) Over the past few years, we have paid medical costs for a diabetic teenager, transport costs for cancer treatment, replaced central heating boilers for elderly residents, and much, much more. With the cost of living crisis, we're expecting to play an ever bigger role over the next few months.

PLEASE PARK RESPONSIBLY AND RESPECT THE LOCALS

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

Clerk: Jacky Sykes

hatheropparishcouncil@gmail.com

as above

Eastleach (website www.eastleachparishcouncil.org)

Chair: Stephen Wells 01367 850028

Locum Clerk: Vanessa Lawrence 07876 252398

Stephen@eastleachparishcouncil.org

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

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 (Taryn Hancock)

admin@hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk 01285 750318

Southrop C/E Primary School (Megan Davies & Julia McLellan)

admin@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk 01367 850246

Hatherop Castle School (Nigel Reed)

admissions@hatheropcastle.co.uk 01285 750206

OTHER VILLAGE COMMUNITY GROUPS

S & E Friendship Circle

Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 or Caroline Simmons 01367 850171

Quenington Baby & Toddler Group (CHEQS+) Term time Mondays – 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**



SOUTHROP SHOP, COFFEE MORNING & POST OFFICE

Wednesdays 8.45 - 11.45am

LLOYDS BANK MOBILE UNIT

The mobile bank is due to outside the Community Centre, High Street, Fairford on: Wednesday, **8th November** and Wednesday, **23rd November**, from **10am to 12.15pm**. To check on the day, call the mobile branch hotline on 0345 601 6943 before you travel.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The CHEQS representative: Marion Crawford mazcrawford@hotmail.com

CHEQS DIARY 2022

Wednesdays	11am -12.30pm	Talking Café, Fairford Community Centre	p20
Thursdays	10.30am -12pm	Talking Café, Baptist Church, Lechlade	p20
Thur 3 rd Nov	3pm	Friendship Circle, Southrop Village Hall	p2
Sat 5 th Nov	1 – 2.30pm	Jumble Sale, Southrop Village Hall	p3
Sat 5 th Nov	6.30pm onwards	Quenington Fireworks	p10
Sun 6 th Nov	4 – 5.30pm	Messy Church, Quenington Village Hall	p15
Sat 12 th Nov	9.30am – midday	Lechlade Repair Café, Lechlade Memorial Hall	p15
Sat 12 th Nov	10am – 1.30pm	Cirencester Repair Café, Ciren Baptist Church	p15
Sat 12 th Nov	10.30 – 11.45am	Quenington Village Hall Coffee Morning	p2
Sat 19 th Nov	10am – 4pm	Christmas at the Castle, Hatherop Castle	back
Fri 25 th Nov	7 for 7.30pm	Coln Cinema & Southrop Movie Night	p9
Sun 27 th Nov	11am - 3pm	Festive Craft Fair, Lechlade Memorial Hall	p15

CHURCH SERVICES

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



FAITH · HOPE · LOVE

CHEQS CHURCHES:

Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

6 th November	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
	4pm	Messy Church	Quenington Village Hall
13 th November	10.30am	Remembrance Sunday	St Nicholas, Hatherop
20 th November	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
27 th November	10.30am	Advent Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln
27 th November	6pm	Advent Candlelit Service	St Swithin's, Quenington

St Andrew's Church, Eastleach

6 th November	11am	Matins with Neal Cotton	
13 th November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday with Gordon Land	
20 th November	11am	Holy Communion with Gordon Land	
27 th November	11am	Matins for Advent Sunday with Gordon Land	

Please note the earlier time for Remembrance Sunday

St Peter's Church, Southrop

6 th November	9.30am	Holy Communion	
13 th November	10.45am	Remembrance Service	
20 th November	9.30am	Morning Prayer	
27 th November	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 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@hibbertalph.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

COLN ST ALDWYNS, HATHEROP & QUENINGTON

Sunday 6th November, Quenington Village Hall from 4 to 5.30pm



A fun-filled time for all ages, with supper provided. This month, we are exploring the story of Noah through songs, craft, and time together. **Everyone Welcome!** Contact Heather for more information: heatherwalker39@hotmail.co.uk



QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL - 100 CLUB - OCTOBER PRIZES

1st (£15) No. 49 – Margaret Stranks 2nd (£10) No. 11 Harry Ferris c/o Ray Sheldon

REPAIR CAFES

Saturday, 12th November

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

<p>CIRENCESTER REPAIR CAFE</p> <p>We can try to mend toys, clothes, small electricals, household items and bikes</p> <p>10TH SEPT, 8TH OCT, 12TH NOV, 10TH DEC, 10AM – 1:30PM</p> <p>CIRENCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH, CHESTERTON LANE, CIRENCESTER, GL7 1YE</p> <p>0752 667 6822 or facebook.com/cirenrepaircafe for further information</p>	<p>WELCOME TO LECHLADE Repair Café</p> <p>Throw It Away? No Way!!</p> <p>We meet the 2nd Saturday of the month</p> <p>13th August, 10th September, 8th October, 12th November, 10th December 2022 9.30 to 12.30</p> <p>at Lechlade Memorial Hall, Oak Street GL7 3AY</p> <p>Our volunteer repairers will try to repair your portable household appliances and items</p> <p>Kettles, toasters, hairdryers, vacuum and carpet cleaners, TV's, radios, laptops, PC's, Sewing/textile repairs, Toys to bicycles</p> <p>We will give it a go!</p> <p>For further information contact: email: lechlade.repaircafe@gmail.com or call: 07554 230323</p>
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FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD AND LECHLADE COMMUNITIES



FESTIVE CRAFT FAIR

Sunday, 27th November at Lechlade Memorial Hall, 11am – 3pm

The annual Craft Fair and Raffle returns! A host of small local business stalls offering festive delights, light refreshments and homemade cakes.

BURFORD SINGERS CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF JOHN RUTTER

Sunday, 27th November at 7.30pm, Church of St John the Baptist, Church Green, Burford OX18 4RY

Tickets have been selling quickly, so please check the website:

<https://www.burfordingers.org.uk/events/>



MJUK Music & Arts
in partnership with Cirencester ROTARY

presents

A Christmas Extravaganza

with

Stars of Major Shows
Cirencester Male Voice Choir
Cirencester Creative Dance Academy
Local Celebrity Singers

Saturday 10 Dec at 7pm

Sunday 11 Dec at 2.30pm

Bingham Hall, Cirencester

Doors open 1 hour before Show for complimentary
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FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

Christmas Concert – Handel’s Messiah

Saturday, 3rd December, St Mary’s Church, Fairford at 7.30pm



Tickets £15 from Fairford Optician, 11 High Street or call 01285 713313.



**FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022**

FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

“What has the World Cup got to do with CHEQS Magazine?” you may ask! There has been much controversy since it was announced, way back in 2010, that Qatar would host the 2022 World Cup. Clare Brignall, of Coln St Aldwyns, is concerned about some of the actions of the Qatari government since then.

Clare writes: Several thousands of migrant workers have died in Qatar in the last ten years, very many working on the construction of the stadiums for the World Cup. If, like me, you feel that this is a real injustice, you can donate towards the Justice United fund for victims of exploitation, trafficking and slavery. Go online to **Just Giving** and search for CHQ Fundraising for Justice United, and consider giving a donation for every match you watch or even the ones you don't watch. Thank you.

<https://www.justiceunited.org.uk/fundraising/chq-fundraising-for-justice-united>

THANKS...

Anthea Palmer writes: A total of £150 was raised by the sponsored Ride & Stride for St Swithins Church's and Gloucestershire Historic Church Trust. A big thank you to donors and volunteers involved.

Jerry Hibbert, of Southrop, writes: Jubilee Close Committee would like to thank all those who responded to our September survey. The results will be submitted to the Southrop Parish Council at their next meeting.

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NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS



Hatherop Church of England Primary School

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

Taryn Hancock writes: Our reception class have now completed their first term of school and we are proud of how they have quickly and easily settled into school life.



This term, Laura from *Up and Under Sports* has taught PE lessons to all our classes. She has also run a Multi-sport Club for our younger children as well as a Hockey Club after school. In October, the Girls Football Team played in a tournament at the Cirencester Arena at Kingshill. They were placed 3rd overall, out of 8 other local schools. A great performance!



As a school that enjoys participating in sport and competitive events, we are proud to have earned the Gold Schools Games Mark for our provision in 2021/22. Thank you to Ms Clarke, who leads PE in our school.



Our next **open morning** will be held on **Wednesday, 9th November**. If you would like join us for a presentation and a look around the school, please contact the office to book a space. Further information about our school can be found on our website.

Hatherop Castle School Fireworks and Bonfire Night



Kate Hinksman, Chairman of the Parents' Association, writes:

We will be hosting our annual Fireworks and Bonfire Night for parents and children of the school, on Friday, 4th November, with gates opening at 4:30pm. The fireworks display will be held at 6pm. Please be aware that we expect increased traffic at the school for this event, and it may also be busy on the road outside the school gates with overflow parking.

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Over recent months, many people have been discovering the reality of the rising prices in fuel, food and many other commodities and aspects of life. Local organisations are working out how they can best help those who are most in need.



For those households who are struggling financially, Stroud & Cotswold District Citizen's Advice offer help to access what support might be available. Please do ask for help if you need it!

You can access email advice through their local website www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/ under the Get Help section. If you cannot access the internet, please call them on their freephone number 0808 800 0510.

If you are really struggling and don't have enough food to eat, you can call the Trussell Trust 'Help through Hardship' Helpline on 08082 082138.

The Quenington Bulldogs may also be able to offer some help.

WARM SPACES IN FAIRFORD

Those who are concerned about the cost of heating their homes through the winter are invited to make use of Warm Spaces which are being provided in the town:

Fairford Library



All are welcome to join the warm space, and make use of the free wi-fi, computer access... and lots of books!

Opening times are:

Monday: 9.30am – 5pm

Wednesday: 9.30am – 5pm

Thursday: 9.30am – 7pm

Saturday: 9.30am – 1pm

Fairford Community Centre



The Heritage Room is open Monday to Friday, from 9am to 2pm, with free wi-fi, and the kitchen available for making hot drinks. The Talking Café takes place in the Farmor Room on Wednesdays (11am to 12.30pm).

Fairford Town Council

Ask the council, if you have questions about local Warm Spaces: 01285 712344.

WORKING FOR WELLBEING



Please note the change of time for the Wednesday Talking Café at Fairford Community Centre – it now runs from 11am to 12.30pm. All are welcome, and the larger Farmor Room is now being used.

There is also a change of venue for the Thursday Talking Café in Lechlade. It is now held at Lechlade Baptist Church, Sherbourne Street, from 10.30am to midday, and is also open for Digital Inclusion sessions for those who want to make better use of their smartphones, tablets or main computers. Contact Co-ordinator, Mary Ann Dibbs, on 07555 738138, Mon – Fri from 9.30am to 2pm.

BEWARE FAKE TEXTS, EMAILS AND PHONE CALLS

Information via the local Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, Marion Crawford: Action Fraud has received 139 crime reports relating to fake text messages purporting to be from the UK government. The texts state that the recipient is “owed” or “eligible” for an energy bill discount as part of the Energy Bill Support Scheme. The links in the emails lead to genuine-looking websites that are designed to steal your personal and financial information.

How to protect yourself

- Energy Bill Discount : £400 off energy bills for households in Great Britain from October 2022. You **do not need to apply for the scheme** and you will not be asked for your bank details.
- Received a suspicious text message? Forward it to 7726 (free of charge). Your phone provider can investigate the origin of the text and arrange to block or ban the sender, if it’s found to be malicious.
- Always take a moment to stop and think before you give out any information. This simple action could save you hundreds – or even thousands – of pounds. Remember, a genuine firm will never pressure you into an immediate decision.
- Don’t click on any links sent to you out of the blue, even if it looks legitimate. Go to the official website for the information, or for the correct contact details.
- Never agree to work by anyone who knocks on your door uninvited, or rings you out of the blue. If you want work done on your home, go to the relevant trade association website or local good trader scheme – your council’s website is a good place to start. Or get recommendations from friends and family members. Don’t be afraid to be impolite. If you’re at all suspicious about a caller, you are well within your rights to shut the door on them or hang up the phone.



LYNDALL GIBSON, MACARONI DOWNS FARM, EASTLEACH

What a privilege it is to farm at Macaroni Downs hidden away at the western end of Eastleach's Sheep Bridge valley. I became its new Ernest Cook Trust tenant in 2018 following in the footsteps of my father, Martin Squire. He had been granted the farm tenancy by Sir Thomas Bazley in 1962 following the retirement of the outgoing tenant, General Goschen. Sir Thomas lived in Eastleach House for a while and my father had grown up in the neighbouring Rectory where my grandfather's infamous pigs and goats had clearly inspired him.

My childhood was spent assisting Mrs Watt cleaning out the pigs (each sow luxuriating in its own pig sty), outdoor lambing (Suffolks and Forest Clun ewes) and grain trailer driving from a dangerously young age. There was also riding up the 'escalator' to the top of the barn to stack the hay bales, endless wild oat pulling and my least favourite job - grain dryer duty (switching the auger on and off every half an hour or so throughout the night in order to regulate the amount of grain entering the drying tower). I recall little about the beef cattle apart from a gentle Hereford bull and one or two stressful calvings. It must have been before TB testing, ear tagging and cattle passports.



The highlight, however, was stubble burning: running along a row of straw in the field after harvest with a pitch-fork full of burning straw watching the flaming strands drip onto the rows of straw below and, with a little wind and luck, admiring the roaring flames with the whole field alight moments later. It seems extraordinary now that it was ever allowed to take place, yet it was not banned until 1993.



My father, combining at Macaroni Downs in 1966

In 2000, the farm became organic, and the pigs, their accompanying fleas and the Nitram fertilizer bags all disappeared. My father continued with his 20 head suckler herd of largely Hereford Cross cows and a Limousin bull, as well as 200 or so North Country Mule ewes and Suffolk

rams. Hand pulling wild oats was swapped for digging up docks and chopping thistles – strangely addictive activities. My brother, Trelawny, took on Philip Watt's role as employee on the farm for a number of years and, following his departure, I returned to the farm in 2009, after a career in London and Bristol as a patent lawyer.

I manage the farm with the help of my cousin and part-time employee, Christian Squire. We now have one Suffolk and three Texel rams to run with 170 (ish) Lleyn and Mule ewes. My father's Limousin bull has been replaced with an Aberdeen Angus one, aiming to produce 'get up and go' calves - and easier calving. So far, it has more or less worked. Some of my home-bred Limousin cross heifers have joined the herd, but otherwise we still retain a number of the Hereford cross cows.



Grain storage is now at Eastleach Downs Farm, as the grain lorries are too large to access Macaroni Downs' grain bins built by my father and vicar grandfather in the mid 60's. The rotation has not changed much. For the most part I have continued with spring oats, followed by spring barley under-sown with a grass ley for the following 3-4 years before reverting to a cereal again.

A 'ley' is a reference to temporary rather than permanent pasture and 'undersowing' is the process of drilling a second crop into an existing one a few weeks later. The first crop is harvested leaving the second one, now partially established underneath the first, to thrive. One of the advantages in an organic system of undersowing is not having to plough the field in preparation for the second crop (or grass ley in my case). A disadvantage is that the second crop, sown later, might fail to germinate in a dry spring, as happened to all my undersown leys this year.



Spring crops enable me to run the pregnant stock on the arable fields during the winter to build some fertility. It does mean, however, that the spring cereals are less drought resistant than winter-sown cereals with their deeper roots. Given that three of the last four years have had dry springs and/or summers, I am now completely wedded to sowing “drought resistant” herbal/grass leys to follow the barley on my rather stony, low grade Cotswold brash soil. The chicory and bird’s-foot trefoil in the herbal leys just about persisted through this summer’s drought but we still had to resort to feeding both the sheep and cattle some of their winter hay or silage rations.

I am just about to come to the end of my 10-year environmental Higher Level Stewardship Scheme and trust my application for the replacement Countryside Stewardship Scheme next year will be successful. The environmental scheme should help off-set the loss of funding from the Basic Payment Scheme which DEFRA is phasing out for farmers by 2027. Both Schemes pay grants for growing nectar or wild bird seed mixes on arable land. The more land is sown with these mixes, the less there is available to produce food. That said, as long as I have the permanent pasture valleys, I shall always need stock to graze it and have meat to sell.

So, despite the current upheaval in agricultural policy, perhaps farming at Macaroni Downs will continue in much the same way it always has. My father described himself as the luckiest boy in the world to farm here. I must be luckier still.

[Should you wonder about the use of the name Macaroni locally it came from the Macaronis who visited the area to go horse racing in the late 18th century. These were young men who had made the Grand Tour and returned to England with a passion for Italy and everything Italian. They enjoyed being flamboyant with their tall wigs and colourful leggings. The horse racing was at Bibury Racecourse (not actually in Bibury but at Ladbarrow Farm adjacent to Macaroni Downs). They must have made an impression and the name stuck.]



CHEQS Magazine is a free monthly community publication, funded by its advertisers, and delivered by volunteers to about 800 homes in Coln St Aldwyns, Hatherop, Eastleach, Quenington & Southrop.

Current & back-copies of the magazine are available online at:

<http://www.whichq.net/cheqs-magazine.html>

Contributions are welcomed **by the 15th of the previous month.**

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

Contact details for the editor, Margaret Stranks, are: cheqsmagazine@gmail.com
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