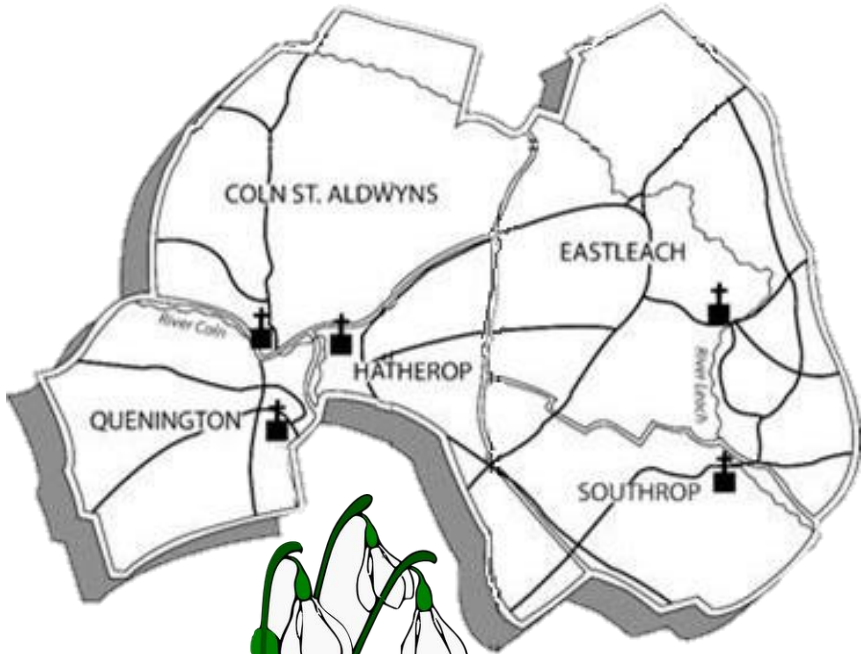


CHEQS MAGAZINE



February 2023

COTSWOLD TREES

Professional Tree Surgery - over 21 years' experience

- Conservation Area and Tree Preservation applications
- all aspects of tree surgery, including
 - veteran tree management
 - crown reductions
 - fruit trees
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Call Wayne for a free quote, or further information
OFFICE: 01285 750082 MOBILE: 07479 464292

TV Problems? Poor Picture?

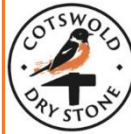
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contact Joe: 07799877122

email: info@cotswolddrystone.com



COTSWOLD PROPERTY

Country house renovation and refurbishment

01451 509380

www.cotswold-property.com

*Hello from...
Alec Atchison*



I live at 2 Vine Cottages, Southrop, next door to the Village Hall. I bought the house in April 1986, and until I retired, the house was used as a holiday and weekend home by me, my parents, and my sister and her family. The village became important to our family: my brother's first child was christened here, my sister was married here, and our parents' ashes are in the churchyard.

I was the senior partner in an old-established firm of traditional family solicitors with offices in Willesden and West Ealing, London, and I was persuaded to buy a weekend place by an old client and friend, an amazing woman who escaped from the Warsaw Ghetto with her sister, for whom she had acquired a false passport. Having arrived in Vichy France with nothing, she qualified as a dentist, and came to London after the war. She bought Netherton Lodge, one of the former lodges of Hatherop Castle, and decided that I ought to buy something similar - she loved organising people.

Southrop has changed a lot since 1986. Then, Mrs Molly Richardson, the widow of Capt. Richardson who bought the Southrop Estate in the '20s, was still living here, and her daughter and son-in-law lived in the Manor. Wadham Close, The Farriers and Dawes Close had not yet been built, and at one point the school was almost closed down. Airbnb did not exist, and there were hardly any weekenders here.

My parents gave me a love of music and theatre, and I probably caught the railway bug, both models and the real thing, from my father. Until Covid happened, I was very involved in amateur theatre, having been a member of The Questors theatre company in Ealing since 1977. Founded in 1929, it is one of the largest amateur theatre groups in Europe. We run one of the largest Youth Theatres in the UK, and



have performed many times at the Edinburgh Fringe, and the Minack Open Air Theatre in Cornwall, and I was part of the Coarse Acting Show at the Shaftesbury Theatre in London, which was visited by the then Prince of Wales, who later visited our permanent theatre in Ealing, the Judi Dench Playhouse.

I was in Southrop for the weekend before lockdown happened in March 2020, and could see no point in going back to West London. Lockdown was difficult for everyone, but here I was able to see my garden through all four seasons and, when lockdown eased up a bit, make a few new friends and get more involved in village activities.

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

01285 750402 or 07729 129578 3 Old Orchard Court, Coneygar Road, Quenington

EASTLEACH & SOUTHPROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Thursday, 2nd February at 3pm, Southrop Village Hall



This month's activity is a short film. New members are always welcome, so if you would like to come along to the monthly meetings for afternoon tea and entertainment, please contact Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 or Caroline Simmons 01367 850171. Transport can be provided. Annual membership is £5, plus £2 per meeting.

FAIRFORD ART SOCIETY

Thursday, 2nd February at 2.30pm in the Farmor Room, Fairford Community Centre



The monthly meetings of the Fairford Art Society are starting again. Membership fees will be due, but visitors are always welcomed. The demonstrator for the afternoon is Jonathan Newey, known for his wildlife pictures and landscapes, and his use of coloured pencils and acrylics. The painting group meets on Tuesday, 14th and Thursday, 23rd February, both at 1.30pm in the Barker Room. For more information, call 01367 850385.

Farmer George

has a good stock of well-rotted, screened horse manure.

Give your garden the treat it deserves and next summer, may your raspberries be as big as buckets and your roses be prize winners.

For a prompt delivery and service with a smile, please call or email



07970 692292



george@ponsonbyfarms.co.uk

Farmer George's wheat straw

is beautiful, clean and golden and is exceptional value compared to shavings.

Small bales for easier handling in stables.



Get in touch with Farmer George, he will be keen to do a deal:

07970 692292

george@ponsonbyfarms.co.uk

COLN ST ALDWYNS, HATHEROP & QUENINGTON

Sunday, 5th February, Quenington Village Hall from 4 to 5.30pm



A fun-filled time for all ages, with food provided. We'll be exploring 'Jesus walking on water' through songs, craft, and time together.

Everyone is welcome!

For more information: heatherwalker39@hotmail.co.uk



LECHLADE GARDENING CLUB

Wednesday, 8th February, Lechlade Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

Lechlade Gardening Club is open to all residents in the town and the surrounding area. Meetings are usually on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. There is usually a speaker or social activity (which includes visits to other gardens in the warmer weather). The topic for February's meeting is 'organic gardening'.



The current membership fee is £5. The monthly meeting entrance fee is £2 for members and £3 for visitors. There is usually a Flower and Produce show in the first week of September each year and the club is particularly keen to encourage young people to enter this event.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 11th February from 10.30 – 11.45am

The Coffee Morning returns this month, so do come along to enjoy **free hot drinks and home-made cakes.**



You can also give a donation to Mindsong, a Gloucestershire charity with which our CHEQS communities have strong links. Mindsong helps support people with dementia (as well as lung conditions, Long COVID and aphasia) through music and song. The team of 16 registered music therapists, 8 vocal leaders and over 300 volunteers provide a range of services. Singing groups, courses and music therapy sessions offer hope, joy, and memories, and enhance people's quality of life.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL - 100 CLUB - JANUARY PRIZES

1st prize £15: No. 22 Christine Mace 2nd prize £10: No. 15 Susanne Bullimore

Baby and Me

Postnatal support for new parents

New baby? Come to our FREE weekly postnatal group for parents with babies aged 0-6 months. Covering a different topic each week, this is a great opportunity to build your confidence as a parent, share experiences and learn more about your baby's development.

Topics include:

- Feeding
- Baby Massage
- Play and Communication
- Sleep



**HOME
START**
Cotswolds

Fairford Library, GL7 4AQ
Starts Friday 20 Jan 2023
11am-12.30pm

To book your place...

Email: groups@home-start-cotswolds.org.uk

Tel: 01285 885391

Although the sessions have started, you can still join – phone to check for spaces.

REPAIR CAFÉS

Both on the same days – second Saturday of each month

Take your beloved - or just plain useful - broken items for repair at either of our local Repair Cafés, in return for a donation. A great way to save items from being thrown away, and to prolong their useful life. It cuts down on the use of new resources too.

Saturday, 11th February

Lechlade Repair Café: Lechlade Pavilion Hall, Oak Street, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Cirencester Repair Café: Cirencester Baptist Church, 10am – 1.30pm

WELCOME TO
LECHLADE
Repair Café

Throw It Away ? No Way !!

We meet the 2nd Saturday of the month
9:30 to 12:30pm
In the Lechlade Pavillion Hall
Oak Street GL7 3AY

2023 dates
14th January, 11th February, 11th March,
8th April, 13th May, 10th June

Our volunteer repairers will try to repair your portable household appliances & items.
Kettles, toasters, hairdryers, carpet & vacuum cleaners, TV's, radios, laptops, PC's.
Sewing/textile repairs. Toys to bicycles.
We will give it a go.

For further information contact:
email: lechlade.repaircafe@gmail.com
or call: 07554 230323

0752 667 6822 or facebook.com/cirencrepaircafe
for further information

CIRENCESTER
REPAIR
CAFÉ

We can try to mend toys, clothes, small electricals, household items and bikes

14TH JAN, 11TH FEB, 11TH MARCH,
8TH APRIL, 10AM -1:30PM

**CIRENCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH,
CHESTERTON LANE, CIRENCESTER,
GL7 1YE**

friends of the earth
see things differently

21
VISION



QUENINGTON CAR BOOT SALES

The car boot sales will be starting again in April, so it is a good time to sort out boxes of items to sell.

- Set up from 8.30am (and not before please)
- Still only £5 to sell (and no need to book).

The dates for this year are:

16th April, 14th May, 18th June, 9th July, 13th August, 3rd September, 1st October.



...important work which started over 50 years ago

John Allan, Development Director, Eastern Thames & Severn, writes:

The Cotswold Canals Trust was formed in 1972 to restore the 36 miles of the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames & Severn Canal which, together, ran from Saul to Inglesham. Two substantial National Lottery grants have unlocked funding of over £50 million to enable restoration of 10 miles through Stroud to Saul. The large local population supports restoration as a means of regenerating what had become a dilapidated ribbon through the town and which has attracted a large volunteer base.

With restoration well advanced on the western sections, the time has come to develop plans and assemble resources to similarly restore the 10-mile eastern section from South Cerney to the Thames at Inglesham.

Most of the historic route is still visible requiring dredging and repair, but a ¼ mile section in Latton was destroyed when the A419 bypass was built and will need to be re-dug. Elsewhere all of the original highway bridges have been lost and apart from one at South Cerney rebuilt in 2003, will need replacing – all seven of them.

Successful restoration of the canal is dependent upon three critical areas all coming together in partnership:

To help make restoration happen... we are getting support of Local Authorities, National Agencies, Trusts and local businesses.

To allow restoration to happen... we are asking land-owners to give access permission and help with land acquisition or leases.

To undertake the restoration... we need volunteers – lots of them. There are many volunteering opportunities where you can help by bringing existing skills and expertise, or you can help whilst learning new skills from our many experts.

www.cotswoldcanals.org Our website will tell you more about what we have achieved. Our A to Z of volunteering opportunities shows how you can be part of the largest canal restoration society in the UK, working together to leave a lasting legacy of a natural wildlife and leisure corridor across the south Cotswolds and Water Park.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

There are many events and life-enhancing activities which take place in our communities, which can only happen because of the large number of people who give their time to help. Here are some of the varied opportunities to get involved:

Cotswold Canal Trust

In addition to the more obvious hands-on physical canal restoration work, volunteers are urgently needed to help with a range of supporting activities in the new workshops near Driffield, involving mechanical and wood-working tasks. A new visitor centre and second-hand bookshop near South Cerney is being set up, and requires volunteers to run it. There are many other volunteering opportunities – contact the friendly office team to find out more and come along to a taster session.
mail@cotswoldcanals.org 01453 752568



CHEQS Summer Programme

This runs for three weeks during the summer holidays, providing a huge number of exciting and varied activities, at a low cost. It is open to all children living in the CHEQS villages, and children who attend the three CHEQS schools, up to the age of 13. Volunteers are needed to run activity sessions, to share their skills and experience, and to help the children have a great time in a safe environment. Last year, the programme could only be offered in Southrop & Eastleach, due to a lack of helpers in CHQ. It would be great to see the whole of CHEQS involved this year! Planning starts in March, so help with organising things would be welcomed, or you might like to help with something during the summer. For either of these, please contact Claire Morris 07788 673637 or email cheqssummer@gmail.com

Lechlade Community Library

Located just near the entrance to St Lawrence Church, the library is a place to meet, a Warm Space where you can borrow books and DVDs, learn, enjoy reading, hold children's activities, find out what is going on locally, or advertise your event. New volunteers are needed to help keep the library open for the six days a week it has built up to. If you could give 3 hours a week each fortnight, or if you have basic computer skills, please pop in and speak to any of the volunteers about what is involved, or leave your contact details and offer of help.

Edna Dawes Lunch Club

This runs on Wednesdays from 10.30am to 2.30pm at Fairford Hospital. Regular helpers are urgently needed - to chat to people, or to drive the minibus. Contact Kerry on admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk 01285 707300 to find out more.

Plenty of others!

There are regular requests for drivers or staff for charity shops. No doubt there will be events surrounding the King's coronation on 6th May, and other village celebrations. Help is always needed, either beforehand or on the day, so don't be shy – put up your hand and volunteer!

PLACES TO EAT, IN AND AROUND CHEQS



Many people like to eat out when they celebrate St Valentine's Day, or some other special occasion such as an anniversary, birthday or simply the joy of friendship! In our area, we are fortunate to have some excellent venues with a range of styles, menus and prices. Most will have sample menus with prices available to view online or you can telephone to enquire. Here is a small selection of local places to out... the following opening times are when food is available (based on information available at the time of writing):

The New Inn, Coln St Aldwyns (01285 750651) Mon & Tues 5pm - 11pm, Wed to Sun 12pm - 11pm. www.thenewinncoln.co.uk 01285 708080

The Victoria Inn, Eastleach (01367 850277) Wed to Sat 12 noon - 3pm & 5pm - 9pm, Sunday 12 noon - 4pm www.thevictorainneastleach.co.uk

The Keepers Arms, Quenington (01285 750349) Wed 5.30pm - 8.30pm, Thurs to Sat 12 noon - 1.30pm & 5.30pm - 8.30pm, Sun 12 noon - 2.30pm www.thekeepersarms.co.uk

The Swan at Southrop (01367 850174) Wed to Sat, 12pm - 2.30pm (lunch), 6pm - 9pm (dinner), Sunday lunch: 12pm - 3.30pm www.thyme.co.uk/eat/the-swan

The Ox Barn, Thyme, Southrop (01367 850174) Fri to Sun, 12 midday - 3pm (lunch), daily 6pm - 9pm (dinner) www.thyme.co.uk/eat/ox-barn

The Sherborne Arms, Aldsworth (01451 844346) Wed to Sat 12 noon - 2pm, Wed to Sat 5.30pm - 8pm, Sunday 12 noon - 2pm www.thesherbornearms.com

The Crown at Ampney Brook (01285 851806)
Mon to Sat: 8am - 10pm, Sun 8am - 9pm www.crownampneybrook.co.uk

The Falcon Inn, Poulton (01285 850878) Tues to Sat, 12 noon - 2pm, 6 - 9pm, Sun 12 noon - 2.30pm www.falconinnpoulton.co.uk

Jó Szerencsét, Lechlade (01367 248975) Wed 5pm - 9pm, Thurs to Sat 10.30am - 22.30pm www.joszerencset.co.uk

The Railway Inn, Fairford (01285 712368) Fri 5.30pm - 8.30pm, Sat 12 noon - 3pm & 6pm - 9pm, Sun 12 noon - 4pm www.railwayinn-fairford.co.uk

Restaurant Colosseo (01285 239238) Tues to Sun: 12 noon - 3pm & 5pm to 10pm www.colosseofairford.com

It may seem ironic to have a feature in the magazine about eating out, and also one about Food Banks. However, that is the world in which we live. Some of the people who run restaurants and pubs are also suffering from the rising cost of food and energy, and welcome support from those local people who can afford to eat out.

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: Rita Walsh 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
New Year opening times:			
31 st December	8am – 2pm	8am – 1pm	9am – 11.30am
1 st January 2023	Closed	Closed	Closed
2 nd January 2023	9am – 1pm	9am – 12pm	CLOSED

*NB the collection from the post box outside the Stores is at **4pm Monday – Friday**



SOUTHROP SHOP, POST OFFICE & COFFEE MORNING



Wednesdays 8.45 - 11.45am – check out Facebook for updated information.

LLOYDS BANK MOBILE UNIT

The mobile bank is due to be outside the Community Centre, High Street, Fairford on: Wednesdays **1st and 15th February**, from **10am to 12.15pm**. To check on the day, call the mobile branch hotline on 0345 601 6943.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The CHEQS representative: Marion Crawford mazcrawford@hotmail.com

CHEQS DIARY 2022

Wednesdays	11am -12.30pm	Talking Café, Fairford Community Centre	
Thursdays	10.30am -12pm	Talking Café, Baptist Church, Lechlade	
Thurs 2 nd Feb	2.30pm	Fairford Art Society, Fairford Community Centre	p2
Thurs 2 nd Feb	3pm	Friendship Circle, Southrop Village Hall	p2
Sun 5 th Feb	4 – 5.30pm	Messy Church, Quenington Village Hall	p3
Wed 8 th Feb	7.30pm	Lechlade Gardening Club,	p3
Sat 11 th Feb	10.30 – 11.45am	QVH Coffee Morning	p3
Sat 11 th Feb	9.30am – 12.30pm	Lechlade Repair Café, Lechlade Pavilion Hall	p5
Sat 11 th Feb	10am – 1.30pm	Cirencester Repair Café, Ciren Baptist Church	p5
Fri 24 th Feb	6.30 for 7pm	Coln Cinema – Elvis (long film, so earlier start)	p18
Sat 25 th Feb	7 for 7.30pm	Movie Night, Southrop Village Hall	p19

CHURCH SERVICES

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

CHEQS CHURCHES:

Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

5 th February	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
	4 – 5.30pm	Messy Church	Quenington Village Hall
12 th February	10.30am	Holy Communion BCP	St John the Baptist, Coln
19 th February	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's Quenington
Ash Wednesday 22nd February:		ashing service at 6pm	St John the Baptist, Coln
26 th February	10.30am	Plough Sunday Family Service, Swyre Barton Farm	
	6pm	Evensong	St John the Baptist, Coln

St Andrew's Church, Eastleach

5 th February	11am	Matins with Neal Cotton
12 th February	11am	Holy Communion with Andrew Cinnamon
19 th February	11am	Matins with Gordon Land
26 th February	11am	Matins with Gordon Land

St Peter's Church, Southrop

5 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion
12 th February	9.30am	Morning Prayer
19 th February	9.30am	Morning prayer
26 th February	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@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 Located outside Quenington Village Hall - for use by anyone in emergency, 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



During these colder months, warmth is obviously important. However, it is also good to be able to *keep* the heat in our houses, rather than letting it escape through our windows, doors and roofs. Good insulation is positive for both us and the planet. Many of us will remember (or still have) thick curtains inside the front door to prevent cold draughts, ‘sausage dog’ draught excluders at the bottom of doors, or putting up thicker curtains at the windows in the winter – before the days of double glazing. These simple and relatively cheap ways of keeping a house warm are good to consider in these days of rising fuel costs.



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 is taking place between 27th February and 12th March. One of the messages from the organisation this year is: choose Fairtrade now and help save our favourite foods.

Did you know that cocoa, bananas and coffee could soon be much more difficult to find on our shelves? Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink. **But here’s the good news:** More of us choosing Fairtrade products means extra income, power, and support for those communities, as they work to build sustainable and prosperous futures. So not only is choosing Fairtrade best for people and the planet, it could also help save everyday treats like chocolate, bananas and a refreshing cup of coffee!

There will be more Fairtrade news next month, and in the CHQ church services during the Fortnight, to encourage compassionate and thoughtful shopping.

SHROVE TUESDAY - 21ST FEBRUARY

The day before the start of Lent. Enjoy some pancakes!



A LITTLE LOCAL SUPPORT

Christian Walker, from Quenington, writes on behalf of the CHQ churches:

We are very aware at this time of some people struggling with putting a meal on the table for themselves or their family. The CHQ churches will be placing small food parcels (pasta & sauce) in Quenington church during the winter, along with details of where to get further/longer term support. Lots of information and contacts can also be found on the help page at Cirencester.foodbank.org.uk Do pass this on, if you know someone who needs a bit of help. If the parcels (to right of the door) have been taken, please text 07785 984127 and we will top up. christianwalker32@icloud.com

CIRENCESTER FOODBANK - A THANK YOU

Christian Walker writes: During the Harvest Festival services, the churches and both village schools contributed over 32 bags of food to the local Foodbank in Cirencester. Then, over the Christmas period, through the CHQ church services, people kindly supported by giving £1,089. In addition to this there was a further collection in Coln Stores providing festive food and supplies. This is an amazing amount of money and support for people and families in our area who going through hardship in difficult economic times.



The Foodbank doesn't think anyone in our communities should have to face going hungry. That's why they provide nutritionally-balanced emergency food and additional support to local people who are formally referred to the services. Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a Foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days-worth of emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a warm drink or free hot meal and are able to signpost people to agencies who can help solve the longer-term problem – the Foodbank is typically a one-off support service, until other agencies step in. The Cirencester Foodbank is part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK. Lots of details of how to get a referral or understand how the process works can be found at the excellent website www.cirencester.foodbank.org.uk



HOW TO BOOST YOUR STATE PENSION AND ACCESS THE HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Do you know someone on a state pension who struggles to make ends meet? Or perhaps a couple? What if they could get a boost to their income? Too good to be true? A lot of people think so - a third of those who are eligible miss out.

This pension boost is called 'Pension Credit'. It not only provides extra pension income: it can also cover or reduce a host of other costs – rent, mortgage payments, council tax, energy and utilities, TV licence, dentists and opticians and more. Overall, the effects really can be transformative to pensioners who are struggling.

How to qualify? State pensioner households may be eligible if their income is less than £182.60 per week for single people, and less than £278.80 for couples. Pensioner households with a higher income may be eligible in some circumstances – for instance, if there is a carer in the household or someone with a disability.

So, do you know someone who may qualify? To find out more, search for Pension Credit online, ring the Pension Helpline **0800 99 1234** (8am - 5pm, Monday to

Friday), or get in touch with us at Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswolds **0808 800 0510** (10am – 4pm Monday to Thursday, 10am – 1pm Friday) where we can check if you are claiming all the benefits you are entitled to. Don't hesitate – Pension Credit can make a big difference.

Pension Credit may also help you to access the **Household Support Fund** for help with food, energy costs and wider essentials such as warm clothes, bedding, boiler repairs and the purchase of white goods. Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts currently has funding from Cotswold District Council to help pensioners on Pension Credit, or who are on a low income and struggling to make ends meet. Please do contact us if you are interested in accessing the fund.

LOCAL WARM SPACES

FAIRFORD (town council 01285 712344)

Fairford Library

Mon & Wed 9.30am – 5pm; Thurs 9.30am – 7pm; Sat 9.30am – 1pm

Fairford Community Centre

- The Heritage Room, Monday to Friday, 9am to 2pm
- Talking Café in the Farmor Room, Wednesdays 11am to 12.30pm.

LECHLADE (town council 01367 252338)

Lechlade Community Library

Mondays and Fridays 1-4pm and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays 10am – 1pm: Free wi-fi, access to computers, printing and books.

Tuesday Club, Memorial Hall

10am – 3pm For older members of the community - activities, refreshments and a 2-course lunch. A charge of £8, and transport can be provided.

Lechlade Baptist Church, Sherbourne Street

1st Monday of the month: Hobbies & Handicrafts 2 – 4pm

Thursdays: Talking Café 10.30am – midday

Saturdays: Beans Café 10am – midday

THE FRIAR TUCK

Cirencester's popular fish and chip shop is continuing to support people in need with its 'suspended meal' scheme. Customers (and non-customers!) can opt to give a donation to the suspended payment fund, which then enables the Friar Tuck to give a free meal to those in need.



BURFORD SINGERS CLASSIC CHORAL FAVOURITES

Sunday, 2nd April, Church of St John the Baptist, Burford at 7.30pm



Burford Singers with Cotswold Chamber Orchestra will perform Fauré's Requiem and Haydn's Nelson Mass.

Tickets reserved at £25, £20, £15, unreserved £10. Online booking: 12th February – 31st March (Booking fee applies) at www.burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/ Booking in person (unreserved tickets only): 12th February – 31st March at The Madhatter Bookshop,

122 High Street, Burford, and on the door. Details on the website

www.burfordsingers.org.uk/events/

START DANCING, KEEP DANCING!

Thames School of Dancing offer Ballroom & Latin American dance classes. A new six-week Beginners class is starting in Lechlade/Southrop, beginning on Wednesday, 1st February. The cost is £8 per person per lesson. Most classes will be at Lechlade Memorial Hall, but the classes on 8th February and 8th March will be held at Southrop Village Hall. The classes run from 7 – 8pm. For more information, contact Simon Paul simon@thamesschoolofdancing.co.uk or 01367 253633.

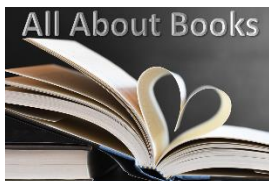
QUENINGTON CRAFT FAIR

A new venture is planned for the summer - Quenington Craft Fair. It will be held in the village hall, so there will be no need to worry about the weather. The fairs will run from 8.30am until 1pm, with set up from 7.15am. There are a limited number of tables available: 8ft tables @ £10 each, or 6ft tables @ £8 each. There will also be space for up to seven 2x2m gazebos on hard standing: supply your own gazebo and weights, and your own table, for £12.



The planned dates are: **Sundays:** 14th May, 18th June, 9th July 9th, and 13th August.

If you are interested in having a stall, email tracey8173@icloud.com with a short description of what you would like to sell, so that duplications can be minimised.



FREE BOOKS!

As well as borrowing books from the libraries, books can also be swapped for others at no cost, from the former telephone kiosk in Quenington – a great way to pass on one you've read, and get a different one in return.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS



Southrop Church of England Primary School

Together we can fly

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

Facebook page [Southrop C of E Primary School](#)

The Swan class joined together with thousands of other children from schools across the country in January, at the NEC, Birmingham, as part of Young Voices - the largest school choir concert in the world. The concert raised money for Place2Be, a charity committed to a cause close to our hearts: improving children's mental health. Children and staff came away buzzing, and feeling we had been part of something really special, joining together with over 6,000 other children to rehearse and then perform for friends and family. Amongst the talented musicians performing with us were the extraordinary violinist, Anna Phoebe, Heather Small (formerly of M People), and the Beatbox Collective. We were very proud of our young people and their enthusiasm. Most were so invigorated by the experience they managed to stay awake till well after 11pm when we finally got back!



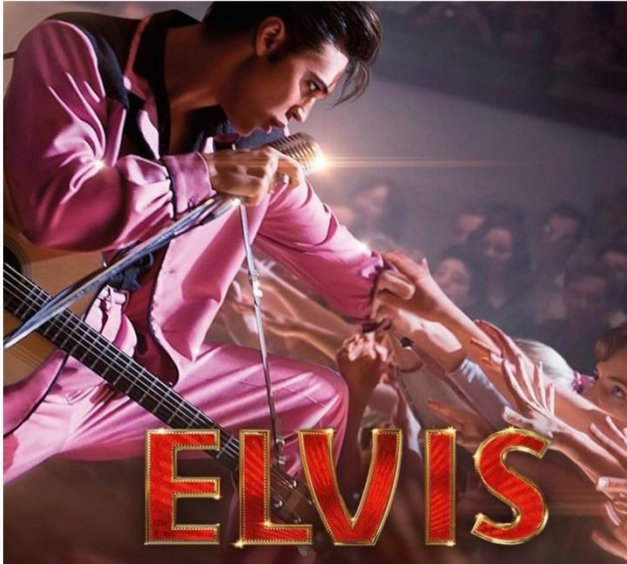
As term progresses, we are really getting into our topic work. The Swans are exploring the geography of Eastern Europe and the Cygnets Wild Africa. The whole school is finding out about what it is like to be Muslim in Britain today and we are hoping to visit the mosque in Oxford. We are very grateful to our PTA, who make such inspiring trips possible by paying for the transport.

STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are always popular with our pupils. In Computing, the Cygnets are enjoying exploring algorithms; the Year 3 & 4s are taking a journey inside a computer to find out the role of various components; and Y5 & 6 are creating their own stop-motion animations. We always love taking part in the Gloucestershire County Knex STEM and RIAT challenges, but this year we are lucky to have an extra complimentary workshop due to the success of our team winning the RIAT (Air Tattoo) competition last year.

Please take a look at our website and Facebook page to keep up-to-date with what is going on in school.



Coln Cinema presents



**Come and join us on
Friday 24 February**

What one critic called “a full-throttle biopic of the King, almost entirely devoid of silence,” *Elvis* is another of last year’s blockbusters, exploring the life and music of Elvis Presley (Austin Butler) through his complicated relationship with his enigmatic manager, Colonel Tom Parker (Tom Hanks). Definitely a film to see on the big screen! [Cert PG-13, 159 minutes]

Vicarage Cottage Barn, Coln St Aldwyns

Enter via the churchyard and follow signs. Bring a torch.

Why not join us for a drink beforehand?

It’s a long film so we are opening the doors earlier than usual at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7pm

We ask for a £4 donation per person on the door and all proceeds go to our parish church, St John the Baptist

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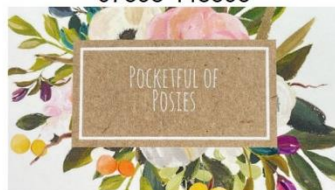
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