

CHEQS MAGAZINE



April 2023

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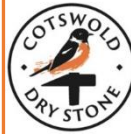
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email: info@cotswolddrystone.com



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*Hello from...
... Gareth Griffith*



My family and I moved to Lechlade in the summer of 2021, when I began work as a curate with the churches of Lechlade, Southrop and Eastleach. Before that, we had lived in north London for two years, where I trained at theological college, and before that we had a decade in Cheltenham. During that time, my wife and I often drove out into the Cotswolds for long walks, so we discovered the river at Lechlade and the low hills north of Eastleach long before we came to live here.

Curacy is a sort of apprenticeship for vicars, so I work alongside Rev. Andrew Cinnamond, learning how to do all the many things that make up the life and ministry of a member of the clergy. For some of these things, like preaching on a Sunday, I can draw on my previous career as a lecturer at the University of Bristol. For others, like taking a funeral, there isn't anything that can really prepare you.

In my role as curate, I have the privilege of being there with people during times of great joy, such as weddings and baptisms, but also when life is hardest: funerals, serious illness, times of deep distress and sadness. Then there is the weekly routine of after-school clubs, toddler groups, home visits, and those wonderful times on Sunday when the church family gathers together for worship. In all these times, my job - and my joy - is to point people to Jesus, to show his love for them, and to invite them to know him for themselves.



That's why Easter is, for me, the high point of the year – even more than Christmas, or the relief of a summer holiday! Those few days during which Jesus was arrested, killed, buried, and rose again, are the most important in history, and what we make of them is the most important choice we'll ever make. My hope and prayer is

that this Easter, you'll look at that man on the cross and find a God who not only shares our pain, but rescues us from it, because of his incomparable love.



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:

<https://cheqs.weebly.com/cheqs-magazine.html> (note: new web address)

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

FAIRFORD TENNIS CLUB



Fairford Tennis Club aims to provide good tennis at a competitive cost, in a friendly and inviting atmosphere. They welcome players of all ages and abilities. The small, friendly club has the use of two floodlit, recently-resurfaced hard courts (asphalt) and a wooden pavilion, at the Walnut Tree Field. There is a varied programme of social tennis, a summer tournament, an active programme of junior coaching and events, and competitive league team tennis. Membership runs from 31st March, so now is a good time to join – or to renew your membership. Contact the Membership Secretary, Ewan Ellis: fairfordtennismembership@gmail.com

FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday, 1st April at 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Fairford

The choir will perform works by Stainer: Crucifixion, and Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B flat. Tickets cost £15 and are on sale at Fairford Opticians.

COLN ST ALDWYNS, HATHEROP & QUENINGTON

Sunday, 2nd April, Quenington Village Hall from 4 to 5.30pm



A fun-filled time for all ages, with food provided. We'll be exploring and celebrating Palm Sunday and Easter, with songs, craft, and a great time together. **Everyone is welcome!**

For more information: heatherwalker39@hotmail.co.uk

PASSOVER CELEBRATION

Wednesday, 5th April at 6.30pm, Vicarage Cottage Barn

Coln, Hatherop and Quenington parish is planning to hold a Passover celebration as part of its Easter preparations. Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Passover meal together shortly before his death. The Christian service of Holy Communion is based on part of the Passover meal, and there is great significance in the different parts of the meal. If you would like to join in the Passover Celebration, please contact Simon Brignall by **Sunday, 2nd April** at the latest, as places are limited.



EASTLEACH & SOUTHPROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

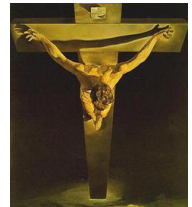
Thursday, 6th April at 3pm, Southrop Village Hall

This month's activity is an **Easter floral project**. Contact Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 or Caroline Simmons 01367 850171 for more information. Annual membership is £5, plus £2 per meeting.

THE CRUCIFIXION

Good Friday, 7th April at 7pm, Church of St John the Baptist, Coln St Aldwys

Coln Choir will be performing an adaptation of John Stainer's glorious oratorio on the passion of Jesus. It will include excerpts for soloist and choir, as well as readings, and hymns for congregational singing. Everyone is invited to attend, and to join the congregation for this beautiful and poignant Easter occasion.



REPAIR CAFÉS

Saturday, 8th April

Lechlade Repair Café: Lechlade Pavilion Hall, Oak Street, 9.30am – 12.30pm
Cirencester Repair Café: Cirencester Baptist Church, 10am – 1.30pm

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LECHLADE GARDENING CLUB



Wednesday, 12th April, Lechlade Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

Lechlade Gardening Club is open to all residents in the town and the surrounding area. The topic is **Vegetables – how to grow them and how to make the most of your plot**. The membership fee is £5. The monthly meeting entrance fee is £2 for members and £3 for visitors.

QUENINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 13th April at 7.30pm in Quenington Village Hall

Quenington residents - come along to find out what happens in your village. The Parish Council and local groups will report on their activities during the last twelve months. It is also your opportunity to ask questions or put forward thoughts/suggestions to the Parish Council. All residents are invited to attend.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 15th April from 10.30 – 11.45am

You can chat to neighbours, meet new people (perhaps!) and enjoy **free hot drinks and home-made cakes**.



This month's charity donations will go to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, which celebrates its 200th anniversary next year. We may be a long way from the sea, but any of us who have a UK holiday – or even a day out – on the coast may be in need of their help. If you have ever been rescued by the RNLI, do come along and share your story!

AN ENHANCED WEBSITE FOR CHEQS VILLAGES

Mike Stranks writes: For several years I've managed a website which gives information about upcoming events in Coln, Hatherop and Quenington, as well as hosting photos, videos and sound recordings of things that have happened. This was also one of the places to find the online colour editions of the CHEQS magazine.

The website has now been enhanced to include things that will happen and have happened in Eastleach and Southrop - another CHEQS-wide resource!



Have a look at www.cheqs.weebly.com to discover what's available. If you are able to, you can point your smartphone's camera at the QR and click on it to go to the website. The CHEQS Magazine has an increased prominence on the site, so it's now even easier to access the magazine in full colour.

The success of the site relies on me being kept informed of upcoming events in the CHEQS villages. There's a 'Contact Us' page on the website – do use it to tell me about your events. You never know - I might even turn-up to shoot some video!

NEW BENCH FOR SOUTHROP

Southrop Parish Council has provided a new bench for the village, to commemorate the accession of King Charles III to the throne. It replaces a bench which was no longer fit for purpose, and has the name of the King and the date of accession (8th September 2022) carved into the top back rail.



FAIRFORD ART SOCIETY - WORKSHOP

Saturday, 15th April from 10am to 4pm, at Fairford Community Centre

Last month, Nicky Hunter demonstrated how to capture 'Spring Flowers in Watercolour'. She will also be running a workshop on the same subject, on Saturday, 15th April, from 10am - 4pm. For workshops, a non-refundable deposit of £10 is required, to be paid when names are entered on the list. The balance of £25 will be due four weeks before the event, paid by cheque to Fairford Art Society and sent to John Hewett.



RARE PLANT FAIR

Sunday, 16th April, from 11am to 4pm, The Old Rectory, Quenington



This popular plant fair attracts people from all over the county - and beyond - because of the number of nurseries who attend, and the diversity and quality of the plants being sold. You can ask questions about how best to look after your purchases, as well as meet up with friends and enjoy refreshments. Light lunches, cakes and hot

and cold drinks will be available to purchase from the Pool House, to support the work of the charity Cobalt.

Please note that **no dogs** are allowed in the Garden or Plant Fair (except assistance dogs). Buy your tickets on arrival at the gate - no need to prebook. **£6 per adult, which includes the Fair and Garden (children under 16 free).**

The Grade II listed Old Rectory, with its organic garden, has been developed over the past 40 years. The history of the site probably stretches back to the 12th century, when the Knights Hospitaller had a preceptory in the village.

Esme Bradburne, a former head gardener, was one of the original founder members of the Soil Association. The garden is still run completely on organic lines, and Esme's work was seminal in creating much of the planting that we see today. The present layout goes back to 1928 when the Old Rectory was bought from the church.



FAIRFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday, 20th April, at 7.30pm, Farmor Room at Fairford Community Centre

What do you know about The Royal Progress of 1535, undertaken by King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn?

The Royal Couple travelled through Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Hampshire, between July and October 1535, and Alan Pilbeam will be shedding light on the subject at this meeting.



Have a look at the History Society's informative website for more items of local interest: <https://www.fairfordhistory.org.uk/meetings/>

PHOTO ID NEEDED FOR VOTING



Tristan Wilkinson, of Hatherop, writes: I'm sure, like me, you care deeply for our Cotswolds, which is why it's important to have your voice heard in this year's local elections on May 4th. All the seats for Cotswold District Council are being contested and the result will determine the leadership and political make-up of the council for the next four years.

These local elections are the first in England where voters will need to show a form of photo identification before they can vote at a polling station - rather than just supplying their name and address. The system has been in place in Northern Ireland since 2003, but will be nationwide for General Elections (and many other elections) in the UK from May onwards.



Voting in local elections is crucial, first and foremost because they provide citizens with a voice in decisions that impact their daily lives. Local councils are responsible for a range of essential services, including waste collection, housing, local climate change action and planning. By voting, residents can help ensure these services meet their needs and reflect their priorities. Voting provides an opportunity to hold elected officials accountable for their actions... or lack of action!

Regardless of your political view, it's important to have your voice heard and reflect on the local issues that impact our lives day to day.

The editor adds: To find out which forms of photo ID are acceptable, go to the **electoral commission** website and check their list. If you don't have suitable photo ID, the website will also tell you how to apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. If you don't have access to the internet, and don't know who to ask, please contact me and I'll try to help (contact details on page 2).

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL - 100 CLUB - MARCH PRIZES

1st prize £15: No. 1 Beryl Bennett

2nd prize £10: No. 52 Suzanne Fielder

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL AIR TATTOO



Local Residents Half-Price Ticket Offer (two half-price tickets per residential household for either Friday 14th or Sunday 16th July 2023)

Each year, to thank local residents for their support, the Air Tattoo offers half-price tickets to the air show for the Friday and Sunday shows to those living in the locations listed below. The offer is for up to **two tickets per residential household** subject to availability. Once tickets have sold out, the offer will no longer be available.

Tickets are available for those living in the following villages/towns:

Ampney Crucis, Ampney St Peter, Castle Eaton, Down Ampney, Dunfield, Fairford, Hannington, Hannington Wick, Kempford, Latton, Lechlade, Lushill, Marston Meyse, Meyse Hampton, Poulton, **Quenington**, Water Eaton and Whelford.

Prices: Friday, 14th July - £20 instead of £40 per adult
 Sunday, 16th July - £34.50 instead of £69 per adult

Important information:

- Available for Friday, 14th and / or Sunday, 16th July 2023
- Two tickets per residential household
- Only one application per residential household in the villages listed
- Applicants must be 18 and over (under 18s are free with a ticket holding adult)
- Tickets are subject to availability
- Tickets are sold as non-refundable and non-returnable

Discounted tickets can be purchased only in person, with a household bill or document with name and address and photo ID: **Air Tattoo HQ**, Douglas Bader House, Horcott Hill, Fairford 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday (closed Bank Holidays).

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](#)

Julia McLellan writes: We started this term with another great World Book Day, which always goes down well with our book-loving pupils. The children came dressed as their favourite book character and this year the staff were characters from traditional tales: some beautiful Little Red Riding Hoods, Goldilocks, and Cinderellas, The Big Bad Wolf, the Woodcutter and litter of Little Pigs! It was books, books, books all day. We started with some advice on how to be reading superheroes. The children enjoyed being detectives to work out which of the teachers was each of the “Masked Readers”. The Cygnets went on a journey inspired by Paddington and made suitcases to hold their special objects; one child packed a particularly special thing, “the sound of Southrop”! The day concluded with a book treasure hunt and book swap. Kim Harvey from Madhatter Bookshop has kindly donated us a £50 gift voucher, so some of our keen readers are off to Burford soon to choose our books.



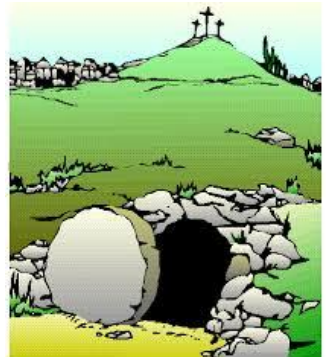
Our value this term is Perseverance, something we really value at Southrop School. We regularly celebrate mistakes that we make as FAILs (First Attempt In Learning) and can often be heard exclaiming “I can’t do it...yet!”

The topic in Cygnets is: *We Are Britain*, a celebration of the countries, history and diversity which formed our nation, and in Swans: the *Stone Age*, which includes a fabulous trip to Stonehenge.



On the last day of term, we invited families with pre-school children to join us for an Easter egg hunt and craft morning. We also welcomed people from the local community to

join us in St Peter’s Church for our Easter Service.





Hatherop Church of England Primary School

Caring, Believing, Achieving

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



On a cold winter's day, Skylark Class took part in an Outdoor Learning session at Lea Wood. The children used their map reading skills to find the clues and work out where the story characters were hidden.



As part of the geography curriculum, Year 4 went for a walk around the local area, following a route that they had mapped out in class. Along the way, they marked off features that they spotted on their maps. At Coln Stores, they asked the manager a few questions about the local area.

Red Kite class have been learning about Chinese art. They made Chinese clay dragons and a terracotta army. They also tried out calligraphy.



We recently had a visit from the Clean and Green Engagement team, where Milly and Joe spoke to the children about the importance of looking after the environment and the impact litter has on the animals. They then took the children out on a litter pick in Hatherop.

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: Miranda Lawson

miranda@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	9 – 12.30pm & 1.30 – 4pm
Saturday	8am – 2pm	8am – 1pm	9 – 11.30am
Sunday	9am – 1pm	9am – 12pm	CLOSED
7th April: Good Friday	9am – 1pm	9am – 12.30pm	CLOSED
8th April: Saturday	8am – 2pm	8am – 1pm	CLOSED
9th April: Easter Day	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
10th April: Bank Holiday	9am – 1pm	9am – 12.30pm	CLOSED

There will be no newspapers on Easter Sunday.

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



SOUTHROP SHOP, POST OFFICE & COFFEE MORNING



Wednesdays 8.45 - 11.30am – check out Facebook for updated information.

LLOYDS BANK MOBILE UNIT

The mobile bank may be in High Street, Fairford – dates unavailable at time of print.

To check on the day, call the mobile branch hotline on [0345 601 6943](tel:03456016943).



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The CHEQS representative: Marion Crawford mazcrawford@hotmail.com

CHEQS DIARY 2022

Wednesdays	10.30am -12pm	Talking Café, Fairford Community Centre	
Wednesdays		Edna Dawes Lunch Club, Fairford Hospital	
Thursdays	10.30am -12pm	Talking Café, Baptist Church, Lechlade	
Sun 2 nd Apr	4 – 5.30pm	Messy Church, Quenington Village Hall	p3
Wed 5 th Apr		Passover Celebration	p3
Thurs 6 th Apr	3pm	Friendship Circle, Southrop Village Hall	p3
Wed 12 th Apr	7.30pm	Lechlade Gardening Club, Memorial Hall	p4
Thu 13 th Apr	7.30pm	Quenington Annual Parish Meeting	p4
Sat 15 th Apr	10.30 – 11.45am	QVH Coffee Morning, Quenington Village Hall	p4
Sun 16 th Apr	11am – 4pm	Rare Plant Fair, Old Rectory, Quenington	p6
Sat 22 nd Apr	7 for 7.30pm	Barn Dance, Southrop Village Hall	p17
Sun 23 rd Apr	9am - midday	Quenington Car Boot Sale, village green	p15
Fri 28 th Apr	7 for 7.30pm	Coln Cinema – Operation Mincemeat	p18
Sun 7 th May		Coronation Big Lunch	p20

CHURCH SERVICES



CHEQS CHURCHES:

Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

2 nd April Palm Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
	4pm	Messy Church	Quenington Village Hall
5 th April (Wednesday)	6.30pm	Passover 'meal'	Vicarage Cottage Barn, Coln
7 th April Good Friday	6pm	Stainer's Crucifixion (with hymns & readings)	St John the Baptist, Coln
9 th April Easter Day	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hatherop
16 th April	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln
23 rd April	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
		N.B. followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting	
30 th April	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hatherop
	6pm	Evensong	St John the Baptist, Coln

St Andrew's Church, Eastleach

2 nd April Palm Sunday	11am	Matins with Gordon Land & Shirley Bell
9 th April Easter Day	11am	Holy Communion with Gareth Griffith
16 th April	11am	Matins with Shirley Bell
23 rd April	11am	Matins for St George's Day with Gordon Land
30 th April	11am	Family Worship with Gordon Land

St Peter's Church, Southrop

2 nd April Palm Sunday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
9 th April Easter Day	9.30am	Holy Communion
16 th April	9.30am	Morning Prayer
23 rd April	9.30am	Morning Prayer
30 th April	9.30am	Morning Prayer

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

FAIRFORD & LECHLADE CHURCHES:

Check out the church websites for more information.

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 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



Saturday, 22nd April is designated as Earth Day – a day to celebrate our wonderful planet, and to learn about what we can do to protect and sustain it for future generations. Developed following the first Earth Day in 1970, the organisation EARTHDAY.ORG works with over 150,000 partners in more than 192 countries to drive positive action for our planet. Their website has lots of ideas of how to help: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/>

QUENINGTON CAR BOOT SALES

Sunday, 23rd April, Quenington Village Green



The car boot sales are starting again - a little later in the month than planned, to avoid clashing with the Rare Plant Sale. No need to book – you can set up from 8.30am (not before, please) and it's only £5 to sell. Other dates: 14th May, 18th June, 9th July, (**not** in August), 3rd September, 1st October.

QUENINGTON CRAFT FAIRS

Quenington Craft Fairs will be held in the village hall 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 a few 2x2m gazebos on hard standing @£12: **supply your own gazebo, weights, and table.**

Sundays: 14th May (all the inside tables are already booked), 18th June, 9th July, (**not** in August), and 3rd Sep. If you are interested, contact tracey8173@icloud.com

FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES



EDNA DAWES LUNCH CLUB

We have now reopened our much-loved Edna Dawes Lunch Club. This currently runs on Wednesdays to provide a hot meal, activities and social interaction for isolated elderly people. Transport can be provided. Please do get in touch for more information: admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk or 01285 707300.

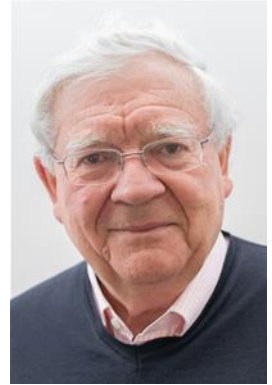
BEREAVEMENT CAFE

Bereavement Café is held on the first Friday of every month, for people who have suffered a loss and would like to talk. The nursing team will be there to welcome you with a hot drink and some refreshments. Do drop in, between 10am and 12pm at the Barker Room, Fairford Community Centre. If you have any questions, please call 07938244335 or email admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

RAYMOND THEODOULOU – AN OBITUARY

The long-serving county and district councillor, Raymond Theodoulou, died at the age of 83 on 9th March, after a brief illness. He was at home, and surrounded by his family.

Ray was born on 1st April 1939, in Paddington, London, and was the son of Irene Rankin and Andreas Theodoulou, from Cyprus. During the Blitz, he narrowly survived a bombing raid on Mornington Crescent. He was evacuated, first to Bristol and then, when Bristol was also bombed, he and his mother moved to North Shields to live with his uncles. After the war, they returned to London. For the rest of his life, he retained vivid memories of the hardships of wartime Newcastle and of post-war London, with its bomb damage and rationing.



Ray was educated at Sheen Grammar School, then went to Oxford to study French and German at St Peter's College. A formative experience came in 1958, when he visited his pen friend in Berlin. Ray never forgot the family's stories of the war and its aftermath, and he came away with a great respect and affection for German music and literature. To the end of his life, he would tell jokes in German and recite from the works of the late 18th century German writers, Schiller and Hölderlin.

After university, Ray moved back to London, working briefly at the British Tourist Authority. He then pursued a career in finance which took him to South East Asia, living and working for twenty years in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Jakarta. His work also took him to Gabon, New Zealand, the Soviet Union and many more places besides. He was a great raconteur, and delighted in regaling friends and family with stories of his travels, including the occasion when he had to learn Mandarin in order to deliver a speech before a large audience at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

In 1999 Ray, along with his wife Elizabeth and their children, moved back to the UK and settled in Quenington. He was elected to Gloucestershire County Council in 2001. From 2005, when the Conservatives took control of the Council, he had responsibility for the county finances. He served on the County Council for twenty years, ultimately becoming deputy leader and then chairman. When he stood down in 2021 a colleague noted that he had worked 'quietly, tenaciously' to further the public interest. 'His record of long service will be impossible to match.' In tandem with his responsibilities in Gloucester, Ray was elected district councillor in 2003, holding the post until the end of his life. For many years, he was also treasurer for St Swithin's Church, Quenington. Whichever hat he wore, Ray won the respect of his constituents and colleagues for his genial manner and his concern for local affairs. He travelled widely throughout the Cotswolds to attend parish, district and county meetings, and was happy to talk to constituents at any time.

He died in the place he loved, and which he had served for two decades. He is survived by his wife, seven children, two step-children and seven grandchildren.



**SATURDAY
22ND APRIL**

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**Doors open 7pm
Dancing at 7.30pm
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mornings) or by email
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Coln Cinema presents



Operation Mincemeat

**Come and join us on
Friday 28 April**

We end this Coln Cinema season with the extraordinary true story of how we duped the Germans over the invasion of Sicily in 1943. A strong cast includes Colin Firth, Mathew Macfadyen, Penelope Wilton, and Johnny Flynn as Ian Fleming who was one of those who dreamed up the scam. [Cert PG-13, 128 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? Doors open at 7pm
with the film starting at 7.30pm**

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

NEWS FROM THE ERNEST COOK TRUST: HOME FARM

Nine of The Ernest Cook Trust's 26 farms are based in and around the CHEQS villages and this includes Home Farm, Netherton, near Quenington. The Lander family farmed at Home Farm for over 100 years, until their tenancy was relinquished back to The Ernest Cook Trust by Tim Lander before his sad death in 2021.



The Ernest Cook Trust is a UK-wide educational charity which creates outdoor learning experiences for children, young people and their families, on its own estates and with partners across the country. The Trust's vision is for an environmentally engaged society with stronger connections with nature.

Tim Lander was enthusiastic about providing opportunities for young people to have access to land-based education and employment. This fits perfectly with The Ernest Cook Trust's ethos of funding and delivering Outdoor Learning opportunities. The Landers ran Home Farm as a beef and arable farm and the Trust is looking to respect their family legacy in planning for the future of the farm.



We have recently completed a full refurbishment of the farmhouse and will shortly be offering the house to let on the open market for the short term. We are also undertaking work on improvements to the traditional farmyard, the 'road frontage' of the farm and have recently re-fenced the entire southern half of the holding.

Looking to the future, we are excited about the medium- to long-term opportunities of the farm, especially given its proximity to our planned new Head Office at Court Farmhouse. The Landers farmed the land at Court Farm as part of their business and as such, this land is currently included within the farm tenancy of Home Farm. We will be able to confirm the future for Home Farm during 2023 as part of the Trust's commitment to supporting land-based learning opportunities. More to follow on this!

Until then, the land is currently being actively farmed by the Trust's farming subsidiary, ECT Farms Ltd, and we cut the grass for hay and silage over the summer months. This winter, Home Farm has been home to nearly 200 Swaledale fell sheep, who joined us from their home in Mungrisdale, Cumbria, where they live at the Trust's Low Beckside Farm. They will probably have made the return trip towards the end of March, as the weather hopefully improves in Cumbria.

CORONATION BIG LUNCH

Sunday, 7th May

Quenington & Southrop are organising celebratory village lunches, to which all the residents are invited.

Quenington: see local posters – free picnic provided for all residents, on Snake Drive tarmac by the Village Green.

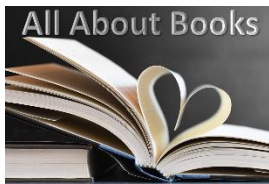
Southrop: local publicity or contact Margaret Davey kmdavey@btinternet.com - a Street Party in the area of the village hall, with entertainment. £1 deposit is needed to book a place at the lunch, by Monday, 17th April.



All Quenington Residents
are warmly invited to a
Community Picnic
on the Village Green
Sunday 7th May - 12 to 4pm
to celebrate
the Coronation of
His Majesty King Charles III
with
sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and
soft drinks available at no charge
but bring your own picnic if you prefer
and any wine or beer to drink

Tickets are on sale - see poster for details of pricing & how to buy
This is an event for EVERYONE!
(if we the Picnic will be held in the Village Hall)

If the other CHEQS villages have something planned too, please let the editor know.



Chris Roberts MBE, writes: I've always been a book lover – sometimes with two, or even three, books on the go at the same time, depending on what mood I am in, and what story or plot appeals to me at that moment in time! So, I'm thrilled to announce that I'm organising a book festival on behalf of Fairford Festival, which will be held in the grounds of Fairford Cricket Club. It's a daunting task, especially as I've never organised such an event before, but I am pleased to say that so far everything is going well.

Fairford Festival's Book Fest will feature two children's authors (Jo Empson and Steve Antony) in Fairford Library, on Friday, 9th June, and seven other top authors in the Literary Marquee on Saturday, 10th June: Emma Reeves, Sandra Howard, Anne de Courcy, Dr Michael McCarthy, Paul Martin, and Dom Joly.

For more information, contact Chris Roberts on chrisrobertsmbe@gmail.com or <https://fairfordfestival.org.uk/#about> Tickets are now available.



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Neil Irving 01285 720403 or any of the Singers & on the door.
Drinks & Canapés included



HIKE FOR HOME-START COTSWOLDS!

Wednesday, 3rd May at 9.30am

Do come and join in, and spend an enjoyable couple of hours walking through the beautiful countryside of the Coln Valley, in aid of family support charity Home-Start Cotswolds.

The circular walk starts and finishes at Cripps Barn, near Bibury (GL7 5BA) and takes in the pretty village of Winson. There are no steep hills and, with the kind permission of local landowners, the walk includes land not usually accessible to the public.



After building up an appetite, you can stay on for a delicious two-course lunch cooked by the chefs at Cripps Barn – but lunch places are limited so please check availability on the Home-Start Cotswolds website below, and book your place as soon as possible.

Tickets are £15 for the walk only (including refreshments) and £30 for the walk with lunch. All proceeds will go towards supporting families in the Cotswolds with young children, who are going through difficult times. Everyone is welcome, including dogs on leads, and there is free parking. For more information, and to book: www.home-start-cotswolds.org.uk and go to the 'News' tab, or call 01285 885391.



CHOIR CONCERT AT FAIRFORD UNITED CHURCH

Saturday, 13th May at 7pm, Fairford United Church,
Milton Street, Fairford

Swindon Male voice choir will be singing a range of songs from their wide repertoire. The concert is to support the funds of this small local church, which is a partnership between the Congregational Church and the Methodist Church. Tickets are £7.50 - contact brianroutledge1@btinternet.com for more information.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, ST PETER'S CHURCH

Monday, 15th May at 7pm, Southrop Village Hall

Margaret Davey writes: All villagers, whether church attenders or not, are invited to this yearly meeting. It's an opportunity to hear a report from our vicar, Andrew Cinnamond, and reports on the church building, churchyard and Garden of Remembrance, finances, and events to raise income. It is also the meeting at which people on the Electoral Roll vote for PCC members. Please do try to attend.



OPEN DAY

Sunday, May 14th 10-4

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clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/Events

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<mailto:colnvalleytournament@gmail.com>

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HillandValleyTC/CVTournament>

EVENTS COMING UP DURING THE SUMMER...

- Barnsley Village Garden Festival - Saturday, 13th May
- Open Garden at The Old Rectory, Quenington - Sunday 21st May
- Eastleach Frolics - Bank Holiday Monday, 29th May
- Open Garden at Langford Downs Farm Sunday 4th June
- Fairford Festival (including Book Fest) 9th to 11th June
- Open Garden at Ryton House, Lechlade Friday 23rd June
- Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) 14th to 16th July
- Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Extravaganza (South Cerney) 4th - 6th August
- Fairford Steam, Classic & Retro Show 19th & 20th August



Do let the editor know of any other local events of interest.

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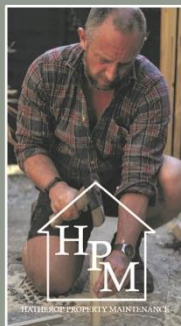
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