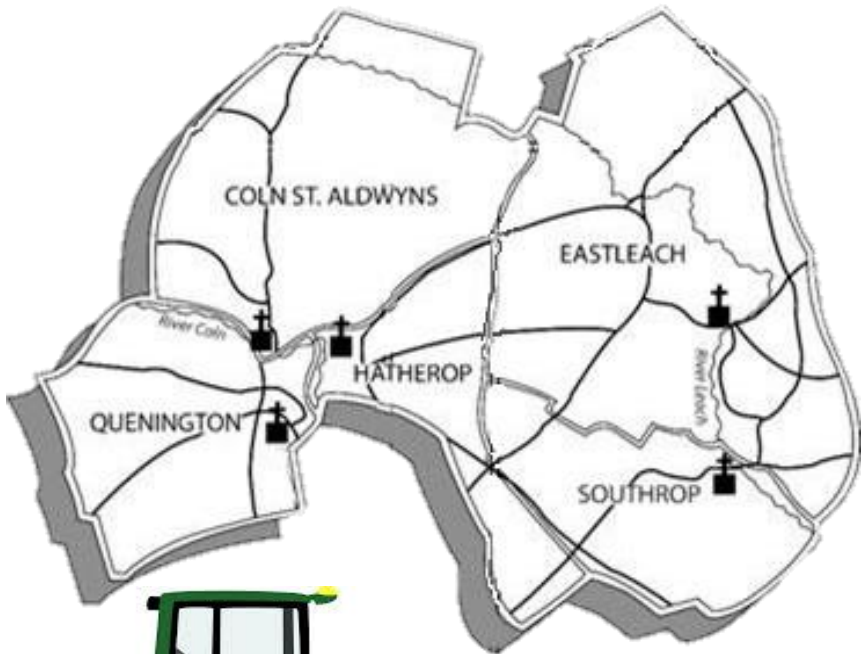


CHEQS MAGAZINE



September 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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OFFICE: 01285 750082 MOBILE: 07479 464292

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contact Joe: 07799877122
email: info@cotswolddrystone.com

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11 High St, Fairford

www.thefamilyosteopath.co.uk

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Contact the editor
cheqsmagads@gmail.com



*Hello from...
Gretchen
Shoring*

I'm ex-BBC, and have a company called Citizen Films, which produces videos and photography for brands big and small. It can involve working on ad campaigns with Usain Bolt one month, and the British Library the next. It's true what they say, about the relentlessness of running your own business. Added to this, living in west London was beginning to lose its appeal. It's congested and polluted, and I needed fields and trees... the Cotswolds were calling. So, I squirrelled away savings, and a couple of years ago bought what may well be the tiniest cottage in Southrop.

Arriving in this beautiful historic village, that is so well looked after, fills me with joy. Unlike in our London street, people here actually wave and say hello! As an outsider I've found there is a community spirit and gentle humour here that's a real antidote to my London existence. It's wonderful to be involved locally, as part of the village hall committee, helping organise some of the monthly events such as Southrop movie night and the village hall barn dances. The local social life here is always busy.

My daughter Esme and I are now in a transitional stage, still spending most of our time in London while she finishes school, but in a couple of years that balance will shift, and I'll be able to base myself much more in the village.



To aid the gradual change to a gentler pace of life, I've started a second business called ARTI, selling original art by vintage and emerging artists online, and at pop-ups and events. We'll be at The Country Brocante's autumn fair at Thyme this month, and at the Curated Store in Stow-on-the-Wold in November. Working with private buyers and interior designers, for me this feels like a great way of establishing more of a footing in the Cotswolds. We're at www.arti-ones.co.uk. Do please drop me a line if you're an art-lover. It would be great to hear from you.

Thank you, Southrop and surrounding villages, for your warm welcome - it's lovely getting to know you.

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>

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

COLN ST ALDWYNS FETE & PRODUCE SHOW

Saturday, 2nd September, 12.30 – 4pm on Mill House lawn



The Coln St Aldwyns Fete and Produce Show is free for children under 14, £3 for adults. Card readers will be available for some payments, but please also bring cash if possible, just in case of problems.

There is no charge for children playing the various games: Bouncy Castle, Penalty Shoot-out, Wiggly Wire, Splat the Rat, Human Fruit Machine and much more. If they win they will get a token which can be exchanged for a prize.

For more information, check the website www.colnfunday.com

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME – OPEN GARDENS

Sunday, 3rd September from 2 – 5pm, garden of The Old Rectory, Quenington

Everyone will be most welcome to visit the garden, which is open in aid of the National Garden Scheme. Adults £8, children free. There may be a card-reader for payment, but please bring cash for plants,

produce and refreshments.



There is wheelchair access and Blue Badge parking on the gravel in front of the house. Robert Wyatt's plants will be for sale, as well as some fresh organic vegetables, grown at the Old Rectory. Home-made teas will be available (a donation from the profits of these will be made to St. Swithin's Church).



**Coln St Aldwyns
Children's Funday
& CHEQS
Produce Show**

★ BBQ ★ Stalls ★ Live music ★

FREE fun for kids

SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

Mill House gardens

12.30pm to 4pm

www.colnfunday.com

Registered Charity no.
1178783



QUENINGTON CAR BOOT SALE

Sunday, 3rd September, Quenington Village Green, 8.30 - 11.30am

Sellers from 8.30am. £5 per pitch, fee collected on the day – no need to book, just turn up. Weather permitting – check the Facebook page on the morning if in doubt. Come and walk around - it's amazing what you can find!

QUENINGTON CRAFT FAIR

Sunday, 3rd September, 8.30 – 11.30am, Quenington Village Hall

The final Craft Fair of the year - come and give your support to local crafters and do some early Christmas shopping. Give a local gift made with care and love. Free entry.

CHQ MESSY CHURCH

Sunday, 3rd September, 4 – 5.30pm, Quenington Village Hall

A hot meal is included. For more information about Messy Church in general, contact Heather: heatherwalker39@hotmail.co.uk



PRAYER & PRAISE

Sunday, 3rd September, from 6 – 7pm, St Mary's Church, Fairford

Contemporary Christian songs, prayer and teaching. Everyone is welcome, young or old, from Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages.

Contact carolinesymcox@googlemail.com for more information.

EASTLEACH & SOUTHPROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Thursday, 7th September at 3pm, Southrop Village Hall

Andy Yapp will be leading a music session. Come along to find out more! Contact Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 or Caroline Simmons 01367 850171.

Annual membership £5, plus £2 per meeting – new members welcome.



FAIRFORD ART SOCIETY

Thursday, 7th September, 7.30pm at Fairford Community Centre

Sallie Seymour writes: We resume our meetings this month with a **demonstration** by Kevin Skully, using mixed media. Members £2, visitors £5. There will be a follow-up **workshop** on Sunday, 29th October. The **get-together** painting sessions return on Thursday, 28th September from 1.30pm at the centre. If you've always fancied having a go, but don't know where to begin, join us for a cup of tea and chat, and see what we get up to. 01367 850385.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL NEWS



No coffee morning this month, due to Quenington Fete

The hall has been closed during August for the kitchen refurbishment. The work will provide the hall with a modern hygienic kitchen for the benefit of all hall users for many years to come.

The budget expenditure of £30,000 will be covered by the hall's financial reserves. However, financial contributions / donations to help towards these costs would be most welcome. You can donate by BACS payment to Quenington Village Hall, Sort Code 30-92-06, Account No. 01209610, reference 'Kitchen'.

The AGM will be held on Thursday, 5th October at 7pm

Once more, the committee is looking for new committee members, so if you have some time to spare, and useful skills such as administrative, organisational, fundraising, a sense of fun... email queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com and arrange to speak to a committee member to find out more.

Coffee morning and Apple Day – Saturday, 21st October

There will be refreshments and stalls from 10.30am until 1pm, apple pressing from 10.30am, with the last pressing at 3pm. It will be an opportunity for the committee to showcase the new kitchen, and it is hoped to have craft stalls as in previous years.



The Seed and Plant Swap table is a free service – part of Apple Day - enabling people to bring and take away seeds saved from garden plants or even unused packets of seeds. This year we will also offer people the chance to bring and exchange spare plants. Please remember to collect your seeds for the Seed Swap: packets need to be clearly marked with the name and collection date. You could also add any other useful growing tips. Some

easy vegetables include beans, peas, tomatoes and spinach. Remember: dry the seeds completely on the plants for most seeds, reduce cross-pollination by only growing one variety of each species and isolate by distance - no hybrids, please! Only save seeds from the healthiest 'true-to-type' plants. There is more information on the village hall website.

Air in G (Arts in Rural Gloucestershire) – Saturday, 23rd March 2024

Looking well ahead – save the date for 'The Church Fitters'! More details will be available in the coming months.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL - 100 CLUB - AUGUST PRIZES

1st prize £15: No. 48 Mike Stranks

2nd prize £10: No.28 Cindy Goddard

NORTH COTSWOLD STEAM & VINTAGE SHOW

9th & 10th September at Notgrove GL54 3BS

This traditional country steam show originally started as a steam rally in the 1950s and ran as the Northleach Steam and Stationary Engine Show from the 1970s to 2000. After a break of 13 years, the show was successfully revived by Steve Freemantle in 2013 as the Northleach Steam and Vintage Show. During the break due to Covid, Steve retired as organiser, but the existing members of the committee decided to continue. Last year, the show was restarted but due to logistical issues, the show was moved to a new location in Notgrove. The new name reflects this new location. The organisers say, “We may not be the biggest steam show, but we’ve certainly got tradition - and a relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere in an idyllic Cotswold setting - going for us, with a good selection of attractions to see!”

QUENINGTON FETE

Saturday, 9th September from 2 – 5pm, Quenington House garden, Mawley Road

Quenington will soon be celebrating its first village fete since 2019, in a new venue! All are invited to come and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon for the benefit of St Swithin’s Church and other local community groups.



Please deliver **bottles for the tombola, vintage items and plants** to Quenington House, Mawley Road - call Marc on 07971 587623 to arrange a drop off time.

If you’re a baker, please bring cakes, biscuits and other baked goods on the day or call Barbara on 01285 750563 to arrange a collection.

If you have books in good condition to donate, contact Fiona & Dave to arrange collection, or bring books to 5 Carey Cottages, Mawley Road, Quenington. 01285 750466 or books@quenington.org.uk

For more information, or to offer any help, contact Annabelle Barton 07855 178382. Many thanks!





QUENINGTON

FETE

9TH SEPTEMBER 2PM-5PM

Raffle



**Bring
cash**

Tombola Plants

Crafts Food Drinks

Books Stories

Ernest Cook Trust nature fun

Forest School Field Maze

Vintage



**Come and join us
at**

**Quenington House
Mawley Road**

Kindly sponsored by :

xylem
Let's Solve Water

**Knight
Frank**

REPAIR CAFÉS

Saturday, 9th September

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 Pavilion Hall
Oak Street, GL7 3AY
19th June, 8th July, 12th August, 9th September,
14th October, 11th November 2023
Our volunteer repairers will try to repair your
portable household appliances & items,
Kettles, toasters, handdryers, vacuum cleaners,
TV's, radios, laptops, PC's,
Sewing machine repairs, Toys to bicycles.
We will give it a go.
If you would like to volunteer please contact us
on the number below, or email.
Your generous donations help keep us running.
For further information:
email: lechlade.repaircafe@gmail.com
or call: 07554 229523

CIRENCESTER
REPAIR
CAFÉ
We can try to mend toys, clothes, small
electricals, household items and bikes
9TH SEPT, 14TH OCT, 11TH NOV,
9TH DEC, 10AM - 1:30PM
CIRENCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH,
CHESTERTON LANE, CIRENCESTER,
GL7 1YE
0752 667 6822 or facebook.com/cirencesterrepaircafe
for further information
friends of the earth
see things differently

Lechlade:

Lechlade Pavilion Hall
Oak Street
9.30am – 12.30pm

also

Cirencester:

Cirencester Baptist Church
Chesterton Lane
10am – 1.30pm



RIDE + STRIDE

for Churches

Saturday, 9th September

Discover and support our Historic Churches and visit beautiful local churches and chapels by bike, foot, or whatever takes your fancy. All sponsorship money raised will be shared between the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and your chosen church or chapel and used for their repair and maintenance.

To find out more, including which churches in the area are open, go to the Ride + Stride website. Donations can be made through www.justgiving.com but cash or cheques are also gratefully received! Sponsorships forms should be able to be downloaded from the Ride + Stride website. The CHQ churches will be open, as usual, and refreshments will be available at some of them. Please get in touch if you would like to sponsor someone, or join in with Ride + Stride yourself:

Quenington Anthea anthea.palmer@gmail.com
Coln St Aldwyns David d.hicksbeach@btinternet.com
Hatherop Brian briansay@gmail.com

LIVE STAND UP COMEDY NIGHT

Friday, 22nd September, Southrop Village Hall, 7pm for 8pm

As part of the fundraising events for next year, Southrop School PTA are holding a Live Comedy Night featuring three up-and-coming comedians, and a great compere to host the evening. Tickets are £10. There will be a full bar, with snacks available. See poster for further information.



Southrop School PTA
Registered Charity Number: 104925



LIVE STAND UP COMEDY

FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

ROGER MONKHOUSE



Witty wordplay, glorious use of language and killer punchlines

SCOTT BENNETT



As seen on LIVE AT THE APOLLO!
Supported Michael McIntyre
and Rob Brydon on tour!

JESSIE NIXON



Dynamic and erudite jokes with the confidence of a drunk girl in a Wetherspoons toilet!

COMPERE



JAMES COOK



TICKETS £10 IN ADVANCE

SOUTHROP VILLAGE HALL

Doors Open at 7 pm

Show starts at 8pm

To book please email

PTA@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk

Please note line-ups may be subject to change. Our comedians are in high demand and may sometimes have to cancel at short notice for TV or radio recordings etc. Replacements will always be of a similar standard. Most people come to our shows for a strong overall show, but if you are travelling specifically to see a particular act, please check website on day of show or join our mailing list.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS



Southrop Church of England Primary School

Together we can fly

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

Facebook page [Southrop C of E Primary School](https://www.facebook.com/SouthropCofEPrimarySchool)

The summer has flown by and though it is sad to see the end of the holidays, it is always great to be back together in school, looking forward to an exciting and busy year. We will soon be getting back to Cricklade pool for swimming, Macaroni Woods for Forest School, and up to the field for our PE lessons and after-school sports clubs. We are continuing our free breakfast club - pupils can arrive at school from 8am, for a piece of toast, and time to play with friends in the playground - or have some quiet indoor activities if the weather is bad. Our Year 6s also organise a Morning Move It, getting some funky music going, encouraging the children to run laps of the court and recording their totals. Once they have completed 40 laps they have achieved a mile!



The Cygnets are learning about the Celts this term, while the Swans will be considering the impact of the Vikings on Britain. We love to immerse ourselves in our topics and enrich the children's learning with visits and visitors. Last year each of our children took part in an average of 13 educational visits.

We will be holding our Harvest Celebration in St Peter's Church on Monday, 18th September at 9am and invite any members of the community who can to join us.

If you have a child who will be starting in Reception in **September 2024** please come along to one of our open morning sessions to find out more about our nurturing and aspirational small school. There are also some spaces in other year groups. Our average class size is 18. All sessions are on Wednesdays, from 9.30 – 11am:

- October 4th & 18th
- November 1st & 15th
- December 6th
- January 10th

Call or email to reserve an appointment: admin@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk or 01367 850246. You can find lots of additional information and slideshows about the school on our website <http://www.southrop.gloucs.sch.uk/> and Facebook page.

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: Miranda Lawson

Locum Clerk: Vanessa Lawrence 07876 252398

miranda@eastleachparishcouncil.org

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 ETC.

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 |
| Monday, 28th August Bank Holiday | 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 - 11.30am – check out Facebook for updated information.

DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS (ALWAYS RING 999 FIRST)

Coln – in stone telephone box opposite Coln Stores; **Hatherop** – shelter by school T-junction; **Eastleach** – outside back door of Victoria Inn; **Quenington** – outside front of village hall; **Southrop** – in covered area at back of village hall.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The CHEQS representative: Marion Crawford mazcrawford@hotmail.com

CHEQS DIARY 2023

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--|------|
| Sat 2 nd Sept | 12.30 – 4pm | Coln Village Fete | p2&3 |
| Sun 3 rd Sept | 8.30 – 11.30am | Quenington Car Boot Sale, village green | p4 |
| Sun 3 rd Sept | 8.30 – 11.30am | Quenington Craft Fair, Quenington Village Hall | p4 |
| Sun 3 rd Sept | 4 – 5.30pm | Messy Church, Quenington Village Hall | p4 |
| Thurs 7 th Sept | 3pm | Eastleach & Southrop Friendship Circle | p4 |
| Sat 9 th Sept | 2 – 5pm | Quenington Fete, Quenington House, Mawley Rd | p6&7 |
| Sat 9 th Sept | all day | Ride + Stride | p8 |
| Sat 22 nd Sept | 7 for 8pm | Live Stand-Up Comedy, Southrop Village Hall | p8&9 |
| Sat 30 th Sept | From 5pm | Southrop Bar, Supper & Barn Dance | p18 |
| Thurs 5 th Oct | 7pm | Quenington Village Hall AGM | p5 |
| Fri 6 th Oct | 7 for 7.30pm | Coln Cinema, Vicarage Cottage Barn, Coln | p22 |

CHURCH SERVICES – ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME

CHEQS CHURCHES:



Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 3 rd Sept | 10.30am | Holy Communion | St Swithin's, Quenington |
| | 4pm | Messy Church | Quenington Village Hall |
| 10 th Sept | 10.30am | Holy Communion | St John the Baptist, Coln |
| 17 th Sept | 10.30am | Holy Communion | St Swithin's, Quenington |
| 24 th Sept | 10.30 am | Holy Communion | St John the Baptist, Coln |
| | 6pm | Evensong BCP | St Swithin's, Quenington |

St Andrew's Church, Eastleach

| | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------------------------------------|
| 3 rd Sept | 11am | Matins with Gordon Land |
| 10 th Sept | 11am | Holy Communion with Gareth Griffith |
| 17 th Sept | 11am | Matins with Andrew Cinnamon |
| 24 th Sept | 11am | Harvest Festival with Gordon Land |



St Peter's Church, Southrop

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| 3 rd Sept | 9.30am | Morning Prayer |
| 10 th Sept | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| 17 th Sept | 9.30am | Morning Prayer |
| 24 th Sept | 6pm | Harvest Festival Evensong |

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@hibbertralph.com

C of E SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

CHQ Edwina Hicks 07970 799270 chqsafeguarding@gmail.com
Eastleach Lesley Uzzell Parish Office 01367 358653 or email
 Safeguarding@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk
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@cliffondiocese.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

CHEQS Defibrillators see middle pages for locations - for use by anyone in emergency, but ALWAYS RING 999 FIRST!

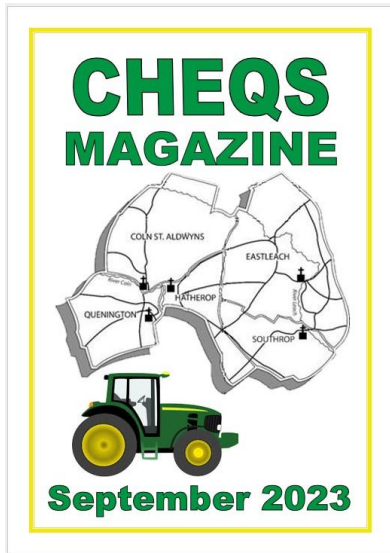
PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW IF THE TIMETABLE NEEDS UPDATING (updated April 2021)

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 Shopper Bus book in advance on 03456 805029 for the door-to-door service on Thursdays to Cirencester; free with a bus pass or £10 return.

CHEQS MAGAZINE

Margaret Stranks, editor, writes: During the year, the small CHEQS Magazine Support Group has become smaller still. The group was set up in 2020 (yes, just before Covid hit!), when the magazine changed from being a church parish magazine to being a community magazine. The main purpose was to provide support and encouragement to the editor, and to be a system of checks and balances, to ensure that the magazine was being well-run. It used to consist of a representative from each of the villages, with the idea that they could pass on comments from their communities. However, that didn't really work – and people in the villages seem quite happy to pass on comments to the editor directly. The 'group' now consists of two people (one from Coln St Aldwyns, and one from Southrop) plus the editor, so that it can be lean and efficient! I am very grateful to them both – not least because Nick Brett (Coln) has now taken on responsibility for finding people for the Hello From... feature, and Jan Roberts (Southrop) has become the new magazine distribution organiser. This has helped to lighten my load, and enables me to focus my limited time on the main job of editing the magazine.



I would also like to thank the various village distribution coordinators, and the many people who so faithfully deliver the magazines each month. Although a full colour copy is available online, people (including myself!) do seem to like to have a paper copy.

The staff at our printer's – Busy Fingers, in Cirencester – also deserve praise for their excellent communication, friendliness, and flexibility. It was they who suggested that the number of pages could be varied month by month, to match the amount of content, within certain parameters. The magazine can now go from 16 content pages, up to a maximum of 28. After that, it becomes a bit too bulky... and expensive. We rely on the advertising in the magazine to cover the expenses – which, thanks

to all our wonderful volunteers, are made up exclusively of the printing costs.

Finally, as this is a community magazine, I always welcome suggestions and offers of articles, so do get in touch if you have ideas – someone (not the owner!) suggested the feature about the sweet shop. There are some ideas or suggestions which I'd love to write about, but don't have time to research, such as a series on 'wild plants to look out for this month' or about some of our interesting old buildings in the villages. If this is something you would like to help with, and have the specific knowledge such as botany, architecture and local history, do get in touch: cheqsmagazine@gmail.com

BURFORD SINGERS 'COME AND SING' DAY

Saturday, 16th September, Burford School Main Hall, Burford OX18 4PL



A Singing Day with choir conductor, Brian Kay, and piano accompaniment by Robin Baggs. Music will include choruses from Carmina Burana, the famous cantata by Carl Orff. All are welcome – to participate, or to listen to the informal performance in the afternoon.

Doors open at 9.30am, and the workshop starts at 10.30am. Informal performance 4.30pm, and the workshop finishes at about 5.30pm. Light refreshments provided, but please bring a packed lunch.

Adults £20, students £10 (including score hire). Audience free!

Online booking at <https://www.burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/>

Details on our website <https://www.burfordsingers.org.uk/events/>



'BABY AND ME' GROUP STARTING SOON

If you know someone with a new baby, aged up to six months, our free postnatal group, 'Baby and Me', returns to Fairford in October! Run by family support charity, Home-Start Cotswolds, the group is a great opportunity to build your confidence as a parent, share experiences and learn more about your baby's development. Each week we cover a different topic (such as feeding, play and communication, baby massage and sleep), in a friendly and supportive environment.

Being a new parent can be extremely challenging and we have had lots of positive feedback from our previous groups. One young mum told us that by talking to other parents at Baby and Me, she realized the loneliness and anxiety she felt was very common. Another mum said: 'The Baby and Me classes were a highlight of our week. They provided a safe space to discuss queries about looking after my baby or just to get some moral support and share experiences with other new parents. The play and music session really inspired me and helped me grow in confidence when playing with my baby.'

Baby and Me will be held weekly at **Fairford Community Centre GL7 4AF** from 11.00am – 12.30pm, **starting Tuesday 17th October** for 8 weeks (not 31st Oct). To reserve your place, please email groups@home-start-cotswolds.org.uk or call us on 01285 885391 and we look forward to hearing from you.





NEWS FROM THE ERNEST COOK TRUST

Blacksmithing course helps students forge outdoor careers

A blacksmithing course - organised jointly by UK educational charity The Ernest Cook Trust, and Fresh Air Sculpture, which runs the biennial sculpture show in Quenington – saw some fantastic work produced by the students involved. The six students on the blacksmithing course are all being supported by The Ernest Cook Trust to work towards employability awards, so they can go on to find employment in practical, outdoor-based roles. Their tutors were all Artist Blacksmithing undergraduates at Hereford College of Arts, and running this course has also contributed to their final degree show. There is a longstanding association between the College and Fresh Air Sculpture. All the equipment – including six portable, coke-fired forges and six anvils – was transported from the College to The Ernest Cook Trust’s Skills Workshop in Fairford, and set up in a purpose-built outside space.



Charlie, left, a student from Hereford College of Arts helps Thomas make a bottle opener

“This is the first time we have ever run this type of course, and everyone was excited to take part,” said Pete Tatham, one of The Ernest Cook Trust’s Outdoor Learning Officers. “Two of our students in particular want to be metalworkers, so this was an ideal opportunity for them.”

The students have been working with Pete in the Trust’s Skills Workshop, using a range of materials to produce everything from picnic benches and birdboxes, to bughouses and shelters, as well as sculptures that double up as habitats. Students’ work is exhibited in Quenington churchyard during the sculpture show, as part of the Trust’s ongoing association with Fresh Air Sculpture.

Curator of Education at Fresh Air Sculpture, Emily Bird, said the course was a great example of a three-way collaboration between The Ernest Cook Trust, the College, and Fresh Air Sculpture, which also runs outreach education programmes. She said: “At Fresh Air Sculpture, we are passionate about preserving rural crafts such as forging. We are committed to supporting the arts and giving everybody the opportunity to access this programme, particularly those students who struggle with mainstream education. To provide them with an opportunity to succeed in the arts is an important and precious one.”

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 partner estates across the country. It also gives out some £2m in grants every year, to support Outdoor Learning activities. For more information, visit <https://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/>.

LECHLADE HISTORY SOCIETY

Monday, 18th September, 7 for 7.30pm, Lechlade Memorial Hall

Tea or coffee before the meeting. The autumn season begins with a talk by Peter Covey-Crump, entitled '1807: Journal of a Walk from London to Edinburgh'. Thomas Kingsley was born in Surrey Place in the Kent Road, London in 1787. At the age of twenty, he walked from London to Edinburgh in two weeks, keeping a journal in which he described the people whom he met on the road and in the pubs, what they talked about, what he ate, and what the beds were like.

Annual membership £8, plus £2 per meeting, guests £4 per meeting.

FAIRFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday, 21st September at 7.30pm, Fairford Community Centre

Edwin Cuss will give a talk entitled 'Along the River Coln through Fairford'. All are welcome – annual membership fee £5.

FFF&B PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIP & COUNTRY SHOW

Saturday, 30th September, Black Bourton Road, Bampton OX18 2PE



This year it is the 75th anniversary of the Fairford, Faringdon, Filkins and Burford Ploughing Championship and Country Show, so do go along and support this wonderful

event. It feels like one of the highlights of the year for local farmers who are able to get there – so much to talk about, see and catch up with. There will be ploughs pulled by horses, old tractors, and modern tractors, plus a whole lot more: a wonderful countryside day out for everyone! Gates are open from 8am – 5pm.



Tickets should be pre-booked on the website: <http://www.ploughingmatch.co.uk/>

SOUTHROP VILLAGE BARN DANCE

Saturday, 30th September, Southrop Village Hall

The Lechlade Ceilidh Band and caller will guide you through the dances. Bar opens 5pm, supper at 5.30pm, dancing from 7.30pm. Children welcome.

Tickets, including supper: £14 adults, £6 children (under 5s free). Buy in advance from Southrop Village Hall Community Shop (Wednesday mornings), or email: southropvillagehall@gmail.com

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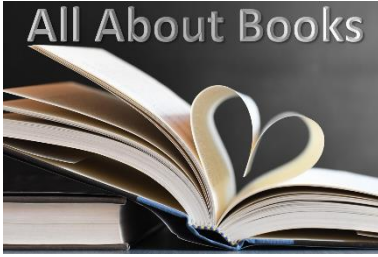
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THE TALE OF A TALL AND TALENTED MODERN-DAY WOMAN



Story & photo from Chris Roberts MBE: A new auto-fiction book is out and can be found on Amazon and in bookshops across the UK. The characters of this book are fictional, but the poignant story is based on the author's autobiographical reflections of her lifetime struggles with her own body image.

Angelina Pelova is just over 6'5" tall and has battled throughout her life with: other people's perception of her; her ability to shop for clothes that will fit her tall frame; dating the right size men; fighting off the attention of males who have a weird fetish about tall women; explaining to sports coaches that she is hopeless at sports despite her size; and coming to terms with her own body. She says that her book is not just about tall women, but that it could help women who are short, fat, thin or have any other feature that is not regarded as the norm.

Angelina, originally from Bulgaria, but now living in Fairford, has called her book *A Tall Woman of Many Talents*. In it, she explains how over the years she has developed her self-esteem and confidence, and she hopes that her story might be an inspiration to other women who feel depressed about how they look. "This is probably the first novel to address tall people's issues and insecurities, and their struggles to fit into a world built around the needs of much shorter people," explains Angelina.

Written with a good sense of humour, the book has been likened to the Bridget Jones for tall people, and touches on many modern-day issues such as body image, the role of social media, immigration, discrimination in society and the workplace, romance and controlling relationships.

In real life, Angelina has been a blogger for nine years. *Not Another Tall Blog* focuses on tall people's issues and offers advice and information on wellbeing, body image strategies, parenting and fashion. She says: "Unless you have experienced being ridiculed for the way you look, or ignored because people are embarrassed by you, you can't possibly imagine how difficult it is to be accepted."

This novel, Angelina's first, was written after gaining confidence from having several of her short stories published. Knowing that her work was read and appreciated by other people gave her the spur to keep writing. When she's not writing, Angelina works at a Wiltshire holistic health clinic, as she is also a qualified Reiki therapist and practitioner.



NEW SWEET SHOP IN FAIRFORD



Sweet As Can Bee has been open since 8th July, and can be found just along the road from Budgens (as Londis is now known).

Bee Brimfield has become one of Fairford's newest entrepreneurs, and is putting her heart into her business. Living in the town herself, she wanted to provide a shop which would serve all the people of Fairford and the surrounding area... and a sweet shop

seemed just the thing. People across the age ranges have a sweet tooth - and for those who need to avoid too much sugar, there are sugar-free options on offer.

If you can remember going to the sweet shop as a child and choosing your favourites from a big jar with a twist-off lid, or selecting a few different sweets to put in a bag, you can re-live the memories and indulge in the sweets of your dreams – or take your children and grandchildren so that they can enjoy the experience too.



Not only is Bee a newly-fledged shopkeeper, but she is also a crafter, and has been able to provide space to a limited number of other local people who make high-quality crafted goods. There are many beautiful items on offer



which would make suitable gifts for a range of ages and people.

The shop also sells local honey, from Whelford, and milkshakes and whippy ice creams, with dairy-free options.

You can find put more details on the 'Sweet As Can Bee' page on Facebook, or pop along to the shop to check it out for yourself.



COLN CINEMA

Coln Cinema's new season starts on 6th October

One of the big hits of last year, Steven Spielberg's *The Fabelmans* (cert 12A, 2hr 31min), launches Coln Cinema's 2023-24 season on **Friday, 6th October**. This loving and funny semi-autobiographical coming-of age movie won a slew of awards. Once again, Nigel Hugh-Smith and Angie Bray are kindly offering their home cinema in Vicarage Barn, Coln St Aldwyns, as our venue; the entrance is through the churchyard (bring a torch) and doors and the bar open at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. There's no need to book a ticket in advance but we ask for a £5 per person donation on the door. All profits go towards supporting our village church and our last season raised an incredible £1,699!

Our November screening (**Friday 3 November**) is a little British gem, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, starring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton. Coln Cinema runs until the end of April next year and we would welcome your suggestions of films to show - we've been thinking of interspersing our usual choice of newish films with some movie classics – please email me with your thoughts: nrjbrett@gmail.com

HATHEROP TRAVELLING SUPPER

Saturday, 11th November



£10 per head to include food and drinks! An early notice, as planning needs to be done – hosts and party-goers are needed to ensure that a wonderfully sociable evening is had by all. Please contact: tristanw68@icloud.com for more information.



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Join us on **Saturday, 7th October 7pm** for a Fundraising restaurant night at the Trout Inn, Lechlade. £26 for a main and desert, drinks not included. To book, or for the menu choices, call 07540 798 226 (Transport line) or 01367 252706 (Ruth), or email transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk

Our next Quiz and Chilli Night will be **on Friday, 20th October (doors 7pm, quiz starts 7:30pm)**, £10 per head, includes meal. Tables of 6 – 8. Please book by email to admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk.

STAFF VACANCY: ADMINISTRATOR

We are hiring for an Administrator. This is a paid role, 5-7 hours a week. For more information, please see the details on our website or get in touch with Kerry on admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk. Application deadline 1st October.

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES: TRUSTEES

Can you help us in the governance of the charity? We are seeking new Trustees to take on the Chair and Vice Chair roles, and for Trustees to take responsibility for various Subcommittees. For more information or to discuss, please contact Shelley on chair@friendsoffairford.org.uk

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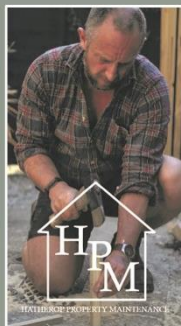
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