



CHEQS MAGAZINE



January 2024

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*Hello from...
Sally & Mike
Harris*



We are from the Sinton and Harris families, and we've both lived in the CHEQS community for most of our lives. Mike was born at Coneygar Farm, grew up at Dean Farm, and went to school in Quenington. I grew up, with my sister Marie, in Coln Stores, which was run by my mum, Jean, helped by my Dad "Bob the Shop". Marie now lives in Brunei with her young family. Mike's mum was also born in Coln and later moved to Quenington. We were set up on a blind date by our mutual friends in The Keepers and were married at Coln Church on 17th June 2006. We now live on Fowlers Hill, in Quenington. We currently have five dogs ourselves, and we bred several more that also live in the local villages.

We have many memories of growing up in the villages. Mike played football for CHQ on the pitch at the back of Hatherop, and played darts for The Keepers against Phil "The Power" Taylor. Crinkley Bottom came to Coln Stores when Noel Edmonds filmed his *House Party*, with many still-famous celebrities in the shop... and my dog, Gyp, made the credits!

Over the years we've seen many memorable events, including the landing of the first space shuttle at RAF Fairford (Mike bunked off school to see it) and have been involved in many community activities. In 1989, I was one of 70 villagers who met under the chestnut tree outside the shop (where there is now a memorial bench to my mum), resulting in the formation of the Coln St Aldwyns Society that went on to raise £100,000 and saved the New Inn from being developed into residential properties. We also remember the Cotswold Games, a three-village challenge in the Glebe field in the middle of Coln.

I'm a keen baker, and the proudest moment of my village life was winning two firsts and two seconds at Coln village fete, for brownies, lemon drizzle cake, etc.

Mike builds dry stone walls, and has put up various walls around the villages and, until recently, mowed many lawns and verges in the local area.

We both love living in this community, and have enjoyed so many activities surrounded by our family and friends over the years.

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

EASTLEACH & SOUTHPROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Thursday, 4th January at 3pm, Eastleach Village Hall



This month's meeting will be a fun bingo session. For further information, please contact Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 or Caroline Simmons 01367 850171.

Annual membership £5, plus £2 per meeting – new members (or drivers!) from any of the CHEQS villages are always welcome.

CHQ MESSY CHURCH

Sunday, 7th January, 4 – 5.30pm, Quenington Village Hall



Messy Church is an opportunity for everyone, but especially families with younger children, to get together to worship, learn, and take part in activities – as well as sharing a simple hot meal together. For more information about Messy Church, contact Heather: heatherwalker39@hotmail.co.uk

PRAYER & PRAISE

Sunday, 7th January, 6 – 7pm, St Mary's Church, Fairford

Contemporary Christian songs, prayer and teaching. Everyone is welcome from Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages. Contact carolinesymcox@googlemail.com for more information.

FAIRFORD ART SOCIETY

**Tuesday, 9th & Thursday, 25th January, Farmor Room,
Fairford Community Centre, 1.30pm to 4pm**

The get-together sessions will take place as above. Visitors are welcome, at £4 per session, so join us for a cup of tea and see what we get up to.

There will be **no demonstration** in January

In February and March, the regular monthly demonstration meeting will be in the afternoons.

For more information, contact Sallie Seymour 01367 850385.



QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL - 100 CLUB - DECEMBER PRIZES

Christmas Draw:

- 1st prize £75: No. 16 Anne Goddard
- 2nd prize £50: No. 3 Joan Sewell
- 3rd prize £30: No. 63 Jackie Cullum
- 4th prize £15: No.7 Mike Harris

The 100 Club is a lottery to raise funds for the hall. The subscription is £12 per year and is drawn monthly. This year, the 1st prize winner each month will receive £20, and the 2nd prize winner £10. Winners are announced in the CHEQS Magazine.

To join, or renew your membership, you can ask any of the committee members at one of our coffee mornings or contact us by email queningtonvillagehall@gmail.com For bank transfer by BACS, or for cheques, the details are:

account name: Quenington Village Hall

sort code: 30-92-06

account: 01209610

Please include your name and reference “100 Club”.

Subscribe now so as not to miss your chance of being entered into the January draw.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 13th January from 10.30 to 11.45am



Following the refurbishment of the kitchen, the coffee mornings will once again be charging for refreshments, in order to restore funds for the continued running of the hall. Do come along and enjoy meeting with friends and neighbours over a hot drink and some home-made cake, and support the village hall at the same time.

REPAIR CAFÉS

Saturday, 13th January

Lechlade: Lechlade Pavilion Hall, Oak Street

9.30am – 12.30pm

Cirencester: Cirencester Baptist Church

10am – 1.30pm



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NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

HATHEROP CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Caring, Believing, Achieving

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



In December, Skylark class showcased some excellent acting, sensational singing, and brilliant reading, getting us all in the mood for Christmas with their Nativity - A Very Special Baby! It was impressive to see how the children remembered all their words and acted out their parts perfectly; some of them performing for the first time. We were very proud of them.

Also last month, the pupils were treated to a virtual author visit from Katherine Rundell. As the author of the popular children's books *The Explorer* and *Roftoppers*, she described how she has been inspired to write stories from her own life experiences and gave us a sneak preview of the characters appearing in her amazing new novel *Impossible Creatures*. The children found the session inspiring and have already begun designing new fantastical creatures for their own pieces of creative writing.



SOUTHROP CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Together we can fly

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

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

As always, the end of Term 2 was an exciting time, with Christmas craft afternoons, parties, carol singing round the village, and this year a performance of the nativity which was spoken, sung and signed beautifully by the Cygnets. Term ended with a Christmas carol service in St Peter's Church, and shortly afterwards the posadas, sets of figures from the nativity story, made their way to the church on Christmas Eve, thanks to two of our families.

Our New Year and new term starts with a whole school trip to the pantomime *Cinderella* at Chipping Norton Theatre, which is always great fun.

This term, our theme is Respect, which is one of our key school values. In the Swan class our topic is Caring for Our Planet. In Cygnets the topic is 'Famous for Five Minutes', looking at famous figures through time.

We are delighted to have been successful in an application to become an **Enthuse Partnership** along with Fairford, Bibury, North Cerney, Down Ampney and Ann Edwards Primary Schools. Over two years, the schools will work collaboratively to inspire pupils to engage with Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects and STEM-related careers.

The partnerships have significant benefits for teachers, young people, and employers, transforming both the educational culture around STEM in schools and the pupils' achievement and aspirations. The schools receive funding support and access to continued professional development, leading educational resources and STEM Ambassadors - volunteers from industry who share their background and knowledge to inspire young people in STEM subjects.



Our first STEM visitor this year was local engineer Matthew Dawson, who told the children about his work and gave them some advice before they started their engineering challenge to create a bridge on Design & Technology day. The thing they really picked up on was “remember the triangles”! We are grateful to Matthew for taking time to come in. Armed with his advice, the children created some amazing structures.

If you have a child who will be starting in Reception in **September 2024** please come along to our last Open Morning, 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. The Open Morning is on Wednesday, 10th January from 9.30 – 11am. Call or email to make an appointment: admin@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk or 01367 850246.

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

hatheropparishcouncil@gmail.com

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 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 01367 850393 or Caroline 01367 850171

Quenington Baby & Toddler Group (CHEQS+) Term time Mondays – book weekly, in the preceding week margaret.stranks@gmail.com 07729 129578 (WhatsApp preferred)

Rainbows (age 4-7), Brownies (age 7-10) and volunteer leaders/helpers

Philippa Griffin: east@girlguidingglos.org.uk

Guides (age 10-15) and volunteer leaders/helpers

Chris Sheldon 01285 750270

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
BANK HOLIDAY OPENING:			
New Year's Day, 1 st Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	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 2024

Thurs 4 th Jan	3pm	Friendship Circle, Eastleach Village Hall	p2
Sun 7 th Jan	4pm	Messy Church, Quenington Village Hall	p2
Sun 7 th Jan	6pm	Prayer & Praise, St Mary's Church, Fairford	p2
Tues 9 th Jan	1.30pm	Fairford Art Society, Fairford Community Centre	p2
Sat 13 th Jan	10.30am	Coffee Morning, Quenington Village Hall	p3
Sat 13 th Jan		Repair Cafés	p3
Mon 15 th Jan	7 for 7.30pm	Lechlade History Society, Memorial Hall	p11
Thurs 18 th Jan	2pm	Fairford History Society, Fairford Community Centre	p11
Fri 19 th Jan	7pm	Southrop Drama Group, Southrop Village Hall	p14
Sat 20 th Jan	5.30 for 6pm	Fundraising lecture, Buscot Park Theatre	p16
Tues 23 rd Jan	11am	Baby & Me, Fairford Community Centre	p15
Thurs 25 th Jan	1.30pm	Fairford Art Society, Fairford Community Centre	p2
Thurs 25 th Jan	6.30 for 7pm	Coln Cinema - Oppenheimer	p13

CHURCH SERVICES – ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME

CHEQS CHURCHES:



Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

7 th Jan	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
	4pm	Messy Church	Quenington Village Hall
14 th Jan	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln
21 st Jan	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
28 th Jan	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Nicholas, Hatherop
	6pm	Evensong	St John the Baptist, Coln

St Andrew's Church, Eastleach

7 th Jan	11am	Matins
14 th Jan	11am	Holy Communion
21 st Jan	11am	Matins
28 th Jan	11am	Matins

All services led by Gordon Land this month



St Peter's Church, Southrop

7 th Jan	9.30am	Holy Communion
14 th Jan	9.30am	Morning Prayer
21 st Jan	9.30am	Morning Prayer
28 th Jan	6pm	Evensong for Candlemas

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

FAIRFORD & LECHLADE CHURCHES:

RC Church of St Thomas of Canterbury, Horcott Road, Fairford

St Mary's Church High Street, Fairford

Fairford United Church Milton Street, Fairford

Fairford Community Church

St Lawrence Church Market Place, Lechlade

Lechlade Baptist Church, Sherborne Street, Lechlade

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
 Edward Arkell 07967 630 455 edwardarkell@yahoo.co.uk
Southrop Jerry Hibbert 07766 084051 jerry@hibbertralph.com

C of E SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

CHQ Edwina Hicks 07970 799270 chqsafeguarding@gmail.com
Eastleach Lesley Uzzell 01367 358653 Safeguarding@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk
Southrop Lesley Uzzell as above - Parish Office

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 Rachel Emmerson (secretary) 01451 844532

LECHLADE BAPTIST CHURCH

David Hopkins (secretary) 01285 711551

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

WORKING for WELLBEING 07555 738138 contact the coordinator for groups, info & help

POLICE non-emergency: phone 101 or email 101@gloucestershire.police.uk

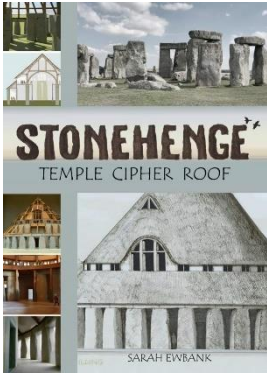
CHEQS Defibrillators see middle pages for locations - but ALWAYS RING 999 FIRST!

Bus Service 76 (updated 2021) Mon, Tue, Thu: Southrop 09:16, Eastleach 09:24, Hatherop 09:30, Quenington 09:37 to Fairford & Cirencester. Return leaves Ciren 12:40 and Fairford 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.

LECHLADE HISTORY SOCIETY

Monday, 15th January at 7 for 7.30pm, Lechlade Memorial Hall



Rosamund Godden writes: Our first talk of the year will be by Sarah Ewbank, and is titled “Stonehenge Unroofed or Roofed : A New Perspective“. Stonehenge has always been a symbol of mystery and wonder, but what if we are seeing only half the picture?

The author will help us explore and analyse her revolutionary book, *Stonehenge – Temple Cipher Roof*, and we will see if our perception of this iconic site will ever be the same again. Get in touch for more information: 01367 250322 or 07826 124088.

Annual membership £8 plus £2 per meeting (guests £4).

FAIRFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday, 18th January, 2pm at Fairford Community Centre

All are welcome to our afternoon meeting, from 2pm tea, with a Fairford History Society display, and visits to the Archive Room. Annual membership fee £5.

SWING from PARIS

An evening of Parisian-flavoured jazz and Gypsy Swing
Quenington Village Hall, Saturday 24 February 2024
7.30pm – 9.30pm (inc. 20min interval). Doors and bar open 7pm.
Tickets £15.00 from swingfromparis.co.uk

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COLN CINEMA

THURSDAY, 25th January at 6.30 for 7pm,
Vicarage Cottage Barn, Coln St Aldwyns



Nick Brett writes: **Oppenheimer – a movie sensation comes to Coln Cinema!** One of the most critically acclaimed and commercially successful films of last year, and tipped to clean up at the Oscars, is the January screening at Coln Cinema. But please note it's on **Thursday, 25th January** and not our usual monthly Friday slot.

Christopher Nolan's sensational film tells the epic story of Robert Oppenheimer and his team of scientists on the top-secret Manhattan Project. Their work culminates on 16 July 1945 with the world's first nuclear explosion, hastening the end of World War II but starting the Cold War, and changing the course of history forever.

Cillian Murphy stars as Oppenheimer with an incredible who's who of a supporting cast including Florence Pugh, Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, Robert Downey Junior, Casey Affleck, Josh

Hartnett, Remi Malek and Kenneth Branagh.

Our thanks as always to Angie Bray and Nigel Hugh-Smith for letting us use their home cinema in Vicarage Cottage Barn. Entry is via St John the Baptist churchyard, Coln St Aldwyns, but please make sure you bring a torch. We have a few disabled parking spaces, so if you need one then please email me at nrbjrett@gmail.com and we shall try to arrange it.

Why not join us for a drink beforehand? However, as *Oppenheimer* is three hours long, we shall be opening the doors and bar and **6.30pm** and beginning the film at the earlier time of **7pm**.

We ask for a £5 donation per person on the door – there is no booking tickets in advance – and all proceeds go to our local church.

Our monthly screenings then continue on **Friday, 23rd February**, and **Friday, 22nd March** (*new date*) with our season ending on **Friday, 26th April** as the light evenings return.

CAN YOU HELP?



Rev Simon Brignall writes: The three village churches which make up the CHQ parish - Coln, Hatherop and Quenington - have been at the spiritual heart of our communities for 1,000 years. They are nonetheless very expensive to maintain: we need to find upwards of £1,500 a week to keep our three churches open. Most of this amount is our contribution to the Diocese of Gloucester enabling the Church to maintain a presence in every community.

All of these costs are met from the generosity of our parishioners, to whom we are enormously grateful, as we receive no funds from the Church of England. But our financial position has been severely affected by two years of the pandemic, during which we often needed to close the churches, and we now need to restore our finances. We are instigating a fundraising campaign to ensure that our churches can continue to exist in our communities and, to this end, our United Parish Church Council is inviting contributions from our wider community using the 'Parish Giving Scheme'. If you would like a gift form I would be very happy to make a visit and explain how the scheme works and provide you with a form.

If you would like to make a contribution now to help keep our churches open, please contact me at the following email address chqvicar@gmail.com

SOUTHROP DRAMA GROUP

Friday, 19th January, 7pm at Southrop Village Hall

Alec Atchison writes: Everyone who has expressed an interest should already know, but there will be a meeting to get this group off the ground on Friday, 19th January. If you are interested, even if you have not already signed up, please come along or get in touch for more information 01367 850280 alecatch@hotmail.co.uk

Small Home Office Space required for one person mainly, but needs enough space for two people twice a week, in or near Coln St Aldwyns. Would require good internet, light, heat and power. If you can help, please call 07879 607248.

NEW YEAR, NEW BABY?

Tuesdays, 11am-12.30pm, from 23rd January at Fairford Community Centre

Our free, weekly postnatal support group, 'Baby and Me', is back in Fairford in January. The group, which is for parents with babies aged up to 6 months, 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.

A mum who came to a recent Baby and Me group was full of praise: "As someone with social anxiety, leaving the house with my baby is a huge task, so it was great to start doing this more regularly and to know that I'd be arriving at an understanding group. Through the group I've made some connections and have already had coffee mornings that I'd never have had otherwise. It's been a brilliant way to grow a social and support network. Without a doubt the group supports mental health and emotional well-being for new parents and thus ultimately supports our children's outcomes. The first aid course was also really helpful. Thanks so much and please keep running these courses for parents."



To reserve your place: 01285 885391 or groups@home-start-cotswolds.org.uk

START A NEW YEAR WITH A NEW HOBBY OR A NEW SKILL

Chris Robert MBE writes: With the start of a new year, many people make resolutions to realise a personal goal. If this is something that appeals to you, how about planning to start a new hobby or learn more about your local history?



The National Trust's Buscot and Coleshill Estate (Coleshill), which has only recently been fully opened to visitors, is within easy local reach of the CHEQS villages. One of the biggest draws for visitors is the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre, showcasing a number of expert craftspeople who can teach people about the skills that created and restored great houses and estates like Coleshill. You can join courses such as a beginner's or hobbyist's course on blacksmithing, lime plastering, or wood or stone carving. Tom Ball (photo) is one of the Estate's expert craftspeople and a Lead Woodcarving Lecturer at

City and Guilds of London Art School. In November, he won the Heritage Crafts Woodworker of the Year Award 2023, and received his £2,000 prize and trophy at a presentation at St George's College, Windsor Castle.

Coleshill's Old Carpenters Yard features a second-hand bookshop, café and welcome centre. The bookshop offers a wealth of interesting pre-loved books where book lovers can easily spend a whole day browsing round the well-stocked shelves. The newly renovated café has recently been taken over by Blakes Kitchen, well-known for baking their own bread every day. They offer a delicious selection of cakes, savouries, sandwiches and hot food to order.

So, if you want somewhere new to go for coffee, breakfast or lunch, or to visit for an enjoyable family day out, the Buscot and Coleshill Estate may fit the bill, in addition to giving you the opportunity to sign up for a new hobby or skill.

TRANSYLVANIAN BOOK FESTIVAL - FUNDRAISING LECTURE

Saturday, 20th January at 5.30 for 6pm, Buscot Park Theatre

Lucy Abel Smith (who has strong links with Transylvania, in Romania), writes: We are delighted to welcome Professor Martyn Rady to lecture in the beautiful private theatre at Buscot Park, created by the first Lord Faringdon in the 1930s.

Professor Rady will speak, with verve and wit, on 'The Middle Kingdoms and the History of Central Europe' which is the subject of his latest book, *The Middle Kingdoms*. It tells, as never before, the captivating story of 2,000 years of Central Europe's history.

Tickets (including refreshments) cost £20. Advance booking is essential as seating is limited. Pay by BACS to: Reality and Beyond Ltd, Sort Code: 23-14-70; Account Number: 84662677 or send a cheque to Lucy Abel Smith, Quenington Old Rectory, Cirencester GL7 5BN. All proceeds will go to the Transylvanian Book Festival.

COMING UP IN MARCH... THE CHURCHFITTERS

**Saturday, 23rd March at 7 for 7.30pm
Quenington Village Hall**



The Churchfitters is a folk band like no other: a double bass made out of a saucepan, heart-wrenching vocals accompanied by a musical saw or a glass harp, foot-stompingly fast fiddle mixed with infectious funk-rock rhythms, and traditional tunes reinvigorated with mesmerising jazz sax.

Tickets for the Church Fitters are on sale now - from Quenington Village Hall committee members, and also at Coln Community Stores.



Emma Griffiths writes: Is badminton for you?

Have you picked up your racket recently thinking you really should restart playing?

Badminton can help keep you fit, and it's a fun

social activity. It uses almost all the muscles in your body - an hour of playing can burn about 450 calories, and playing regularly can increase muscle tone especially for the arms and back muscles on the side you hold your racket. Exercise increases endorphins, the brain's feel-good neurotransmitters, and has also been found to improve mood and sleep. It can also help to reduce stress and anxiety.

Fairford Badminton Club meets on **Monday evenings from 8-10pm** (excluding bank holidays and school exam times) and we are looking for new members - those who want to play socially (and who have picked up a racket before) or more experienced players. Players must be 14 years or older, and if 14-18 years old, must be accompanied by an adult.

We play at Farmor's Sports Hall at Farmor's school in Fairford and would love to see some new faces. For more information www.fairfordbadmintonclub.co.uk



NEWS FROM THE ERNEST COOK TRUST

Supporting Outdoor Learning – both locally and nationwide

We are very happy to have welcomed our new Chief Executive, Ed Ikin, who joined The Ernest Cook Trust last month. Ed has already been going out and about, getting to know the local area, our wider landholdings and national programmes. Previously, he was Director of Wakehurst, Kew's wild botanic garden in Sussex, where he co-founded Kew's Nature Unlocked programme which researches the multiple benefits of nature. Ed has a background in land management and horticulture, and is a former chair of London Parks & Gardens Trust.



Ed isn't the only new arrival in the area. Our flock of sheep have been moved to Home Farm, Netherton, where they will overwinter before returning to our upland farm at Low Beckside, in Cumbria, for lambing. Low Beckside is a working farm, which is used as a centre for Outdoor Learning, to help young people move into land-based careers.

Following their local engagement event in June last year, Innova are now lodging an application with Cotswold District Council to seek full planning permission for the installation and operation of a solar PV farm and associated infrastructure on the Trust's land off Welsh Way, Fairford. Innova will continue to keep local residents, and parish and town councils directly informed with updates on the project, and you can check their website <https://innova.co.uk/projects/welsh-way-solar-farm-project/>



Learning from the Land

We are inspiring more young people to achieve better life outcomes.



www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk

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VOLUNTEER VACANCIES: TRUSTEES

We are looking for new Trustees to take on the roles of Chair and Vice Chair, and for Trustees to take responsibility for some subcommittees.

For more information, contact Shelley on chair@friendsoffairford.org.uk

NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Our new administrator, Agneta Lindgren, joined us in November. She has lived in Lechlade for 16 years, and has a wealth of administration experience, having worked at a local Foodbank as well for RIAT and as a Careers Advisor. She also volunteers at our Shop in Lechlade. You can contact her at admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

EDNA DAWES LUNCH CLUB



The Lunch Club meets on Wednesdays, providing a hot meal, activities and social interaction for isolated older people. The cost is £10 for the day. Transport can be provided. As the Edna Dawes Lunch Club will also running on Mondays from 15th January, we would appreciate more volunteers. For more information, or to book a place, contact edlc@friendsoffairford.org.uk or 07713 607106.

PATIENT TRANSPORT SERVICE

Our volunteer car service is a lifeline to many. We would welcome more volunteers, please do get in touch if you can assist. Fuel costs are covered. If you think you can help, please contact Val on transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk or 07540 798226.

BEREAVEMENT CAFE

We continue to run our Bereavement Café on the first Friday of every month, for people who have suffered a loss and would like to talk. Our nursing team will be present to welcome you with a hot drink and some refreshments. Please do drop in, between 10am and midday at The Barker Room, Fairford Community Centre. If you have any questions, please call 07938244335 or email admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

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