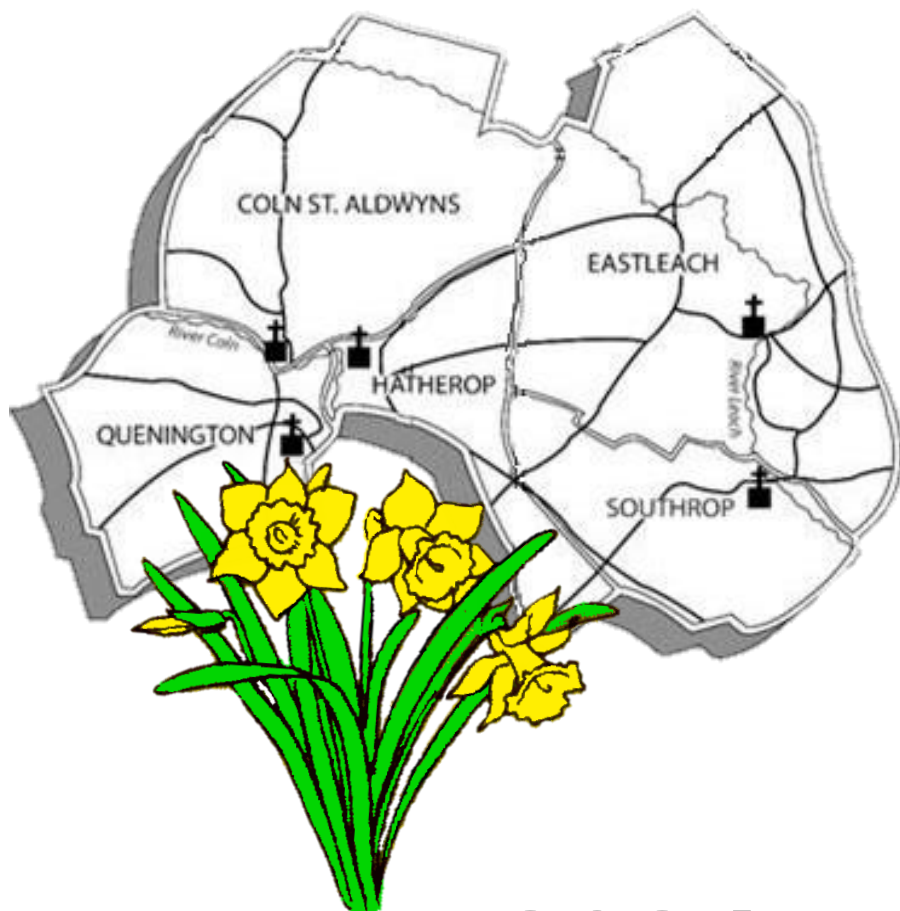


CHEQS MAGAZINE



March 2024

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*Hello (and
goodbye)
from... the
Blunden twins*



Sadly, we're moving on from Quenington, which became our 'home from home' in 2020. We arrived to stay with Joey Casey, who likened us to fairies at the bottom of her garden, and indeed we felt we had walked into a hidden kingdom, an English Shangri-La, inhabited by talented individuals... We arrived for what we thought would be a short stay *en route* to our home in Ireland, but Covid intervened!

We were born in Malta, to Naval parents, but grew up on the family farm in Ireland. Our home was Castle Blunden, in County Kilkenny. Being two of six girls, we now have the gate lodge, with the rest of the estate being left to male heirs.

Our childhood was idyllic, and gave us a good platform for the rest of our lives. Our adventures have been too numerous to mention here, but to give you a taster, we travelled the world for 5 years, together with a boy cousin, on £50 plus what we earned as we went. The Irish Times wrote a piece about us, back in 2019, 'The Blunden sisters: Last of the Great Adventurers' so if you search online, you can read more about our lives. [editor - well worth doing!]



Back to Quenington... Terrified at the start of the pandemic, we walked the fields in lonely splendour, until we were joined by a Hatherop friend who became part of our bubble. We got to know strangers across fences, and met others on the road. The simple act of smiling and waving led to friendships, and resulted in a longer and longer stay as we explored these fabulous ancient villages set in stunning landscapes. What with outdoor church services led by Simon Brignall, Pilates lessons in the garden with Rory, and later on, as Covid rules relaxed, we were ringing church bells and enjoying many dinners with neighbours - life became a whirl. In the end the community got to its feet, and everyone was joining in, be it for a Jubilee event, a Coronation picnic, or even to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

So we want to say thank you - to the wonderful village communities, but especially to Joey, and her fabulous family. We will miss you, as we make our gradual return to Ireland, but we have a host of happy memories to take with us, Caroline & Jane ❤️❤️

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 12th 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

CHQ MESSY CHURCH

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



Messy Church is 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, email heatherwalker39@hotmail.co.uk

PRAYER & PRAISE

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

Contemporary Christian songs, prayer and teaching. Everyone is welcome. Contact carolinesymcox@googlemail.com for more information.

EASTLEACH & SOUTHPROP FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Thursday, 7th March at 3pm, Eastleach Village Hall



This month's meeting will be flower arranging. For further information, please contact Jane Jenkinson 01367 850393 or Caroline Simmons 01367 850171. Annual membership £5, plus £2 per meeting. New members from any of the CHEQS villages are always welcome.

FAIRFORD ART SOCIETY

Thursday, 7th March, 2.30pm - 4.30pm, Fairford Community Centre

Something a little different for this month: Hannah Cantellow will be demonstrating lino cutting and printing, and there will be a follow-up workshop on this one for members.

The get-together painting sessions will be on Tuesday, 12th and Thursday, 28th March at Fairford Community



Centre. Visitors are welcome to all sessions £5 per person. For more information, contact: Sallie Seymour 01367 850385 or fairfordartsociety.weebly.com for full information on the society.

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL - 100 CLUB - FEBRUARY PRIZES

1st prize £20: No. 25 Sandra Lawrence 2nd prize £10: No. 79 Daphne Barham

QUENINGTON VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 9th March from 10.30 to 11.45am

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. All proceeds to the village hall finances, after the kitchen refurbishment.



REPAIR CAFES

Saturday, 9th March

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

Cirencester: Cirencester Baptist Church 10am – 1.30pm

<p style="text-align: center;">WELCOME TO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LECHLADE Repair Café</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Throw It Away? No Way!!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We meet the 2nd Saturday of the month. 9:30 to 12:30pm. Lechlade Pavilion Hall Oak Street. GL7 3AY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11th November. 9th December 2023 13th January. 10th February. 9th March</p> <p>Our volunteer repairers will try to repair your portable household appliances & items. Kettles, toasters, hairdryers, vacuum cleaners. TV's, radios, laptops, PC's. Toys to bicycles. Electric hedge cutters, garden trimmers. Volunteer helpers always welcome. Come and learn a new skill.</p> <p>Your generous donations help keep us running.</p> <p>For further information: email: lechlade.repaircafe@gmail.com facebook: LechladeRepairCafe or call: 07554 230323</p> <p style="font-size: small;">        </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CIRENCESTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REPAIR CAFÉ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We can try to mend toys, clothes, small electricals, household items and bikes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">       </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Usually held on the second Saturday of the month</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CIRENCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH, CHESTERTON LANE, CIRENCESTER GL7 1YE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0752 667 6822 or facebook.com/cirenrepaircafe for further information</p> <p style="text-align: center;">    </p>
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COME AND BAG A BARGAIN AT THE SOUTHROP SCHOOL PTA



SOUTHROP VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 2024

1 - 2.30PM

CLOTHING, BOOKS, TOYS, BRIC A BRAC



Southrop School PTA
Registered Charity Number: 104925

ENTRANCE £1
CASH ONLY



Southrop School PTA
Registered Charity Number: 104925

Donation Times: Wednesday 28th February 9-11.30am
Friday 1st March 1-2.45pm, Saturday 10-11.30am
For more information contact PTA@Southrop.gloucs.sch.uk

TAKEAWAYS IN QUENINGTON

A pizza van (Sole Luna Pizza 3) is now visiting Quenington on alternate Thursdays. Part of a franchised company, this is the third Sole Luna Pizza van, and is run by Tomasz and Monika Kaminski (pictured here). You can order in advance, either via the website, email or by phone/text - or you can just turn up and order, as long as you're prepared to wait! You'll need to quote either **Sole Luna 3** or 'Quenington' when you order. See ad on inside back cover for contact details and dates. This month, the van will be there on Thursdays 14th & 28th from 6 – 8pm. You can only book a few days prior to the van's visit – before that, it won't be visible on the website.



solelunapizza3@gmail.com

The fish & chip van (The Cotswold Chippy) is still very popular, visiting on alternate weeks (Tuesdays 5th & 19th this month). Check their website for more details.

<https://thecotswoldchippy.co.uk/our-routes/>

RAISING FUNDS FOR RESTORING SOUTHROP CHURCH BELLS

SPRING PARTY

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 6.30

SOUTHROP VILLAGE HALL

FUNDRAISER FOR RESTORING THE CHURCH BELLS

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RAFFLE

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start here...*



GOODBYE TO SOUTHROP STALWART, MARGARET DAVEY

Rod Jones wrote Southrop Parish Council's tribute to Margaret, which forms the basis for the following:

The social life of a small rural village is the product of countless activities and events supporting core amenities. These activities require a small army of volunteers working behind the scenes in planning and organising, putting adverts on noticeboards and leaflets through letterboxes, setting up the events – and clearing up afterwards. In Southrop, we have been blessed with a small army – of one: Margaret Davey.



After a career in teaching, Margaret came to Southrop in 1982 from Ashford in Middlesex, along with her husband, Keith, and their two sons, setting a trend in escaping from 'London and the South East' which many of us have followed. Margaret soon threw herself into village life and became involved in running the Community Shop which was set up in response to the closure of the old Post Office and a severe winter which had left many villagers cut off for days from access to basic supplies. Margaret was instrumental in ensuring that soft toilet paper was a core stock line – just in case of emergencies!

Margaret's involvement with village life has been wide-ranging - she has acted as Clerk to the Parish Council, prompt for the Leach Valley Players, and has organised or been involved with countless fetes, harvest suppers, safari suppers, raffles and open gardens – all to raise funds for village amenities.

In 2000 she was involved in many of the community events, hosted meetings of the Millennium Committee in her living room and was a keen promoter of the Millennium pantomime, Cinderella. In 2012, in celebration of the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Margaret organised a raffle for the Jubilee Trust. In recognition of the funds raised by the raffle, Margaret and her husband, Keith, were invited to a Reception at Buckingham Palace hosted by the Queen.

Margaret has been heavily involved with the Church, having been a Churchwarden for many years and she helped create the Garden of Remembrance where the ashes of her husband, Keith, were the first to be buried. She also took on the mantle of village archivist and was instrumental in organising safe, fire-proof storage for the village records which are housed in the village hall.

So, after some 42 years Margaret has decided to leave the village and move to Painswick to be nearer to her children and grandchildren. Margaret, you will be hugely missed. We wish you well in the future.

Margaret herself wanted to include a short message of farewell in the magazine, giving her thanks to all the people she has met and known over the years for their special friendship. She will miss life in Southrop but a new chapter of her life beckons.

LENT LUNCHES IN THE CHQ PARISH

12.30pm on Wednesdays in Lent - the CHQ Lent Group will meet in the Vicarage at 3pm on the same day, to study the Gospel of John.



Weds, 6th March

Upper Mill, Coln

Kate Hicks Beach

Weds, 13th March

Coln Cottage, Quenington

Louise Russell

Weds, 20th March

9 The Stables, Lechlade

Hugh Poole Warren

VILLAGE LITTER PICKING



Coln St Aldwyns

Saturday, 16th March at 9.30am, meet under the chestnut tree by Coln Stores

Do come and join us, as our combined efforts make such a difference to the verges as you enter the village. Pickers, hi-vis waistcoats and bin bags will be supplied. Please bring your own gloves if required. Looking forward to seeing you on the day.

Quenington

Saturday, 16th March at 10am, meeting at Quenington Village Hall

Please come along to help tidy the village and nearby verges. The village itself is usually very tidy but the main problem is along the entrance roads. QPC will provide litter-picking sticks, high-vis vests, and rubbish bags for you to use.

Southrop

Saturday, 23rd and Sunday, 24th March at 10am, meet at The Swan

Please come on either day (or both!) and you will be provided with a litter-picking stick, hi-viz vest, and black bags - and given a specific section of road to cover (probably with a partner). Children are welcome. Last year's litter pick was a great success, so please do come along and help out!

FAIRFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

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

This month's talk is entitled, 'Hailes Abbey and the Mystery of the Holy Blood' by David Aldred. Annual membership fee £5.

FAIRFORD THEATREGOERS

A few membership places are available for Fairford Theatregoers. Members receive about 10 show offers through the year. All theatres are within a two-hour coach trip of Fairford - leave and return to Fairford marketplace. Last year's show costs ranged from £30 - £47.50 per person, including the coach. Members can invite one guest per show (the guest is charged £2 extra for their ticket). Annual membership is £7 (single) or £11 (couple). For more info: bookingftg@btinternet.com or 01285 713182.

LECHLADE HISTORY SOCIETY

Monday, 18th March at 7 for 7.30pm, Lechlade Memorial Hall



Oxford is known as an ancient city with a world famous university. It is also known for murder mysteries, deadly dons and Inspector Morse. This talk on Inspector Morse (and Lewis and Endeavour) includes the importance of Colin Dexter, who wrote the original Morse books, and, of course John Thaw (Inspector Morse) and Kevin Whately (Sergeant Lewis), with their many murders to solve and pints of beer to drink. Get in touch for more information: 01367 250322 or 07826 124088. Annual membership £8 plus £2 per meeting (guests £4).



HATHEROP CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Caring, Believing, Achieving

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

SCHOOL GOVERNORS REQUIRED

There will be two vacancies on Hatherop C of E Primary School Governing Board from the 1st of March and the 1st of September 2024 and we are looking for people from the nearby community to join us in supporting our important local school. The objectives of the Governing Board are to set strategic direction, ensure accountability for school improvement, education performance, and oversee the finances.

Skills: Members of the Governing Board come from a wide range of backgrounds working together for the benefit of the school. No specialist knowledge is required as training and support is available, but good communication skills, strategic thinking, time, and enthusiasm are essential. We would particularly benefit from those with expertise in fundraising and education.

Time commitment: Term of office is four years, all governors must undertake training, attend at least four meetings per year, plus read associated papers and prepare questions. Governors are also expected to visit the school at least twice a year and undertake specific roles suited to their areas of interest and expertise.

You can read more here: www.hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk/contact/meet-the-team/governors . If you are interested or require further information, please contact: Nadine Scaysbrook, Clerk of Governors on clerk@hatherop.gloucs.sch.uk

6
**Reserve
your seat!**

Coln Cinema presents



Rudy

Come and meet the director!

Friday 22 March

A beautiful film that follows a teenager dealing with the loss of her mother and finding herself. Writer/director Shona Auerbach and star Esther McCormick will join us to tell the remarkable story of the film's making.

[Cert 12A 1hr 48min]

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 £5 donation per person on the door (cash or credit card) and all proceeds go to St John the Baptist Church.

We're expecting a big turnout for this special event, so please contact Nick Brett on nrjbrett@gmail.com or 07713 981 753 to reserve a seat

COLN CINEMA

Friday, 22nd March at 7 for 7.30pm, Vicarage Cottage Barn, Coln St Aldwyns

Book your seat for Coln Cinema's special March event

Nick Brett writes: A bit of a coup for Coln Cinema! Writer/director Shona Auerbach will be joining us on **Friday, 22nd March** for the screening and a Q&A afterwards about her film **Rudy**, a wonderfully tender story set in Warwickshire about a teenage girl's coming of age and having to look after her sister and brother following her mother's death.

Rudy [Cert 12A 1hr 48min] is currently showing in Curzon Cinemas to rave reviews. There is a remarkable backstory, too, about the film being ten years in the making and now being independently distributed by Shona. Here is a link to the trailer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul_DRoWwRIA.

We imagine that many people will want to come to this special event, so please email me at nrjbrett@gmail.com or text me on 07713 981 753 to reserve seats.

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, please email me and we shall try to arrange it.

Why not join us for a drink beforehand? Doors and the bar open at **7pm** and the film begins at **7.30pm**. We ask for a £5 donation per person on the door (cash or credit cards). All proceeds go to St John the Baptist Church. Finally, with the return of light evenings this season's Coln Cinema will end on Friday 26 April (film tba).

LLOYDS BANK MOBILE BANKING TO END VISITS TO FAIRFORD

Thanks to Susan Jalili, of Eastleach, for drawing our attention to the fact that the Lloyds Bank mobile banking service in Fairford will be ending on 22nd May, due to lack of support. <https://www.lloydsbank.com/assets/banking-with-us/mobile-branches/lloyds-cirencester-mobile-branch-part-1.pdf>



The mobile unit will be in Fairford from 10am – 12.15pm:

- Wednesday, 7th March
- Wednesday, 13th March
- Wednesday, 10th April
- Wednesday, 24th April
- Wednesday, 8th May
- Wednesday, 22nd May

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS



SOUTHROP CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Together we can fly

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

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

The spring term is always a very busy one and this year has been no exception. The whole school participated in the Big Garden Birdwatch and we were excited to see birds from 14 species, most numerous being jackdaws – 14, which all landed in the playground oak tree. But highlights were a nuthatch on the tree, and a heron which flew past! This was all useful extra study for our team of Year 5&6 who are keenly working with volunteers Kathy Newton and David Chapman at lunchtimes, deepening their knowledge of nature, ready to host the first round of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust nature quiz against St Lawrence School.

The School Council and Maths Coordinator, Mrs Dawson, organised another successful Number Day, raising funds for the NSPCC. We had some very inventive dressing up, with innumerable numbers and even a human clock! There were lots of outdoor maths, and maths puzzles and challenges.



Our pupils' health, safety, happiness and wellbeing are always our paramount concerns. Each year we invite Coram Life Education, the leading provider of relationships, health, wellbeing, and drugs education, to deliver sessions to all our year groups, to help the children make healthy choices. It is a lovely opportunity to have great fun and learn at the same time. Some children got to catch up with Harold the giraffe and learn from him about sharing, others to act out the digestive system or take a trip to planet Conformatron, to learn about the value of diversity.



Each class ended the busy term with a fabulous D&T day. The Cygnets made soup and designed their packaging, Year 3&4 were making pneumatic moving monsters and Year 5&6 books with pop-up, lever, slide and twister mechanisms.

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: Tim Jeans tim@eastleachparishcouncil.org

Clerk: Catherine Morgan 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
Good Friday, 29 th March	9am – 1pm	9am – 12pm	CLOSED
Easter Saturday, 30 th	8am – 2pm	8am – 1pm	9am – 11:30am
Easter Sunday, 31 st	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Easter Monday, 1 st April	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 Facebook for updates

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.

CHEQS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Marion Crawford mazcrawford@hotmail.com



CHEQS DIARY 2024

Sat 2 nd March	1 – 2.30pm	Southrop PTA Jumble Sale, Southrop V. Hall	p4
Sun 3 rd March	4pm	Messy Church, Quenington Village Hall	p2
Sun 3 rd March	6pm	Prayer & Praise, St Mary's Church, Fairford	p2
Thurs 7 th March	3pm	Friendship Circle, Eastleach Village Hall	p2
Thurs 7 th March	2.30 – 4.30pm	Fairford Art Society	p2
Sat 9 th March	10.30am	Coffee Morning, Quenington Village Hall	p3
Sat 9 th March		Repair Cafés	p3
Sat 9 th March	6.30pm	Southrop Spring Party, in aid of church bells	p5
Wednesdays	12.30pm	Lent Lunches – check venues on page 8	p8
Sat 16 th march	9.30am	Coln Litter Pick	p8
Sat 16 th March	10am	Quenington Litter Pick	p8
Fri 22 nd March	7 for 7.30pm	Coln Cinema – book beforehand in case full	p10 & 11
Sat/Sun 23 rd /24 th	10am	Southrop Litter Pick	p8
Sat 23 rd March	7 for 7.30pm	Churchfitters, Quenington Village Hall	p21
Sun 31 st March	8.30am - noon	Quenington Car Boot Sale, village green	p19

CHURCH SERVICES – ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME

CHEQS CHURCHES:



Coln, Hatherop & Quenington

3 rd March	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
	4pm	Messy Church	Quenington Village Hall
10 th March	10.30am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln
17 th March	10.30am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Quenington
24 th March	10.30am	Palm Sunday procession & HC	St Nicholas, Hatherop
29 th March	6pm	Hymns & Readings for Good Friday	St Swithin's, Quenington
31 st March	10.30am	Easter Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Coln

St Andrew's Church, Eastleach

3 rd March	11am	Matins (Andrew Cinnamond)
10 th March	11am	Mothering Sunday Family Service (with Gareth Griffith)
17 th March	11am	Holy Communion (Gordon Land)
24 th March	11am	Matins for Palm Sunday (Gordon Land)
31 st March	11am	Matins for Easter Day (Gordon Land)

St Peter's Church, Southrop

3 rd March	9.30am	Holy Communion
10 th March	9.30am	Morning Prayer
17 th March	9.30am	Morning Prayer
24 th March	9.30am	Morning Prayer
31 st March	9.30am	Holy Communion

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.

CHEQS CHARACTERS – JOHN BERRY



I was born in June 1936 to George & Irene Berry, in Cranbourne, Berkshire. Father was the local builder and undertaker - the business had been established for over 125 years, going back to his grandfather.

My parents and grandparents were very involved in the local church, St Peter's, where my grandmother used to dust the pews every Sunday, half an hour before the service. At eight years of age, I joined the church choir.



Two years later, I passed the Common Entrance exam, and went to be educated at Eton, as a chorister. Eton is only about six miles from where I was born, and I was so lucky to have the wonderful experience of singing in quite a few marvellous buildings, such as the chapel at King's College, Cambridge, and in Winchester Cathedral. I sang in the college chapel for five years, until my voice broke.

Then, at 15, my parents must have seen the place advertised, and I went as a boarder to Burford School – one of the oldest schools in the country. It was over 50 miles from where I was brought up, and it's a funny coincidence that I later settled in the



area. At that time, the school was in Lower High Street, and only moved to where it is now after I had left. Burford School was unusual, as it had agricultural studies added to the curriculum in 1896, which encouraged local farmers to send their sons there. This led on to the setting up of a very successful fifty-six acre farm unit with a Danish Jersey herd, breeding ewes, sows and poultry. Sadly, it no longer exists. The photo shows pigs at the school farm in the 1960s. While I was there, in the early

1950s, the school had a small farm with a pedigree herd of Jersey cows, and a pedigree pig herd. I was at Burford School for two years, and then in 1953 went as an apprentice to two of the top Guernsey herds in the country, the Birchwood and Fernhill herds, in Berkshire – my father knew the farm manager at Fernhill.

After two years, I was offered the Head Herdsman job for Mrs Asher, at Ascot Place – on the edge of Windsor Great Park and Ascot Racecourse - to manage the herd of pedigree Jerseys. I spent nearly five years there, until my old boss offered me a smallholding in Twyford, near Reading. I then rented land at nearby Stanlake Park, where I could now start milking my own cows, as well as doing relief milking for other

people. During this time, I married my first wife and had two lovely boys, Marcus and Julian.

In the early 1960s, I was invited to take over the tenancy of the farm at Sunninghill Park, Ascot. I suppose I'd been drawn to their attention as I'd done relief milking there. I spent a very enjoyable and fruitful time building up the pedigree Guernsey herd, and I farmed there right up until my retirement in 1999.

I was twice President of the English Guernsey Cattle Society, and I'm still on the committee. The Guernsey cow has played a big part in my life, for over 60 years, helping me meet so many people, and judging in shows all over the country.



I also made some good friends over on the island of Guernsey itself, including my much-missed pal, Jim Jamouneau, pictured above. Jim was a dairy farmer near St Peter Port, and was also a big supporter of horse racing on the island. I helped him set up a race course, with rails and posts bought from Ascot.

In 1980, I met and got to know Valerie, who later became my wife. We had a marvellous time getting into horse breeding, with her two girls – Sharon doing Point-to-Point, and Melanie riding on the flat. We were very pleased to get a permit to train our own horse 'under rules' which means the horses can be raced professionally, rather than the amateur Point-to-Point races. I had two ambitions in life – to have a herd of pedigree Guernsey cows, and to own my own race horses, and I am so lucky to have been able to indulge both of my passions.

During our time at Sunninghill Park, the Queen had a house built for one of her children, very near to where we were living. Her Majesty was gracious enough to call at the farm when she was visiting the site. She was very easy to talk to, making you feel very relaxed - she especially enjoyed talking about horses or cattle.



Valerie and I were happy that we had made the right move in coming to Gloucestershire for our retirement – a most lovely part of the country, which suits us both well. I was the Church Warden in Hatherop for many years, and I greatly enjoy being part of the local community.

During these last 20-odd years, quite a big part of my life has been involved with The Addington Fund, a charity giving help to farmers and rural communities, and I

am now very involved with the Gloucestershire Farming Friends, whose motto is “physical help and emotional support” which is for anyone in the farming community



in Gloucestershire – I visit old farmers in their retirement, and some of them I’ve been seeing on and off for many of these years. Sadly, I’m losing more and more of them, including just recently a dear chap, Eric Freeman, who lived near Newent. Many of these old farmers are great characters, and work hard to keep old traditions going. It’s always a great pleasure for me to enjoy a good old chin-wag with them!

Another great passion has been the Royal Forest Agricultural Association, which I’ve been chairman of for 30 years, and associated with for 60 years. It’s a wonderful show, and I am so thrilled that our new king, HRH Charles III, agreed to be our new Patron, and has taken a great interest in our unique show.

I’m so lucky to have met such a nice lot of good people in my different ways of life, with the Guernsey breed and the race horse world – I’ve had such a fulfilling life, and I also enjoyed good health throughout my whole working life. The hip replacements I’ve had since my retirement are managing to keep me going, and I have so much to be thankful for.

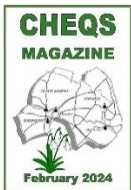
QUENINGTON CAR BOOT SALES RETURN

Sunday, 31st March, Quenington Village Green, 8.30am - midday



Tracey Downes writes: It’s time to have that spring clear out. Come and join us on the green, weather permitting (check our Facebook page). We will start promptly at 8.30am and finish by midday – don’t forget, it’s this weekend that the clocks change! No need to book a place - come and join others for a friendly morning of selling and meeting up with friends, and go home with - hopefully - a profit or some goodies. Invite your friends and family to come and join in. Still only £5 to sell, and all money we take goes to a local charity. Future dates: 28th April, 26th May, no sale in June, 14th July, 11th August, 1st and 29th September.

NEW EDITOR SOUGHT FOR CHEQS MAGAZINE



Margaret Stranks writes: The opportunity is still there, and this reminder will remain for another couple of months. If you’d like to find out more, or offer your services, please get in touch with me: cheqsmagazine@gmail.com or Nick Brett: nrjbrett@gmail.com or Jan Roberts: 07974 935995 janroberts16ar@gmail.com

In order to give the editor more leeway, the deadline for contributions to the magazine has changed to 12th of the previous month.

QUENINGTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP – HELP NEEDED



Margaret Stranks writes: This thriving group is often at full capacity (15 adults, and however many children they bring!), but next month our wonderful maker of refreshments and preparer of snacks, Sue Brown, will be ending her many years with the group. Is there someone else who would be willing to help out on Monday mornings during term time? We love being able to offer the carers a drink on arrival, and don't want them to have to get their own, as well as keep an eye on their little ones. And the children really enjoy their snacks! If you'd like to help, do get in touch: margaret.stranks@gmail.com or 07729 129578.

BURFORD SINGERS PRESENT HAYDN'S 'THE CREATION' Sunday, 24th March, 7.30pm at Church of St John the Baptist, Burford

Tickets from <https://www.burfordsingers.org.uk/buy-tickets/>

COTSWOLD ARCADIAN'S ENDING AFTER 33 YEARS

Eric Partington, Paul Barnes, Alwyn Davies, Sue Baxter (Cotswold Arcadians Limited Dissolution Administrative Team): It was with great sadness that the decision was taken at the Cotswold Arcadians' AGM last October that it is no longer viable for the Cotswold Arcadians to continue to present plays. Arrangements are being put in place for the dispersal of its property and assets. We are enormously appreciative of the support of local communities over the past thirty-three years.

QUIZ FOR FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES

A brand new Brand Name Quiz has been written by Rachel Emmerson. The answers to the clues are the names of non-food product brands, old and new. The fee of £2 is for the charity, Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities. The last quiz raised £120 for Help Madina. Contact Rachel for a copy of the quiz (some may also be available in due course at Coln Stores). Entries to be returned to Rachel Emmerson at Merrywood House, Aldsworth, Cheltenham, Glos, GL54 3RE or emmerson1492@hotmail.co.uk by May 31st 2024.



CLOCKS CHANGE ON EASTER DAY, 31ST MARCH

The clocks change on Sunday, 31st March. So to avoid being anywhere an hour late, remember to set your clocks one hour FORWARD on the Saturday night.



THE CHURCHFITTERS

Saturday, 23rd March

7 for 7.30pm

Quenington Village Hall

Why *The Churchfitters*? Nobody knows! They're not fitters and have absolutely nothing to do with churches. The name's origin is lost in the mists of time, but there is one aspect that suits them perfectly - its quirkiness.

When your array of instruments includes a motorcycle petrol tank, a musical saw and a Mercedes Benzouki made from hubcaps, there's little point worrying if the name makes sense! Saucepan dulcimer, petrol tank bass, Bing-Bong machine and magic boots all join some more conventional instruments (fiddle, banjo, sax and whistle to name a few) to back Rosie Short's sublime voice.

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

SPRING CLEAN FOR ST SWITHIN'S CHURCH

Saturday, 6th April from 10am



St Swithin's Church in Quenington is very well looked after by a team of volunteers who regularly keep the building clean. However, to do some of the bigger jobs, it is proposed to have a big "spring clean" on Saturday 6th April – with lots of vacuuming, long poles for cobwebs, polishing the pews, cleaning the windows etc. All help will be much appreciated.

QUENINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday, 11th April at 7.30pm, Quenington Village Hall

The residents of Quenington are invited to come along to find out what happens in your village. The Parish Council and local groups will report on their activities during the last 12 months. It is also your opportunity to ask questions or put forward thoughts/suggestions to the Parish Council. All residents are welcome.



NEW BABY? JOIN US IN LECHLADE!

from 30th April until 25th June

Tuesdays, 11am to 12.30pm, Lechlade Memorial Hall

Home-Start Cotswolds' free, weekly postnatal group, is starting in Lechlade in April. 'Baby and Me', 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 (eg feeding and sleep), in a friendly and supportive environment.

A mum who came to a recent group said: 'I felt like we got so much from this group – from baby massage to car seat safety, ways to play with our babies for development and how to keep them safe. It was way more than I hoped for and I feel really lucky myself and my baby got to attend. Also, just having some time each week to have a cup of tea and a snack and chat to other mums, whilst also learning valuable skills. It's a very special group.'

To reserve a place, contact 01285 885391 or groups@home-start-cotswolds.org.uk

FRESH AIR SCULPTURE SHOW



Tickets are on sale now: <https://www.freshairsculpture.com/>

BOOKS ARE REQUESTED...

...for a second-hand book sale in St Swithin's Church, Quenington, during the Fresh Air sculpture show (16th June - 7th July), in aid of the church. If you have any unwanted books in good condition, please leave them in bags at the back of the church – any time, from now onwards.



NEWS FROM THE ERNEST COOK TRUST

Supporting Outdoor Learning – both locally and nationwide

A very popular grant, which was launched by The Ernest Cook Trust in 2019 to help schoolchildren get outdoors and connect with nature, has now given out more than £1 million.

We created the Outdoor Essentials Grant specifically for schools across the UK located in areas of high deprivation, meeting specific eligibility criteria. The grant helps to remove barriers to access and participation in the outdoors, and can be used to cover travel costs to get to natural open spaces; pay for kit like wellies and waterproofs for the children to wear; or go towards improvements to school grounds. Since its launch, thousands of pupils and hundreds of schools have benefited, and the grants – which are distributed via three funding rounds each year – have now totalled more than £1 million.

Ed Ikin, Chief Executive of The Ernest Cook Trust, said: “There’s a really compelling body of evidence to show that time in nature, especially time in nature when we feel properly connected to it, has massive mental and physical health benefits. We want to get to the point where it’s nationally understood that being in nature is a fundamental good for everybody, and that everyone deserves the chance to spend time in nature.”

Support for schools from The Ernest Cook Trust, however, extends far beyond the Outdoor Essentials Grant. Nationally, we run a programme called The OWL Collaboration, to give pupils access to a week’s residential (an ‘Outdoor Week of Learning’). Again, this is aimed at under-served children and young people. The OWL weeks are hosted by Outdoor Learning Centres around the country, including in Gloucestershire, at Wick Court, Arlingham, a centre run by the charity Farms for City Children.

Schools on our doorstep have also benefited from the Trust through outdoor visits, helping pupils who live and go to school in the CHEQS area to connect with nature on our Home Estates.



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. Our vision is for an environmentally engaged society with stronger connections with nature.



Learning from the Land

“Being in nature is a fundamental good for everybody.” Ed Ikin, Chief Executive

Discover how we help children and young people get outdoors and connect with nature in our latest Annual Report, now online.



www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Tuesday, 19th March at 7pm, Fairford Community Centre

Come and hear about all aspects of the charity including Home Nursing, Patient Transport, our Charity Shop, Lunch Club and fundraising events. Everyone is welcome. **Our speaker this year will be Amanda Cully who is a valued volunteer of ours and will be talking about the Fairford Christmas Lunch.**

KUSHI MEAL

Come and join us for an Indian Buffet Feast on Tuesday, 26th March at 7pm. The cost is £20 per head without drinks. You can buy soft drinks but should you want any alcoholic drinks please bring your own. There is a small charge for this. To book a place, please email admin@friendsoffairford.co.uk or phone 01285 707300

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wine Tasting Evening – Saturday, 27th April at Fairford Community Centre

Langford Downs Open Gardens – Sunday, 23rd June

Craft Fair – Sunday, 24th November, Lechlade Memorial Hall

ADMINISTRATOR

Contact Agneta at admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

EDNA DAWES LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club now meets on Mondays and Wednesdays, providing a hot meal, activities and social interaction for isolated older people. The cost is £10 for the day. Transport can be provided. We would appreciate more volunteers, both at the club and with transport. For more information, or to book a place, contact Katie edlc@friendsoffairford.org.uk or 07713 607106.

NURSING TEAM

Contact Emma and Tina nursing@friendsoffairford.org.uk 07938 244335

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 there to welcome you with a hot drink and some refreshments. You can drop in, between 10am and midday at The Barker Room, Fairford Community Centre. If you have any questions, call 07938244335 or email admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk



Southrop Open Gardens Weekend

*Sat 18th & Sun 19th May 2024, 1.30pm to 4.30pm
10+ varied gardens. £6 day ticket or £8 for 2 days.*

*Tickets available at sign-posted gardens or
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Keith Ford garden work - pruning & hedge cutting, sheds re-felted etc.	01285 750406
The Garden & Plant Co. design & landscaping info@gardenandplantco.com	01285 712663
A Tiling decorating - interior and exterior	01285 810624
Cotswold Oven Valeting Ltd professional cleaning of ovens (incl. AGAs) hobs etc	01367 850522
HEALTH & WELL-BEING	
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