

Valley News

August 2011

No 196 News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



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Hogwarts Express (5972)
2002
Photo:
Elaine Cox

Heyford Station

The lovely GWR Bridge
Photo:
Chris Cox

Valley News is delivered FREE to every household in:

**Caulcott – Heyford Park – Lower Heyford
Somerton – Upper Heyford**

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The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford
SERVICES IN THE CHERWELL VALLEY

	Ardley St Mary	Fritwell St Olave	Caulcott & Lower Heyford St Mary	Somerton St James	Souldern Annunciation to the BVM	Upper Heyford St Mary	Upper Heyford The Chapel
31-Jul			9:30 CW Sung Communion	11:00 All Age Holiday Club Special at the Chapel Heyford Park			
7-Aug	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Matins	9:30 Trad Lang Communion & Hymns	11:00 Contemporary Worship
14- Aug	9:30 CW Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	9:30 Sunday Club & Bears & Prayers	11:00 CW Communion	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contemporary Worship
21- Aug	9:30 CW Sung Communion	11:00 Family Worship Communion + baptism	08:30 1662 HC	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship	11:00 Contemporary Worship
28- Aug	9:30 Family Worship	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Communion	9:30 Traditional Language Communion	10:30 Souldern Chapel Coffee & Christ	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship
4-Sep	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Matins	9:30 Trad Lang Communion & Hymns	11:00 Contemporary Worship
11- Sep	9:30 CW Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	9:30 Sunday Club & Bears & Prayers	11:00 CW Communion	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contemporary Worship
18- Sep	9:30 Harvest	11:00 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Harvest	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship	11:00 Contemporary Worship
25- Sep	9:30 Family Worship	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Communion	9:30 Traditional Language Communion	10:30 Souldern Chapel Coffee & Christ	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship



Festival of Flowers

St Mary's Church, Upper Heyford

Sat 27 – Mon 29 August

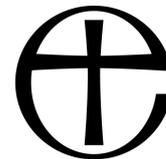
**If you 'paint or make' and would like to exhibit
 Any of your work in this festival please contact:
 Barbara on 01869 345931 or
 Sally Anne on 07778 431165**

Services described as 1662, Matins or Evensong follow the traditional form as laid out in The Book of Common Prayer. Services described as Common Worship use modern language and follow the revised form given in the Common Worship Service and Prayer Book. Services described as Family Worship or Contemporary Worship are suitable for all ages, including children.

For further details about services or requests concerning baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact a member of

The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford

Rev Paul Hunt, 346739 paul@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk;
Rev Edward Green, 340562 edward@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk;
Rev Ian Biscoe, 232439 ian@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk
Mr John Hine (LLM) 350272;
Scott Goosen (YW) 233087 flockofgeese4@yahoo.com
Benefice Office 233687 Barbara@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Celebrating 400 Years of the King James Bible

The King James Bible was a remarkable literary achievement. But there a number of myths that have grown up about the text.

Firstly the date, although we celebrate the 1611 date, the text we use today was not finalised until 1762! Earlier versions were rife with errors, unsurprising as the Kings Printer Robert Barker was so badly organised that he ended his life in debtor's prison despite his royal monopoly.

The first edition was known as the 'He' bible, because in the book of Ruth chapter 3 vs 15 it reads 'he' rather than 'she'. In 1682 the Oxford University Press edition featured the parable of the Vinegar rather than the Vineyard. In another edition Numbers 25-17-18 read "Vex the Midianites, and smite them: For they vex you with their wives." 'Wiles' is of course the correct reading On the subject of wives a 1631 edition

missed the word 'not' out of Exodus 20.14, thus reading "Thou *shalt* commit adultery". Unsurprisingly it was known as the 'Wicked Bible'.

Secondly the competition, the King James was certainly not the first bible in English. Much of it comes from Tyndale's translation and it is itself really a revision of the Bishop's bible. However in the time of King James the most popular version was the Geneva bible, which came with countless Calvinist notes and had a puritan spin to the translation. Geneva has Elders, the King James Bishops; Geneva has Congregation, the King James Church; Geneva describes Kings as Tyrants 400 times, yet the word does not appear in the King James once! The King James Bible is not then a protestant bible, but an Anglican bible, assuming the divine right of Kings and the succession of Bishops. The Bible's success was enforced by the banning of the Geneva bible shortly after publication.

Thirdly the language, despite errors the language of the King James translation is masterful. But the quality of Greek in the original texts of the bible varies, with most of the New Testament being written in basic 'street' Greek. As Christopher Marlowe is accused of saying 'all the New Testament is filthily written'. The King James Bible looked beyond this and rendered all the texts in a rich form suitable for reading in public worship. Unfortunately this was not the common tongue of the day leading to complaints when the bible was published that the language was archaic & incomprehensible. John Selden remarked that it was 'well enough so long as scholars have to do with it, but when it comes among the common people, Lord, what gear do they make of it.' What gear indeed? The most famous example of the bible's use of archaic language is in 1 Corinthians 13 – Faith, Hope and Charity, where previous English translations had followed the usage of the time and rendered Faith, Hope & Love. Charity came from the Latin translation – Caritas.

From all this you might think I am down on the King James. I am not.

The positive result of the errors is that it has led to a culture of revision of translations resulting in the huge range of bibles available today for different readers and in different styles.

The distancing from the Geneva's notes and text established the Church of England as a *via media*, a middle way between the extremes of Puritan Protestantism and Tridentine Catholicism.

And despite the fact that the King James has been described as the world's first 'Mock Tudor' bible the result of the linguistic style has been positive. Not only has the King James enriched and sustained spoken English, its poetic form has made the Scriptures memorable to countless generations.

Appointed to be read in Churches says the title page of the first edition. Long may it be so.

Edward

THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR WALKNG!

A huge thank you to the 28 wonderful people who enthusiastically trod the paths of the Oxford Canal on July 9.

The occasional downpour scarcely dampened our enthusiasm! So far over £700 has been raised to buy shoes for Zambian AIDS orphans who often walk long distances to school. Alison and Basil Eastwood thank you on their behalf. For more information please see cecilyfund.org.

Valley News is now on the Web

You can now find Valley News on the Web—look for upperheyford.com and click on Valley News. This should enable fewer copies to have to be sent by post. In future hard copies will only be posted to those without a computer. Copies in the villages and Heyford Park will be circulated as usual, however, in the interests of saving paper and reducing costs please let your contact know if you are content to look on your PC (or perhaps not even interested in the magazine).

What's on in the Cherwell Valley

Is my home suitable for solar heating?

UK Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) make solar photovoltaic (PV) panels an attractive investment for homeowners who have savings. The soon to be introduced Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) will also provide better returns for solar water heating (SWH). But there are some points to consider before chasing quotes:



Which way does my roof face?

A south facing roof is best but panels can deliver very good results facing anywhere between east and west, through south.

Do I have the roof space?

A minimum of about 10m² of panels are needed for solar PV and approximately 4m² for SWH (based on a household of 4 people). Sections of roof shaded by trees or buildings are to be avoided.

Will I get the most benefit?

Daytime users of electricity and hot water have much to gain by directly replacing energy they'd otherwise have to pay for with free solar energy.

Can I afford it?

An ideal budget would be in excess of £8,000 for PV and £3,500 for SWH. It's important to remember that in order to be eligible for FITs and RHI your system must be installed by an MCS certificated installing company.

To find out more, check out Cocoon's new on-line 'Solar Suitability Checker'. This tool allows you to find your roof on a satellite map, check its size and orientation, and see what returns an investment in solar might deliver. No personal details are required. The tool will go live in Summer 2011 at www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk

CREAM TEAS

7th & 21st August

2.30-4pm

Reading Room
Upper Heyford

All proceeds for new tables and chairs.



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SUPPORT**

The Reading
Room

Upper Heyford

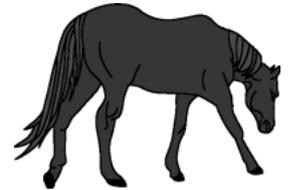
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What's going on at Cherwell District Council?

*****Beware*** Rubbish collection dates** will change for all of us from the last week of July. We are mounting a huge awareness campaign but, with 23,000 households to contact, some are not going to get the message, especially in the holiday season. The reason for the change is that, with the growth in numbers of houses in the district, we are now at the limits of our capacity. To put on just one extra bin round costs £125,000 a year in pay and equipment so it makes sense to reorganise, if we can, to avoid this. In fact, the new rounds will actually save £10,000 a year and a lot of fuel as well as allowing for several years of future growth. So, please look out for notices on your bin, news in Cherwell Link, the press, etc and don't be surprised when your bin day moves back one, two or even three days. If your neighbour is on holiday during the changeover, do please pass this on.

Weekly collections were in the news this month but, I am glad to say, the Government has thought better of imposing the huge costs involved. In Cherwell, of course, the smelly stuff – food waste – is collected weekly as in recycling weeks it can go in the brown bin and in waste weeks in the green one. So we will be allowed to stick with a system that is cost effective and allows you to recycle nearly 60% of all your rubbish, meaning that you do not waste a lot of your council tax on landfill charges. There's been a lot of stuff in the news about how fortnightly collections promote vermin and fly tipping, but experience in this district is that the number of calls for pest control has fallen and incidents of fly tipping are down by over a third in the past couple of years, which puts the lie to all that.

Cleaning road verges, I learned, costs a shocking £90,000 a year – and could absorb a lot more if we could afford to put in more resources – but is still a never-ending task. The A34, which runs through Cherwell between Wytham and the M40, being so busy, is incredibly expensive as we have to clean it out of hours so as not to disrupt the traffic and we need to hire expensive equipment to protect our staff from the high speed traffic. And all because drivers cannot be bothered to take their rubbish home or pull over to a layby where we maintain lots of bins. It really is a case of throwing taxpayers' money out of the window!

Parking charges went under the microscope of the Scrutiny committee, following negative reaction to increases in a variety of areas. They recommended that:

- Evening charges should be removed, but the daytime period extended to 7pm, after which parking will be free

- Blue Badge holders should park free in disabled bays, though not in other areas

- Bicester charges will be reduced by 10p per hour during the town centre redevelopment to offset the disruption caused by all the work.

- Grace periods of 10 minutes should be allowed both to find change for tickets and to allow for holdups after expiry

- Discounts of 50% will be given for prompt payment of parking fines

These recommendations will shortly come to the Executive, who don't usually quibble with Scrutiny recommendations, but will then take three months or so of legal work to implement. Because of the time delay and the complexity, I strongly recommend, therefore, keeping an eagle eye on the car park noticeboards so as not to either act too soon and risk a fine or miss out when they do come in.

I see reports already of complaints that these changes are not enough, but the scrutineers had to bear in mind affordability and balancing the books and went as far as they could. The objectors have the luxury of not having to choose who will pay extra or what service to cut.

Joint working with South Northants Council seems to be growing organically alongside the formal recruitment of joint senior management. In all sorts of areas, such as building control, public protection, legal, communications and so on, vacancies arising in one council are being covered across both, bringing savings in addition to those envisaged in the business plan. This leads to all sorts of personnel loose ends needing to be tied up, but brings a steady trickle of unexpected savings which will prevent us having to look for cuts in areas that affect residents.

Value for Money reviews have a similar impact as, in a never-ending process, they examine each part of the council to see what it could do better or cheaper. The latest ones include economic development, public protection and vehicle maintenance – none of them high-profile or glamorous areas where a little bit of streamlining here and a saving there all chips in to an easier budget next year.

Bicester Town Centre redevelopment got a boost with the inquiry into Compulsory Purchase Orders finishing early as all the objections bar one (on which no evidence was offered) being resolved at the final hurdle. This should mean a speedier decision and an earlier start to the new Sainsbury, cinema and so on. On the outskirts, though, do watch out for the changes to the A41 dual carriageway from the M40 junction down to Bicester where, despite many warning signs and a 40mph speed limit, people have been driving straight into the new roundabout at high speed, with devastating consequences for some of them.

Bicester Hospital renewal process took another step forward with the Strategic Health Authority considering an outline business plan and placing the official advertisement that the law requires in the European official journal, calling for developers to register their interest by completing Pre-Qualification Questionnaires. There's a long way to go, but it's a start.

Bicester Eco Town, on the other hand, met a hitch when the planning application for its first 400 homes was deferred by the planning committee. The County Council was strongly objecting that the £4m they require for schools, roads and other infrastructure was not forthcoming, while our councillors felt that it was not "green" enough for an exemplar site.

Ardley incinerator, unfortunately though, has got the green light after its judicial review was refused. Judicial reviews are notoriously difficult as they focus simply on the decision process and not the decision itself. So the judgement was solely on whether the Secretary of State (ie the planning inspector) was entitled to make a decision, not on whether it was the right one. So now we are saddled with the wrong answer in the wrong place, for a generation, with all the consequences in traffic and pollution that it will engender.

Sorry to end on such a gloomy note: have a good summer!

James Macnamara

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CHERWELL VALLEY

Heyfords WI

The Heyfords WI enjoyed two more most interesting speakers. In June we heard Moira Byast speaking about her collection of diaries, which she buys from a number of different places including charity shops, [you have to know where to look on the shelves]. And this month we heard from Valerie Miles about a charity called Prathiksha, which means Hope in Hindi, it is really surprising how a little money and support in the right place can make a huge difference to desperate people. In August we are going for an evening guided walk round Burford. I hope the weather will be kind to us, there are plenty of pubs if it proves to be inclement though.

Janet Lawrance



Agnes Thomson

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Agnes. As many people will know well, Agnes was the perfect host at the Barley Mow in the 70s & 80s, after reluctantly taking on the job when her husband Eddie became the landlord.

A tribute will follow in the next edition of Valley News

Upper Heyford website

The web page can now be found on upperheyford.com

You may also email information for the web page via: news@upperheyford.com

A wedding ring is for life

We all know that Roy and Dinah (Di) were a devoted couple and that marriage meant a great deal to them. To their dismay the ring that Roy gave to Dinah at their wedding was lost over 20 years ago, only to be discovered by Roger Bowen in his garden and handed back to Roy a few weeks ago, not long after Dinah had sadly passed away.

Roy now has a treasured memento of a long and very happy marriage and we wish him well.

Healthy Heyford

Every Monday we walk over fields around the Cherwell Valley. We meet at Upper Helford Village Hall 10am. Our walks usually take about 2 hours and we walk at a leisurely pace.

All welcome. Please ring to check our starting point if you are a new walker.

Landscape Watercolour Painting Classes

The Tuesday evening and Thursday morning classes will re-start on September 27th and 29th at the Upper Heyford Village Hall for 10 weeks.

For either walks or painting please ring Jo 07734562028 for more details.

A wild blue flower! What is it?

Anyone travelling across 'Longbridge', Lower Heyford, in the direction of Hopcroft's Holt, might have noticed, on the right hand side, a glorious bunch of bright blue flowers. Startlingly blue would be a good description. Having noticed this wonderful display, the next step was to identify the plant.



It might be useful to identify this author, who is one of a trio of females who regularly saunter (cannot be classified as a walk) round the village updating notice boards and generally keeping abreast of local 'happenings.'

So, having enquired of anyone who might have seen the plant in question as to its name, and exhausting every usual channel, to no avail, disappointed resignation had come to visit the trio. Luckily help appeared in the form of Roger – he of *course gardening* fame – who immediately offered 'Chicory' as the answer. Indeed this lovely plant had not escaped the notice of our Roger, oh no!

It is good to have such an expert in our midst as the trio often come across leaves, trees and all sorts that elude identification. Such mysteries can occupy the trio for days; even weeks. Solutions are cherished within this group.

However, in this case, the magical name, 'Chicory', swiftly flew from the memory of the trio and for the next several hours much guesswork took place, often to peels of laughter as possible answers were offered. A phone call to Roger put an end to all this and the trio invite others who are interested in the flora and fauna of this lovely place to see 'the blue plant on the bridge'.

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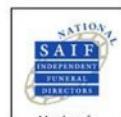
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Letters

A letter from Australia

Recently my husband, Robert & myself finally visited the beautiful village of Lower Heyford. My grandfather, Edward Gold, was brought up in the village, along with his brother and sisters, as his father, Richard Gold, was the railway inspector for the Great Western Railway, and they all lived in what was then called Ivy Cottage (now Ivy House). As I stood outside the door of Ivy House, I would have loved to have knocked on the door and asked if the scratch marks that my father put on one of the window panes, back in around 1918, was still there, but, knowing that it now belongs to someone else, I didn't feel that I should invade their privacy.

My grandfather migrated to Australia in 1900, and married an Australian girl in 1909, but by around 1914, the family returned to Lower Heyford for a visit, my Dad and his younger brother Neil went to the village school, and were taught by Miss Dew, who corresponded with my father for many years, until she became too old to continue to write. Great Grandfather Richard Gold, sold his coal merchant business in an auction in 1914 and a few months after that, he died, and is buried just outside the front door of St Mary's Church in Lower Heyford, along with his wife, Elizabeth in 1920. When we found this grave, it was overgrown with ivy, but otherwise, still in reasonable condition. Being buried straight outside the front door of the Church, it would seem that they may have been very well respected by the community. They were both quite involved in the church, and I have still got some books that both my grandfather Edward, and my father Dick (Richard) received over the years for Sunday School prizes.

Dad had spoken so much about Lower Heyford, and how he loved it, often telling me the same stories many times, during my childhood, that, when I finally got to visit, it felt as though I already knew it. I have photos of the big Oak tree that was planted for Queen Victoria's jubilee, when it was only a small Oak tree, and also photos of the village school, and the three storey house that they used to live in.

As we walked along the Canal path, watching the lovely narrow boats along the canal, I could almost feel my Dad, walking beside me, telling me how he used to watch the barges, being pulled by the horses, from the side of the canal. The lovely old home that was up for sale when we were there, called Glebe Cottage, opposite the Bell Inn, was where my grandmother gave birth to one of her children, my Uncle Jack Gold back in 1917, on one of their visits back to England. The beautiful old cottage used to belong to one of your villagers, Eric Glennie, who both Robert & I had met on a few occasions, when he came to visit his sister, Dorothy, in Australia. I just wish we had been able to visit a lot earlier, and been able to see Eric once more, as he was a true gentleman, and loved Lower Heyford very much.

We have now returned home to Australia, and my memory of Lower Heyford is still very vivid in my mind. I do hope it can remain the same as it is today, as it looks so much like the photos I have, some of them dating back more than 100 years ago.

Hopefully, in years to come, our grandchildren maybe able to visit where their ancestors came from, one of our grandson's has the middle name of HEYFORD, which his great grandfather, my Dad had as his middle name too. Perrin is very proud of his middle name, and now has a bag from Heyford Wharf, that is one of his prized possessions.

Jill & Robert Kramer, Albury NSW Australia



Richard Gold standing in the doorway of Ivy Cottage (now Ivy House)

NEW Brochure for Evening Classes and Daytime Workshops

A wide range of courses are available including Yoga, Pilates including early bird sessions, Salsafit, Sport, Music, Computing, Drawing, Painting and much more. Also Saturday workshops including Stained Glass, Photoshop, Applemac, Sewing, Plants, Aromatherapy and Massage, Yoga, Jewellery for beginners, Creative Writing, Weaving, Fundamentals of Furniture Making - learn dovetails and mortise and tenon joints and more. For more information please look on the Marlborough School website www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/extendedservices or pick up a brochure from the Upper Heyford Village Hall or The Barley Mow Pub.

YOGA

A NEW class starting at the Upper Heyford Village Hall. Thursday evenings 7.15-8.45pm. Starting 15th September. This course is aimed at all levels - beginners and more experienced students.



Details on the Marlborough School website or ring Jo 07734562028.

The Poetry Corner

You might think poetry is dull, pointless and stuffy but try reading the Liverpool Poets and I guarantee you'll change your mind. Who are they? Well the three best known are Brian Patten (the best), Adrian Henri (the coolest) and Roger McGough (the funniest, and one-time member of The Scaffold pop-group who co-wrote Lily The Pink, a big hit in 1968?).

Their anthology 'The Mersey Sound', published in 1967, had the effect on poetry that 'Sgt Pepper' had on music: it was ground-breaking stuff. The poems are direct, witty, political, up-to-date and completely accessible to anyone. You don't need a guide to understand them, though some idea of late-1960's culture and current events helps. It's all there in the poems: sex, drugs, rock'n'roll, comic-books, the Bomb, the Vietnam War and TV commercials as well as the everlasting themes of poetry such as Nature and human relationships.

Some poems are (or include) witty one-liners: ' " I've reached breaking point", he snapped.' Or, 'Discretion is the better part of Valerie (though all of her is nice)'. Others are descriptive and lyrical: 'Gulls kiss the sun and you walk on the beach afraid of the tide'. Some are sad: 'You make me feel like a broken plastercast....baby'. Some are touching: 'Love is a pink nightdress still slightly warm'.

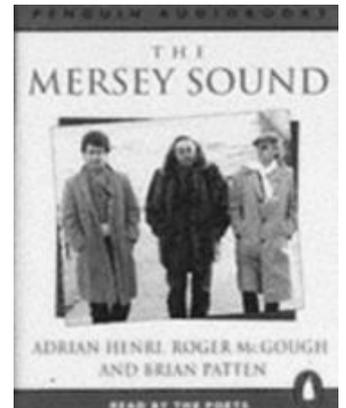


What they all have in common- the poets and the poems- is a rootedness in ordinary life and popular culture (especially music, which is usually present at live performances). All the anxiety, loneliness and confusion, but also joy and energy of youth is there in these poems. To me they offer bitter-sweet memories of growing up in sixties and seventies Britain. They have rhythm, charm, and a love of language, but above all they are fresh and remind this middle-aged male that there is beauty in ordinary life just when you least expect it. Refresh your experiences with The Mersey Sound.

Sound!....eh?

Richard Bailey

If you are tempted to come and discover half-forgotten or new poems, we meet fortnightly in Upper Heyford during term time (on a Monday or a Thursday at 8.00) - but you don't have to attend every meeting. One of us introduces a poet, or a theme, and we volunteer to read a poem if we want to – but there is no obligation. You can just sit and listen. If you want to find out more feel free to email Heather and Roger Burt (handr.burt@virgin.net).



~~~~~  
**Music at Somerton**  
**7pm Saturday 24 September**  
After the success of last autumn's cello concert, St James's Church Somerton is organizing another concert of classical music. 8 members (some amateur some professional) of the Wendlebury Winds will be performing a delightful programme of works by Beethoven, Handel, Mozart and Warlock. All welcome. £10 suggested minimum donation from adults. Children free. There will be refreshments during the interval. Doors open 6.30.  
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**SOMERTON VILLAGE PRODUCE SHOW**  
**Saturday 3rd September**  
Vegetables Flowers Plants  
Cookery Handicrafts  
Photography  
Children's Classes  
~~~~~

SOMERTON NEWS

Somerton joins national Heritage Open Day scheme



From 10am till 5pm on Saturday 10th September St James Church and Somerton's Village History Project are taking part in the national Heritage Open Day.

The church itself is Grade 1 listed and goes back to the eleventh century. So it will feature prominently. If the weather allows there will be guided tours up the tower, and visitors will see the early seventeenth century clock mechanism which has been brought down from the tower and is about to be restored thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Children will have fun identifying all the local animals and birds carved on the woodwork in the choir, and behind the altar there is a very rare stone carving of the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples. And there are lots more things of interest in the church and there will be new explanatory material for visitors.

There will also an exhibition in the church of the other work to date by the Somerton Village History Project which the church is sponsoring. There will be displays about the enclosures in the eighteenth century including we hope a reproduction of the enormous map produced at the time by a surveyor who lived in the village. We hope too to have material about the impact of the coming of the Oxford Canal and the Great Western Railway on this small rural community. There will also be displays of photographs of the village nearer to our own time. Throughout the day there will also be showings of the Ministry of Information film about the village's own Dig for Victory campaign during World War II.

Somerton Women's Independent Group SWIG

Forthcoming meetings

SEPT 13th 35 years on a milk round
 OCT 11th Harvest Supper
 NOV 8th Talk from a local butcher
 DEC 13th Christmas Supper

JAN 10th 12 Local Lives
 FEB 14th TBA
 MAR 13th RSPB talk
 APRIL 10th AGM

Membership Alison
 Eastwood 01869 345792
 New members welcome

SEPTEMBER 24TH 2011

COFFEE MORNING AND BRING AND BUY

in aid of KATHARINE HOUSE, 10.00 UNTIL 12.00

THE CROFT SOMERTON Freya Davy 01869 346546

On 5th July, 23 SWIGers and a couple of husbands enjoyed their annual summer picnic at Troy Farm.

Ruth had kindly invited us back and despite the weather, we managed to have a highly successful evening. We started with drinks and then, for the brave, in between showers, a group of us went to walk the 'Troy Town' tuft maze across the road from Troy Farm. This maze is one of only 8 turf mazes left in the British Isles. Formed by cutting away the ground surface to leave turf ridges and shallow trenches, the convoluted pattern produces a single pathway leading to the centre of the design.

Tony led the procession as we walked towards the middle, all working up an appetite for our supper to follow.

Then back to a vast spread of good food and plenty to drink. Magnificent pudding followed and we all staggered home replete.

Even the Somerton ducks on the canal were happy that night as Rebecca took back the left over bread for their supper!

Oxfordshire in the Civil War

**A Talk in Somerton Village Hall 6.30pm Sunday
16 October**



John Fox is a noted local historian specialising in the period of the English Civil War. His latest book "The King's Smuggler" about Jane Whorwood was published in 2010 and featured in the Oxford Literary Festival. It tells the remarkable story of a dynamic Scottish woman who lived at Holton and who repeatedly risked her life in order to assist and protect Charles I. One of her feats was to arrange the smuggling out of London to the King's headquarters in Oxford of £85,000 of gold, weighing approximately three-quarters of a ton. It was hidden in barrels of soap carried by the royal laundresses, one of the few groups of people allowed to pass freely between London and Oxford. John himself lives at Wheatley which was on the frontline between the Royalist and Parliamentary forces and will give us a graphic picture of the impact of the Civil War on the county.

This talk is sponsored by the Somerton Village History Project. A suggested minimum donation of £3 will entitle you to a glass of wine on arrival. The talk will start at 7pm

Tribute: Heather Woollcott



Heather Woollcott

My first meeting with auntie Heather was 46 years ago it was on a family coach trip to the Wye valley for a picnic – quite daunting for a young girl to meet this big family all in one go – she made the experience so much easier – also with me coming from a huge city with all the amenities to a village with two country pubs and a limited bus service, was a culture shock - no-one could have been kinder to me.

Over the years she then became a grandmother to my children, a second mother to me and finally a good friend. We had so much laughter on the holidays we used to take both in our caravan and hotels – she was as Angela says so full of fun and ready to visit some oddest places in different countries. On the serious side she was one of the people who never had to be asked for help it was always there for you and willingly given

Our lives especially the children's have been enriched by knowing her. She was always on the end of the phone when Catherine wanted to talk to her. Her last coherent words to me – when she knew David was back from Australia was – Vic must get the lamb out of the freezer – a reference to the meals she always cooked for him – lamb is his favourite – that says it all. One of the big things I miss is the constant texting we did – no matter where we were we always kept in touch. There is going to be a big gap in our lives now.

Christine Smith

A message from Australia

Auntie Heather and Christine came to visit mum – her sister Joy in 1992. Auntie Heather enjoyed herself so much as there was lots to see and do. She was so full of life and fun – everyday was a huge adventure to her. Mum always called her "feather" from being a young girl.

Christine, mum and Heather took themselves off for a few days with mum driving that must have been a bit scary as mum wasn't the best driver. We all wished that uncle Vic could have made the journey as well but Auntie Heather said jokingly of course – he may have cramped my style.

Now all the sisters are reunited it seems the end of an era for us – no more funny stories of Auntie Heather's naughty escapades as a little girl and the cheeky phone calls to us for hours at a time. We will all truly, truly miss her.

Angela, Neil, Simon & Mandy

Tribute: Peter Quinn

Peter lived his entire life in Upper Heyford, a Village he deeply loved. He was born here, he worked at the base for many years in building and maintenance, and he lived his life here, raised his family and contributed to the local community.

Peter and Rose were married in 1975 and they have been blessed with 4 Children and 4 Grandchildren to date. Through the ups and downs of family life Peter worked hard to support the wife and children he dearly loved.

Peter was sporting and social. He played football for Heyford United until his 40's and only left the Aunt Sally team last year as his illness took hold. He enjoyed socializing with friends and neighbours in the local pubs. Peter enjoyed holidays abroad on the Eurostar, visiting Paris for Rose's 50th birthday and taking other trips to Amsterdam. Despite being born so far from the ocean Peter loved the sea, especially trips to Cornwall and Bournemouth

Peter always believed in what he did, and had a strong will. This shone through as his illness was diagnosed, staying strong and fighting. Even as he had to give up the sports he loved he took up painting and photography during his illness revealing the creative side of his personality that before had been seen in his craftsmanship.

Peter leaves us with many memories that those who knew him will hold onto. His legacy lives on too in the work of his hands and in the family he supported and loved.

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LOWER HEYFORD NEWS

Tribute: Catherine Cowdy



Catherine Cowdy was born in the summer of 1939 and grew up near Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire. At the age of 21 at a party she met my father Michael and told her best friend "I'm going to get that man!" guess what.... she did and later married him. They came to live in Caulcott in 1966 along with daughter Nikki, and in 1967 she had her second daughter Susan.

In the 1970s she decided to create a pottery business together with Michael as she had been trained at university as an art teacher and Michael was a salesman, so the garage was made into the pottery and together they made all sorts of things and sold them at various agricultural shows, fetes etc, also a lot of commissions for the American airbase at Upper Heyford. Catherine was a great person, straight talking and would tell you how it was but with humour. She always had long hair and long flowing skirts and wore flipflops come rain, sun or snow!! She loved the surrounding countryside and would often go for long walks with a dog in tow.

Michael took up opera singing in the 1970s with Oxford Operatic and Bicester Choral Society and she soon joined him designing and making the sets then later singing on stage with him, she also produced a panto, *The Magic Lamp*, for Bicester.

In the 1980s she suffered back problems and had to give up the pottery business. Michael then went into buying and selling antique silver and they eventually shared a shop in Woodstock and sold their wares there for 8 years.

She was a great mum and you knew where you stood with her. I remember as a child, myself, sister and friends would be climbing trees or whizzing about on bikes and she would calmly prepare a bowl of warm water with T.C.P in it and cotton wool alongside, then when an accident inevitably happened she was prepared and we had to see how pink we could make the water with the blood from our scrapes and scratches!

She was a fair and loving mum and she was also a loyal and loving wife, my father and her were true soul mates. She wanted to be remembered as a woman who loved, laughed and lived in Caulcott. She will be very much missed by her husband and daughters, grandchildren and friends near and far. *Nikki Richard [nee Cowdy]*

Lower Heyford – New Playground Initiative

A group of local parents are currently working to gain support and funding for a new, updated playground for Lower Heyford, a bank account has been set up and we hope to fund raising soon. Donations would be gratefully received

If anyone would like to help or has any fundraising suggestions, please contact Emma Mortimore emma.mortimore@tesco.net



LOWER HEYFORD BOWLS CLUB

Our short season will soon be drawing to its close, but you still have time to come to one of our games, or to have a go at bowling. Spectators are very welcome to attend our home matches. Bowls is a most delightful and sociable sport, which unlike many others, can be played by those of all ages. Our results for June and July and home fixtures for August and September are as follows:

1st June	Lower Heyford 44 shots	Filkins 63 shots
5th June	Burford 48 shots	Lower Heyford 78 shots
7th June	Lower Heyford 35 shots	Burma Star 82 shots
11th June	Bicester 32 shots	Lower Heyford 78 shots
18th June	Deddington 57 shots	Lower Heyford 62 shots
23rd June	Lower Heyford 97 shots	Adderbury 38 shots
26th June	Lower Heyford 58 shots	Bloxham 68 shots
29th June	Lower Heyford 72 shots	Kidlington 35 shots
2nd July	Lower Heyford 44 shots	Chadlington 78 shots
7th July	Lower Heyford 21 shots	Thames Valley Police 24 shots* Rained off after 9 ends
16th July	Lower Heyford 53 shots	Bicester 42 shots
23rd July	Witney 52 shots	Lower Heyford 74 shots
24th July	Lower Heyford 52 shots	Long Hanborough 50 shots

Sat 6th	Aug	v. Oxon Fire Service starting at 2.30pm
Wed 10th	Aug	v. Woodstock starting at 6.00pm
Sat 13th	Aug	v. Middle Barton starting at 2.00pm
Sat 20th	Aug	v. Deddington starting at 2.00pm (Jack Kenny Cup)
Sat 10th	Sep	v. Brackley starting at 6.30pm

END OF SEASON

Club night is every Thursday from around 6.00pm - why not drop in and perhaps have a go? You only need flat-soled shoes, we can provide the bowls and a helping hand! Please contact Roger Bowen (rogerbowen@btinternet.com or 01869:340406) if you have any questions or would like to make an arrangement

UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

The floodlighting of St Mary's Church

June

7th In memory of the late Kathleen Smith, who died in 1975. 'With love from Jim.'

16th In celebration of the birthday of the late Grace Smith. 'With love from Jim.'

18th In celebration of the birthday of the late Gilbert (Jack) Brain. 'With love from your daughter, Ann'.

22nd In memory of Sandra Jayne Brain who died in 2007. 'All our love, Sally, Rob and Lilly Jayne.'

July

8th In loving memory of Agnes Thompson who died on 26th June, 2011. Sadly missed by Anne, Guiseppi, Sara and Rebecca Truisi.

11th In celebration of the 10th Birthday of Isla Rivers. 'Love from mum, dad and Mac'.

13th In celebration of the birthday of the late Ben Brain. 'With love from his daughter, Karen, and her partner, Sean.'

17th In celebration of the birthday of the late Kathleen Smith's 91st birthday. With love from Jim.

To celebrate the first wedding anniversary of Zoe and Adam Berry. 'With love from Grandpa.' (Jim)

18th In loving memory of Suzanne Anne Charlesworth who passed away a year ago. 'Forever in our hearts and sadly missed, Brian, Casey, Chris and Clare.'

20th In celebration of the 15th wedding anniversary of Sue and Steward Pratley. 'Happy anniversary Stew. All my love, Sue.'

25th In loving memory of Clifford Jones who passed away July 14th, 2011, and is being laid to rest today. 'All our love, Anita & Roy.'

27th In celebration of the birthday of the late Mary Jones. 'All our love, Anita & Roy.'

Upper Heyford Village Hall

Work is progressing (albeit rather slowly) on the new extension and it will soon be time to start the 'do-it-ourselves' fitting out part of the project. We are very fortunate to have a number of craftsmen in the village who will generously give their time to the skilled aspects of the work, however, there are plenty of other jobs that will need to be done, so if you are in a position to help (it need only be occasionally to fit in with family life) please let a member of the committee know.

Perhaps also you may be in a position to be able to sponsor certain materials required in the fitting out. It would be a great help if we could fund some of the building materials in this way. For example these are some of the things that will be needed to complete the job:

Timber studs for the partitions

Plasterboard for the partitions and ceiling

Plaster for the walls

Windows

Lots of paint

Kitchen fittings & fitments

Floor coverings & skirtings

Screws & nails

Wall tiles

Plumbing fittings

Light fittings

Revised charges from 1st September 2011

The charges for the hall are extremely modest, however, inflation and the cost of improved amenities means that the charges must be increased to meet the running costs.

The new charges will be as follows:

Hourly rate for parishioners

Parish events £5 per hour

Private parties £8 per hour (+£100 cash deposit)

Village weddings £120 per day (+£100 cash deposit)

Hourly rate for non-residents

Events £7 per hour

Private parties £10 per hour (+£100 cash deposit)

Weddings £150 per day (+£100 cash deposit)

Commercial / Business £12 per hour

Heating costs

All the above fees **plus** heating cards at £2.50 for approximately 2 hours of a heating per card

Hirers will be charged one hour set up & cleaning time

See webpage for full set of regulations

Booking clerk Ian Lough-Scott 232788

Reading Room fees

Hiring fees include electricity charges and heating costs. The fees are standardised year round. Hirers will be charged for one hour set up and cleaning time. Charges will apply in ½ hour increments

A Cleaning deposit of £25 is required at Committee discretion.

A higher deposit amount may be required for some functions.

Parish Resident Hire Charges:.

Parish Groups:	£6 per hour
Parish Fund Raising Events	£6 per hour
St Mary's Church Events	£6 per hour
Private Parties	£8 per hour (+£100 cash deposit)

Other Hirers

Non Resident Groups	£8 per hour
Private Parties	£10 per hour (+£100 cash deposit)
Commercial/Business hire	£10 per hour

All fees include heating and lighting costs

Hirers will be charged one hour set up and cleaning time

See webpage for full set of regulations

Booking clerk Brenda Cooper 233746

HARVEST FESTIVAL

St Mary's Upper Heyford
Sunday 16 October at 12 noon
followed by a ploughman's lunch

Warreners

We did not have our usual meeting in June because of the building works at the village hall.

At our July meeting the guest speaker was Colin Oakes who gave a very interesting and entertaining talk entitled 'The tales of old London'. He explained that it was a mere snippet of his repertory of talks so we will definitely have him back.

The August meeting will be bingo and a social get-together, and at the September meeting there will be a talk on the wonders of Oxford. Not to be missed.

NEXT EVENTS AT HEYFORD PARK

August

Thursday 4th

CHILDREN'S ROAD SIGNS ART SESSION 10a.m.-12 Community Centre

Come and design a road sign to remind drivers at Heyford Park to take care. If you cannot attend, contact us for further information and materials. Phone Mary 233994 or Sally 233912
(Presentations by Korky Paul and others on October 9th)

Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th 1p.m.

SUMMER HOLIDAY FOOTBALL COMPETITION

Two age ranges 8-11yrs, 12-15yrs.

Contact Tym, Playbus 233933 or email heyfordpark@btinternet.com

Saturday 13th

SWAP SHOP Community Centre 11-1

Bring your unwanted goods and /or pick up something for free!

Also Saturday 13th

BINGO Community Centre 6pm

Eyes Down 6.30p.m. MONEY PRIZES

Children accompanied by an adult welcome to play for non-money prizes.

September

Saturday 10th

FUN DAY !

Look out for posters and check the website for more details

Thursday 15th

OVER 50s GROUP 12 - 1p.m.. Troy from Age UK will introduce us to the sport of Curling with a chance for all to have a go. 1 - 2p.m. **LUNCH**

Other News

Our Neighbourhood Watch started with an invitation to residents on Saturday July 9th and the first co-ordinators meeting will take place shortly. For further information email heyfordnhw@hotmail.co.uk or phone one of the community volunteers listed below.

Volunteers spent an evening clearing the Sports Centre at Heyford Park. This is not open to the public as more work needs to be done, including expensive repairs to the roof, but a start has been made and we look forward with excitement to using the Centre when it is ready. More clearing, cleaning and painting is available to volunteers. Contact Tym 233933

We have a new Over 50s Club which made a successful start in July with a talk and film about the history of the base. The group will meet for lunch and a speaker on the third Thursday of the month.

Contact Jean and John 233374 or Alan 233414

At the moment meetings are bi-monthly, so the next one will be September 15th but we hope these will become more regular. Volunteers are needed to help with shopping and setting up.

Our new website is now up and running at www.heyfordparkresidents.org.uk

To contact the Residents Association committee please email heyfordpark@btinternet.com or phone Jenny 233707, Jean & John 233374, Mary & Pete 233994, Nuala 233838 Alan 233414. You can also phone these numbers for information on any of the above events.

Other contacts you might find useful:

Playbus 233933 for Youth Club and for hall bookings

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers www.heyfordparkscouts.org.uk Email: heyfordscouts@btinternet.com

Karate philpatrickis@yahoo.com 07915661853 with one month's free trial for all children

Children's activities at the Chapel 232029

The Heyford and Caversfield Children's Centre 233151

Eve Women's Wellbeing Project 232461



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IS BINGO COMING BACK?

If there is sufficient interest we would like to start bingo again, perhaps weekly, on a Friday evening in Upper Heyford Village Hall in aid of the village church. It won't be until the nights are drawing in, so if you would support the bingo (and help finance the church at the same time) please let Ann Woski know.



Coarse Gardening.

Any fairly large garden needs paths, so that you can stroll around on a warm summer evening, glass of white wine in hand, the scent of roses wafting around you and the quiet, self-absorbed humming of bees still rummaging the catmint in the gloaming, right? Wrong. We have several sorts of paths at The Willows and none of them work quite like that. Mostly, they are what you might call, loosely, grass paths. That is, strips of sward (faithful readers will note the avoidance of the L word) dividing flowerbed from meadow patch, rhubarb from shrubbery and so on. Just now, these are a tapestry of white clover, deepest violet self-heal, and bumblebees. Not only that: I started counting plant species in them, apart from grasses, the other day and had reached over a dozen when it started to rain and I left it. I will get down to it some day soon and do a proper identification of all the fascinating things growing in our "lawn". (Sorry about the language there. I did say I wouldn't use that word.) These paths are so rich in plant species that it is like walking on Swiss salad - it is at once spongy and crisp under foot and covered in flowers. Far and away too good to walk on. In fact, real appreciation is a hands-and-knees job. You can always get from A to B by tramping down the herbaceous borders.

Speaking of which, there are little access paths within the borders themselves, made of a layer of woodchip about eighteen inches wide and three inches thick. My friend Matthew has been very kind in providing the odd load of minced tree, a very useful weed-suppressing material in a garden this size. These little pathways meander down the middle of borders here and there, between shrubs so that I can get behind the nettles and woody nightshade which like to invade clumps of phlox and Michaelmas daisies. However, woodchip also creates a kind of duvet, under which I nurture healthy crops of voles. They tunnel under the stuff in all directions, raising the surface in what looks like long Nissen huts in some places and giving it a quilted effect in others. When you walk on it you get the sensation of being about to fall through into some sort of mythical vole kingdom, a sort of rodent Middle Earth. Tolkien would have loved the dizzy things. They sit in there, grinning all over their fat little faces and chomping my crocus corms. They have now



don't know it yet, but there is a new member of our household with an interest in the activities of such as them. So far, she has been under house-arrest, but once she is old enough to be let out, voles had better decamp, smartish. Being black, Socks will be pretty well invisible on a dark night, except for her whiskers and the four, ghostly white, disembodied paws; very scary.

Another woodchip path, which curves around the back of a D-shaped plot, is the preferred seedbed of those wonderful blue-flowered wild cranesbills which have been such a joy beside the road this year as you drive through Middleton Stoney. When the sun shone through them, they looked like blue fire. There are some in my 'wild patches', but not nearly enough. They don't seed themselves there, though, where they are wanted, oh no, nor in carefully prepared seed trays or flowerpots; the little woodchip path is *much* better, thanks awfully. Lovely fat little cranesbill rosettes have appeared all over the pathway which, of course, gets ruined when you dig them out for transplanting. Wild scabious likes it, too, and red champions. It is another case where you might as well give up the struggle (which naught availeth), walk on the flowerbed and admire the path. The same goes for the short, curvy length of brick path which crosses a border. The gaps between bricks get infilled with wild red poppies and tiny pansies until it looks like something carefully and beautifully contrived for the Chelsea Flower Show. No room for rude feet to come galumphing along. Spray it, did you say? You cannot be serious! It's silver-gilt medal work at the very least.



A good response to this inadvertent garden role-reversal is to make proper paths of gravel laid over water-permeable plastic membrane, clean sharp gravel with no nutrients in it for seedlings, rolled to form a nice hard surface, so that it remains weed-free. This I have done, in places. I actually used limestone chips which, being angular, wedge themselves tightly together when trodden down, which makes it even less likely that plants can get a toe-hold, right? Yeah, well, you know the answer. Maybe the chippings were not all that clean. The main area to have received this treatment is cropping abundantly with primroses, sweet violets, wood violets, toadflax, cowslips, a small type of perennial wallflower and stonecrops all flourishing and looking, in fact, far happier and healthier than their colleagues in the proper flowerbeds. And even the car park is sprouting violets between the brick setts. I give up. I am tempted to cover the whole garden with woodchip and gravel and go away for a very, very long holiday, so that nature can get on with it undisturbed.

Would you believe, it is bulb ordering time again. How did that happen? It seems mad, in the middle of what passes for 'summer' these days, to be thinking about tulips. Still, anticipation is more than half of what gardening is all about. There is always something to look forward to, which is why old gardeners are so reluctant to die. In fact, very often they don't die - they just shrivel up a bit and get more brown and wrinkled year by year, until they closely resemble a crocus corm and then they get eaten by voles.

Topical tip: if you have a serious infestation of bindweed and all else fails, try a top-dressing of four inches of steel-mesh reinforced concrete.



Relish your compost. Happy gardening! Roger Burt.

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Ground, Somerton Road

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Hog Roast & Real Ale with Music



Sports & Games, Tombola,
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Class lists, Entry forms etc in VN & being posted by hand soon.

Donations for Raffle & Tombola prizes, and cakes
& plants to sell would be very much appreciated.
Please contact Mary on 232722.