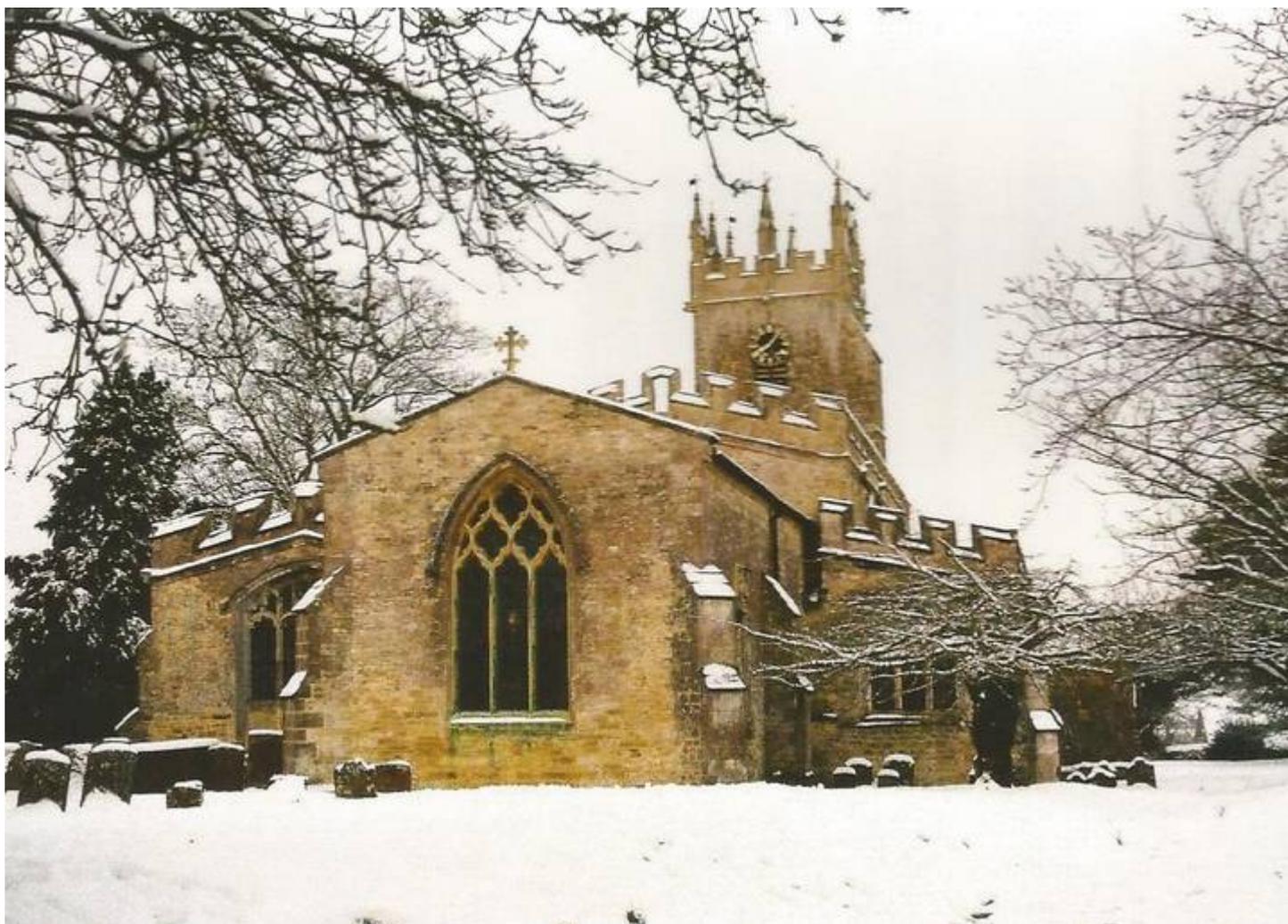


Valley News

December 2014

No 216

News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



***A CELEBRATION OF THE RESTORATION
OF THE GRADE 1 LISTED CHURCH OF
ST JAMES THE APOSTLE SOMERTON & THE FERMOR CHAPEL
with the Rt. Hon Sir Tony Baldry MP, Second Church Estates Commissioner
On Sunday, 1st February 2015, 6.00-8.00 pm***

Valley News is delivered FREE to every household in:

Caulcott – Heyford Park – Lower Heyford - Somerton – Upper Heyford

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Also published on line www.upperheyford.com

Church Services in the Valley

	Ardley St Mary's	Fritwell St Olave's	Lower Heyford & Caulcott St Mary's	Somerton St James	Souldern Ann to the BVM	Upper Heyford St Mary's HPC	
30-Nov	11:00am Advent Benefice Service - Fritwell						
7-Dec	8.30am 1662 HC	11am Family Communion	11am Family Communion	6pm Carols by Candlelight	11am Matins	9.30am Traditional language Communion	11am Morning Service
14-Dec	9.30am Communion	11am Christmas All Age	11am Family Worship	9.30am Sunday Club	11am Sung Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Service
19-Dec						7pm Carols & Poems	
20-Dec					5pm Carol Service		
21-Dec	4pm Christmas All Age	Carol Service 4.30pm on the green 5,00 in the church	4pm Lessons & Carols	9.30am Matins & HC	8.30am 1662 HC	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Christmas All Age
24-Dec				4pm Nativity	11pm late night HC	11pm late night HC	
25-Dec	9.30am Family Communion	11am Family Communion	11am Family Communion	9.30am Family Communion			10.30am All Age Service
28-Dec	11am Benefice Communion Service - Lower Heyford						
4-Jan	8.30am 1662 HC	11am Family Worship	11am 1662 Communion		11am Matins	9.30am Traditional language Communion	11am Morning Service
11-Jan	9.30am Communion	8.30am 1662 HC	11am Family Worship	9:30 Sunday Club	11am Sung Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Service
18-Jan	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Family Communion	11am Morning Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	8.30am 1662 HC	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Communion
25-Jan	9.30am Family Worship	6pm Evensong	11am Family Communion	9.30am Family Communion	11am Morning Prayer	8.30am 1662 HC	11am All Age Service

BENEFICE OFFICE

572 Brice Road, Heyford Park, OX25 5TE Tel: 01869 233687

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 –2.30

Tel: 01869 233687

To book a wedding or baptism Tel: 01869 233687 administrator@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk

www.cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk

Outside office hours please leave either a telephone or email message or in the case of an emergency please telephone 01869 233249 or 07889 444 616

CHERWELL VALLEY BENEFICE

The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford www.cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk		
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Mr. John Hine (LLM)	01869 278565	
Benefice Office	01869 233687	administrator@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk

The Christmas Peace that shaped our world.

There is no doubt that the marking of Armistice Day by the laying of 888,246 poppies at the Tower of London, affected us all as a nation. For young soldiers caught up in those terrifying events of war it must have felt like the end of the world. Deep within the heart of man there is a longing for peace among the tragedies of war surrounding us continuing horrendously in Syria and the Middle East.

The first carol ever sung was:- "Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth, Good Will towards Men." Luke 2 v 14. Christmas brings a longing for a personal peace and a world at peace with itself. This in turn brings us to our knees reaching out beyond ourselves to God who pitched his 'tent' on earth and became like man, Jesus of Nazareth; a native of the very world he made.

The truths that are woven into the heart of Christmas make Christianity what it is; God with us.

"Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today Christ is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat and all the monarchs that have ever reigned, put together, have not affected the lives of people of this earth as much as that **One Solitary Life.**" By Dr. James A Francis.

Coming to faith in Christ, the peace-maker, is a personal experience. Nevertheless we are surrounded in the churches, of the Cherwell Benefice, by many who believe and give a strong validation to like Christian faith.

This Christmas, for many, real peace will be elusive. The former Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, Dr. James Jones, wrote, "The disease of peacelessness that afflicts the earth can blight an individual's soul. The strangely atmospheric mood of Christmas can sometimes expose the barrenness of our interior life."

Often this Christmas wilderness is filled by leisure, pleasure and treasures. Eventually real peace with God and our neighbour is found by taking one small step on a trail that will lead us to Bethlehem. There we will have found that God has come, fulfilling a promise laid down centuries ago:

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord." – Luke 2 v 11

We know that God offers good news through His Son giving 'Peace on earth and good will towards men.' For peace and good will are the hallmarks of friendship. Our inherent brokenness, because of sin and the lack of peace within us, is restored.

This is the real gift of Christmas, as we celebrate with family, friends, neighbours and in our Churches. The coming of the Prince of Peace takes on a greater personal significance as we transform the carol,

'O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.'
into the prayer of our hearts.

Wishing you a peace filled Christmas, Geoff (Team Vicar)

WHAT'S ON IN THE CHERWELL VALLEY

SOMERTON CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Sat. 6th December

2.00 p.m. Village Hall

Gifts, Handicrafts, Cakes,
Produce, Kitchenalia,
Childrens Games, Tombola,
Mulled Wine, Teas, Raffle,
Christmas Stall & Cards,
and
Santa's Grotto

Free admission 

St Olaves invites you to

Messy Church!

14th December, 4.00-5.30

(And 2nd Sunday of every month, same time and
place)

at Fritwell Wesleyan Chapel, North Street

Theme: Christmas



All ages are welcome for a time of craft, stories, celebration
and food. Children need to bring an adult!

Everyone welcome - just come along!

(Admission Free – Donations Welcome)

For any enquiries, please contact Grace on 07908227625

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS

ST OLAVE'S CHURCH, FRITWELL

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

12 NOON - 4:00pm

HOT LUNCH
& Refreshments

CRAFT FAIR, GIFTS, TOMBOLA

FATHER CHRISTMAS

FESTIVE SONGS
By Fritwell School

FESTIVAL OF TREES

www.st-olaves.org

'FESTIVAL OF TREES & WREATHS!'

ST OLAVE'S CHURCH
FRITWELL

ON VIEW EVERY DAY
10am - 4pm

6 Dec 'til 5 January

FREE ENTRY

DONATIONS WELCOME

St. Olave's Fundraising Initiative

Visit: www.st-olaves.org



Robin Hepworth, 1937-2014

Robin was born in 1937 and grew up in Totteridge, North London, daughter of Roy and Doe Robson and younger sister to David.

At the age of eighteen she married Ian MacGillivray, a naval officer, and almost immediately moved abroad to Malta, Gibraltar, then South Africa and Singapore, with brief stints at home in Devon, Hampshire and Scotland. They had three children. In the mid-seventies she married David Hepworth, who was also in the Navy and after a life at sea and abroad was keen to return to his home county of Oxfordshire, and put down roots. They moved to Darville House (originally the Red Lion pub) in Lower Heyford. There was not much garden to speak of and over many years David and Robin created a beautiful flower garden and large vegetable patch from what was essentially just a paddock stretching behind the house.

Robin was an excellent cook and she and David loved to entertain. They made many lifelong friends in and around Heyford.

She played an active part in village life and the wider community. Early on she ran the Forget-me-Not club for the older folk. She became a Parish Councillor, was on the Reading Room Committee, and was a Liaison Officer between the community and the US air force base at Upper Heyford. She also worked as practice manager at Deddington Health Centre for many years.

After nearly 30 years at Darville House, David and Robin decided to downsize, and their carefully tended vegetable patch seemed to be the ideal place to build themselves a new house which would be more suitable for their old age. They moved up the drive to Garden House in 2003. Robin had a lot of fun designing the house and one important feature was her painting studio, accessed by a reclaimed spiral staircase. She was a talented painter in oils and watercolours and also taught classes for many years, as well as running an annual open studio as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks. She also quickly established a lovely new garden and was very fond of growing irises, which featured in many of her paintings.

In her own words: "Painting is my passion, pleasure and delight, a continuing voyage of discovery. I have been painting for longer than I care to admit, and still every day there is more to observe and absorb. Having married aged 18 in the mid-fifties, I had no training in anything ... and I still don't, only a wealth of experience and a strong desire to share my learning curve with others. My grandchildren sometimes ask me when I'm going to retire, to which the answer is that I haven't 'peaked' yet - but I'm still working on it!"

Sadly, a few months after David's death in June 2012, Robin was diagnosed with lung cancer. After three months of treatment, she largely returned to 'business as usual' and managed to fit in a few holidays to Sicily, Amsterdam and Venice, alongside her other commitments. She continued painting until early January and died peacefully in her sleep at home on 20th January 2014.

Robin is much missed by her friends, children and stepchildren Fiona, Anna, Alex, Nicky and Mark and her ten grandchildren who knew her as Granny Rob.

Tribute: Susan Jane Falkner

Sue was born on the 29th June 1944 to Harold & Phyllis Mortimore. Sue was one of seven children - one sister Pam and five brothers Tony (deceased) Stephen, Mick, Graham & Ben.

Sue's early years were spent in Oxford, the family then moved to Caulcott, then after a few years to Lower Heyford where the family ran the shop and Post Office until 1982.

Sue attended St Mary's School in Lower Heyford run by Miss Dew, she then moved to Dr Radcliffe's school, Steeple Aston. When she left school Sue helped her father in the shop, also helping her mother with the younger members of the family.

Sue married Bill Falkner from Steeple Aston, they lived just a few doors along from the family home in Freehold Street, where they brought up Jackie, Lyn, Neil & Trish.

Sue never ventured far away from Heyford as she loved the peace and quiet of village life. Sue enjoyed spending time in her garden growing vegetables and flowers, which were always a blaze of colour every summer. If you visited Sue the kettle was always boiling ready for the many cups of tea she made over the years.

Sue had a huge family, too many to mention, from sister/brother-in-laws, nieces, nephews, son/daughter-in-laws, all having different stories to tell.

Sue enjoyed watching her sporting family playing football, or cricket on Sundays and Banger Racing.

Sue and Bill were married for 53 years and lived in Lower Heyford in the same house all that time. Sue was reliable, trusted and well respected, she worked for a number of families over the years and was always there for them morning or night. Many people have said how she would always stop to chat and that they will always remember her fondly.

Sue adored her family, when her eight grandchildren came along she was so proud of them all, James, Lucy, Alice, Kayleigh, Ellie, Sam, Tia, and Paige, who now miss her so much. They all have their own special memories of their Nan from making cakes, drawing, having sleep overs and generally spending time with them. Sue was often seen over the years with a grandchild or two walking through the village to the playing field, along the canal or feeding the ducks.

Sue will be missed so much as a loving wife, mum, sister and aunt. We were so overwhelmed with cards, letters of condolence and offers of support with so many kind words. It's a great comfort to know how much everyone thought of Sue.

We would like to thank everyone who attended Sue's funeral, for the donations which totalled £880.71 for Children's Cancers and Leukaemia. There are too many people to thank individually, however, please accept our grateful thanks for all the help we received.

Our thanks go to Derek Rose for all he did for Sue, also Rev Stephen Griffiths for the lovely service and Willie Shepherd for the eulogy.

Thank you, Bill, Jackie, Lyn, Neil, Trish and families.



***A CELEBRATION OF THE
RESTORATION
OF THE GRADE 1 LISTED CHURCH OF
ST JAMES THE APOSTLE SOMERTON
& THE FERMOR CHAPEL***

***with the Rt. Hon Sir Tony Baldry MP
Second Church Estates Commissioner
On Sunday, 1st February 2015***

***6.00-8.00 pm
drinks & canapés***

***Adults £10
Children 15 and under free of charge***

Acceptances to Suzie Leon 01869 346814

**We Shall
Remember
Them**



As part of
'Create, faith in art's' act of remembrance
we made poppies for each soldier
who lost his life during the First World War in the
Cherwell Valley Benefice.
If you know anyone from the parishes of Ardley,
Fritwell, Lower Heyford, Upper Heyford Somerton or
Souldern who survives any of these brave men and
would like their poppy please contact Barbara
McGarry on 01869 345931 or email
administrator@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk

Poetry Corner

I came across this poem by chance, when trawling through Heather's library for Christmas readings. It is a brilliantly pictorial piece, describing, in spectacular language, the everyday, familiar things in the garden when they are transformed - *spelled, witched* - by a sudden, unexpected hoarfrost, which makes the *clouds of white blossom* all over the trees. A word you might not be familiar with is *physalis*, the horticultural name of those wonderful Day-glo orange "Chinese Lanterns" which make such vivid Christmas decorations when dried. Amazing things, which I would not be without. But I am not so keen on the *dragon's grin* in the last verse, not when it actually breaks the gutters with its weight!

Roger Burt

Year Ending by Caroline Cook

Cold has spelled the garden while we were sleeping
and has turned the soil to embers, witched the leaves
to rust. Overnight clouds of white blossom

like ruffs have come to the arms of trees. The lawn
is ashen, pinned-out, scared to stiffness
and a hoarfrost tells the spiders' secrets, lacing stalk

to stalk like rigging thickly roped, catching
the rays of early sun. The willow weeps
with frozen diamond tears; so the garden

has not been banished but is coming back obliquely,
tranced at rakish angles - still alive but altered,
and a charged light, snowlight, picks out other themes

the wafer-pennied honesty along scant lines,
dark, brittle, seedcrowns with their architecture
underplayed before, and orange blobs of physalis

that smoulder grounded. Clutches of berries hang on tightly
to the firethorn. Dogwood reddens. The cotoneaster stretches out
its fishbone limbs. An intimate is stranger - grown contrary.

Still, there is wit in icicles zigzagging gutters like a dragon's grin
and candyfloss caught on the beech, pompoms of mistletoe,
and snow like icing freshly piped along bare branches.



St Mary's Upper Heyford

The Joy of Christmas

Christmas Readings and Carols

19 December at 7pm

Mulled wine, mince pies and friendship

The Warreners

We are missing Ann very much and hope that she will be well soon. Sheila is busy too with her mother and husband to care for, so we are light on helpers.

The harvest lunch on October 8th was most enjoyable all the food being prepared by the committee

At the November meeting we were saddened by the passing of Vera Castle, a very long standing and much loved member of the club. Her funeral was on the same day as our monthly meeting and Anez & Eric represented the club. A donation was made to Blue Cross in memory of Vera.

Our Christmas meal will be in the village hall on 10 December starting at 1.15pm, and we are grateful for the support of the 200 Club.

The January meeting will be on 14th January, weather permitting, when we will have a beetle drive—great fun! New members are always welcome.

What's going on at Cherwell District Council?

Councillor Calling

The **Local Plan** saga continued with a full Council vote on the summer's amendments. These added the 6,000 extra houses demanded by the Inspector plus all the consequent infrastructure. The village policies have added what sounds like a menacing 750 houses for the larger settlements but, after subtracting 250 earmarked for Kidlington, this leaves 22 per village over the twenty year Plan period: one or two a year seems not unreasonable. Policy in smaller settlements has also been eased to allow infill within the village boundary, which, again, might prove welcome in not having to fight tooth and nail for the odd, perfectly acceptable (and often much-needed) extra home.

The Plan now goes back to the Inspector to resume his Examination in Public (EiP). Unlike the adversarial combat of planning Appeals, the EiP takes a much more structured and collegiate format. For each topic, the Inspector gathers the council's team, together with all the others who have made representations and want to participate, round a table and focuses the discussion so that each one is heard on the specific points they have made but wandering off track is minimised. This process is open to all, though observers may not speak. Of most relevance to us is the morning of Thursday 18th December, when "Villages and Rural Areas" are to be considered, including the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan, whose representatives have registered to participate. Assuming the Inspector approves the Plan, it will come into force next Spring, ending a saga that has been running for more than a decade.

Meanwhile, the **Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan** process is under way. If completed (and the process is nothing if not tortuous, culminating in a local referendum, so you have the final say), it will direct where our parishes' share of homes would go, and where, within each parish, are the favoured sites, if any. The aim is both to apply genuine local knowledge at parish level, to where houses are needed and wanted and to provide a level of protection from aggressive developers inflicting inappropriate using the "five year housing supply" loophole. The first stage is consultation on the overall boundary (ie the parishes that have chosen to join in), and then serious choices have to be made about what each parish wants – that's your chance to protect and enhance your environment for the next twenty years. Interestingly, the only opposition aroused by the consultation was a blast from developers who are proposing a large block of housing in Kirtlington: this shows that those in the business see Neighbourhood Plans as having teeth, which I find rather encouraging.

Cherwell's senior planners are also a lot more positive about its benefits than I'd thought. I get the impression they were initially concerned that it was "developer led" by Heyford Park's Dorchester Group, who are, indeed, providing resources and coordination. A round table meeting of all the parishes involved rapidly corrected that impression: though we are all working together, we have very individual priorities for the Plan – housing numbers and location, obviously, but traffic and transport, health facilities and schools are common issues, before each parish lists its individual needs, which may have nothing to do with Heyford Park. These are all at a level of detail beyond the Local Plan's general policies and can therefore provide the District with a hugely enriched planning guide which is genuinely community driven – wins all round.

Meanwhile, our planning officers' impartiality has been tested as they now split their time and loyalties equally between Cherwell and South Northants councils. Cherwell's councillors have approved a Local Plan designating areas East of the M40 as employment sites for Banbury while, for South Northants councillors, any extension of Banbury across the motorway in their direction is anathema. Our officers have to follow these political directions according to which office they are working in – an impressive test of loyalty.

Fast broadband has been causing controversy. We all know it's become a necessity and not a luxury and the County Council's rollout programme seems to be taking forever. This will anyway only cover 90% of the county, leaving out great swathes of rural areas, so Cherwell has added £500,000 from the "New Homes Bonus" – additional government grant related to the number of houses built – to raise this to 95%. Unfortunately, there is a serious lack of precision over who exactly will be covered and who left out in the cold. As this is now make or break for many rural livelihoods, both councils need to grip the problem urgently.

Mobile libraries are also a County Council matter, but we're all being consulted on a major change. OCC's five mobile libraries will more than halve their number of stops from 467 to about 200, each of which will last longer, to try and reflect current usage patterns. I suspect this is a much-loved service that most of us don't actually use in practice so, if they can concentrate on where they really are needed, they will do more good. However, if that's wrong, you've got until the New Year to make your views known to OCC.

Your satisfaction with Cherwell, meanwhile, has risen to 77% in this year's survey, having risen steadily from 60% when surveys began in 2006. Considering the council's budget has been cut by nearly half over that period, this shows that local authorities can deliver efficiencies to match any private business. A major contributor to backroom economies has been sharing services with South Northants and others. A reward for leading the way in this is a stream of government grants to encourage progress: the latest news is £775,000 to fund computer integration – a double bonus when your council tax doesn't have to pay to do stuff that will reduce your council tax! Let's hope these grants keep coming...

And that's it for 2014, so may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

James Macnamara

Mr Macnamara is remarkably sanguine at the prospect of 2650+ homes on the edge of the Cherwell Valley and appears to be quite relaxed at the thought of even more being dumped on our doorstep to meet the requirements of the Strategic Market Housing Assessment for Oxfordshire. I suggest that readers should carefully consider the full implications of this level of development in this most rural part of Oxfordshire.

Ian Lough-Scott

Coarse Gardening Well, I threatened to do it, and I have. I have been wittering on for months that the garden had got beyond me and that I needed to get some professionals in to clear part of it. Finally, Heather pushed me into doing something about it, apart from moaning and claiming to have back-ache. I contacted several local firms who advertise themselves as landscapers, 'no job too large or too small', 'hard and soft landscaping undertaken', that kind of thing. I left telephone messages and e-mails explaining my predicament and what I wanted done about it, and hardly any of them even bothered to respond. So much for the 'another day, another dollar' mentality. One outfit did send an e-mail, to the effect that they couldn't take on any more work until next March at the earliest. The others ignored the messages. Looks like a market opportunity out there for someone willing to roll up his sleeves...

So I sent all the details off to Nicholsons at North Aston and I am very glad that I did. There was a prompt reply, and Liz Nicholson herself came round almost at once, full of bright ideas and sensible suggestions. They gave me clear price guidelines for three day's work involving a small team of people and various machines, including a two-ton digger; not cheap, but it sounded effective. The team turned up here in those lovely warm days we had in the middle of November, finishing on the Friday which broke all records by reaching 25 degrees. They substantially cleared the four big 'herbaceous borders', which largely comprised such desirable items as nettles, field bindweed, goosegrass, twitch, thistles and highly tenacious ash saplings, removing also various overgrown shrubs and unhealthy small trees, which contributed to a magnificent bonfire on site. Using the digger, they got out all the stumps and leveled the borders so that they are now continuous with the grass paths and can be grassed over in their turn.

We are now able to really see, and appreciate, the remaining trees and shrubs, which stand clear, as specimens. One of the team expertly pruned and tidied them all. Eventually, they will be underplanted with bulbs and grassed around. I took advantage of the lovely bonfire to shape up the apple trees at the bottom of the garden, removing low branches so that I can get under them with the small motor mower. This is a bit ironic, since I have spent years trying to prune these wretched trees into an umbrella shape, with branches low enough to get at the apples; but I have given up on them now. They are actually badly cankered and produce precious few apples worth having anyway, so I have thrown in the towel and will regard them as amenity trees, very pretty when in blossom, but be blowed to pretending that they're an orchard.

In the ex-herbaceous borders, some of the trees and shrubs are in groups which could be added to in the future, to produce mini-groves, with spring bulbs and summer wildflowers under them. There is space enough around them for the sit-on mower to go in and out, so I can reduce much of my labour to playing at Stirling Moss. However, before we get to that, there is plenty of raking-off of leaves and sprinkling of cheap grass seed to be done. Mustn't get too far ahead of myself. I haven't stopped moaning about back-ache just yet.

While the gardening team were here we had another visitor: a green parakeet on the bird feeder. It was a splendid bird, its body two tones of vivid green, a scarlet bill and long magpie-tail with a steely blue sheen. It came on several occasions on the same day, spending some time in the big ash tree on our lawn and also flying across the canal to the willows on the other side. The next day I could hear it shrieking over there somewhere and saw it again as it flew up the village, turning in a wide circle and back across the valley. The flight is rapid and remarkably hawk-like. I have been on the lookout since, but have not seen it again.

Checking with my bird books seems to have established that it was a Rose-ringed parakeet, probably a female or a juvenile, since the male birds have a well-marked red or black neck ring, and this one had none. It may have been an escape from someone's aviary, but I suspect that it was more likely to have been a tourist from the London area. We were very familiar with these birds when we lived near Windsor Great Park, which has been extensively colonised by them, where they nest in the hollows of the ancient trees. There is a large and vociferous gang of them in the Saville Gardens. One particular old sweet chestnut there seems to be hollow all over, even down the middles of relatively minor branches, and green heads with red bills pop out of every hole, kicking up a devil of a racket. You might suspect that even the rooks and jackdaws must be complaining about the noisy neighbours. For a bird which originated in India (where it is a major agricultural pest), it is doing remarkably well in Northern climes, not only in London but also in Amsterdam and elsewhere in the Netherlands, Belgium, Paris, Rome, and Germany all the way up the Rhine in the major cities. Bizarrely, they choose to nest and raise their young in our winter - from January onwards.

Personally, I would rather like to see more of them around here. Okay, they are noisy, apparently unable to do anything without the accompaniment of piercing shrieks, rather like teenage girls at a pop concert, but they do add some welcome variety to the garden bird table. They do in Surrey, anyway. The CBI reckons that immigrants bring more to the economy than they take out, and that certainly seems to be true of these fellows, who bring a disproportionate amount of colour and liveliness to the drab bird-feeders of Kingston, if nothing else, giving some people a great deal of pleasure, and all for - let's face it - peanuts. Don't tell UKIP.

All the very best. Have a good Christmas.

Roger Burt.

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CHERWELL VALLEY

Victoria Prentis is selected as Conservative candidate to replace Sir Tony Baldry

Some of you know me from waiting at the school bus stop, or from acting as Churchwarden in Somerton, or from shopping in the butchers in Fritwell. For those that don't, I thought I should tell you a little about myself, and how excited I am to have been selected to be your Conservative candidate in next May's general election, when Tony Baldry retires.

I was born in the Horton, and brought up on the family farm in Aynho. When I married, and we had our own children, we moved to Somerton. I have lived in 6 houses within 3 miles, and now live in a house we built. Sebastian gets the train from Bicester North to his work as a barrister every day, and the girls get the bus to school in Oxford. I love this valley.



Before I was selected to be your candidate, I had spent 17 years working as a government lawyer. I'm a barrister, and was head of the Justice and Security team, specialising in military and national security. I saw close up how government works. Civil service rules meant that I had to resign immediately on selection, so I'm now a full time candidate, getting out, meeting voters and listening to their concerns.

The three top priorities for me are;

- **Planning** –I want to support Cherwell District Council in delivering sustainable development in appropriate locations. I'm keen that we put the 'plan' into planning: encouraging growth while protecting what matters to us.
- **Healthcare** –I made my first speech about saving the Horton when I was 7. I now Chair the Benefactors' Board which raises hundreds of thousands of pounds a year for Children's Services across the Trust. I will campaign to Keep the Horton General Hospital; and fight for additional support for Bicester Community Hospital.
- **Older People** –It is important that we support and care for older people in our community with compassion, and ensure that they continue to feel part of their local areas. I will encourage the provision of specialist care for those suffering from dementia and similar conditions.

It is a real honour to have been selected for an area I know and love. I look forward to meeting more of you over the next few months and, hopefully, persuading you to vote for me.

Victoria Prentis

Pack Up Your Troubles

On Sunday evening 23 November in the Reading Room, Upper Heyford, a revue devised and performed by the Historical Society and the Poetry Group of Upper Heyford was held commemorating the Great War.

The war started with triumphalism and ended in tragedy for so many. The revue looked at the Great War through the words of war poets, both British and German, the common soldier on both sides, the local school teacher going off to war, and mothers left at home to grieve.

The revue started in a light-hearted fashion and ended with everyone in an emotional state! The last poem of the evening on the loss of a loved one, beautifully read by Heather, encapsulating the meaning of the whole performance.

The first line of the poem: *Perhaps some day the sun will shine again,*
the last verse:

*But, though kind time may many joys renew,
There is one greatest joy I shall not know
Again, because my heart for loss of you
Was broken long ago*



Artwork: Stephen Yorke

A Way of Caring
Registered Charity No 297099
East End, Adderbury
OX17 3NL



Sainsburys Christmas Bag Pack Day
9.30am – 5pm, Wednesday 17th December, Sainsburys,
Oxford Rd, Banbury

Do you have 1½ hours free to help pack shoppers bags at our annual Christmas Bag Pack Day? There are slots available between 9.30am and 5pm. Please call Fundraising at Katharine House on (01295) 812161 or email sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk to volunteer. Last year's event raised over £1,000 in just 6 hours- can we match it this year?

KHH Christmas Cards

This year we have sixteen beautiful card designs available, including two by the winners of the KHH Christmas card competition held earlier in the year. Cards can be purchased from our 6 charity shops and Hospice reception or by mail order (download an application form from our website and view our designs at www.khh.org.uk). Alternatively, call Fundraising on (01295) 812161 and we'll post you an application form.

Christmas Knitted Novelties

Our extremely popular miniature Christmas knitted novelties are still available from our six local charity shops, priced at £1 each. This year we have robins, Santa hats, Christmas puddings, Santas, penguins and snowmen available, each filled with a Ferrero Rocher chocolate! We'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to sell our miniature Christmas novelties on a sale or return basis. Last year, local shops, post-offices, pubs, schools, businesses and social groups helped to raise over £4,000 from the sale of these beautiful festive novelties. Call Fundraising on 01295 812161 to support this fundraiser.

The Biggest Loser Challenge

A brand new fundraiser for the New Year, Katharine House is offering supporters the opportunity to apply for one of 30 places in our Biggest Loser Challenge - to get healthy, lose weight and raising funds for the Hospice.

Three local gyms have very generously donated 12 weeks membership, together with classes, advice and support to help participants on their way to losing weight. Participants must pledge to raise a minimum of £350 sponsorship. The closing date for applications is 6th January 2015. Please call the Fundraising Office on 01295 812161 for an application form or see our website www.khh.org.uk/biggestloser.

Thank you, **Sarah Brennan** Community Fundraiser

Bernard Brock

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Bernard Brock and I hope to be able to include a full tribute in the next edition of Valley News. Bernie was a very accomplished sportsman in his younger days, excelling at football and cricket
Editor

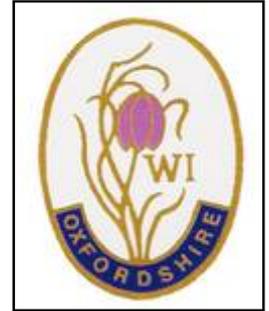


Father & son - Lloyd and Bernie with the Jersey Cup in 1950, Heyford defeated Kirtlington 4 - 0 in the final

The Heyfords WI

Formed January 1935

The Heyfords WI
Monthly Meeting
2nd Wednesday
of the month
The Reading Room
Upper Heyford
At 7.30pm



Unfortunately our October 15th meeting with the recycling Officer of Cherwell District Council was not to be as his car suffered a breakdown and he could not make the meeting, but he did come to our November 19th meeting and gave a very informative talk on the recycling process in North & South Oxfordshire. It is quite amazing just what recycled materials are made into, an example being a pencil made out of recycled denim, so please keep recycling it is well worth it.

With Christmas just around the corner we are preparing with a workshop on 5th December making Christmas wreaths for our homes, we have done this before and this has proved popular with our members.

On the 8th of December some of our members will be attending the Town Hall in Oxford for "Christmas Songs," this proves to be well attended every year with members attending from all the WI's in Oxfordshire and everyone getting into the Christmas spirit.

The 11th December sees us hosting the North Ploughley Group Carol Service at Lower Heyford Church, this is always a nice event when members from all six WI's in the group meet up for the service with refreshments afterwards, each year it is held in a church in one of the WI villages and this year it is our turn.

Our December meeting on the 17th sees us out to lunch for a Christmas meal together and this as they say endeth 2014 for us.

2015 beckons and the January 21st meeting sees us celebrating our 80th anniversary - quite a feat, let's hope it continues - also 2015 sees the centenary year of the WI with many things planned for the coming year so all in all quite a red letter year.

At our February 18th meeting the speaker will be Eileen Race speaking on "Care & Finances in Later Life", as usual you can come along to any of our meetings and you will be made very welcome.

A Very Happy Christmas to you all from all of us at the WI and hopefully to see you in 2015 at our meetings.

Lynn, President; Denise, Secretary.



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**HEYFORD PARK
COMMUNITY GARDEN**



**Heyford Park
Community
Garden Project**

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Chapel, Brice Road, Heyford Park, OX25 5TE

Saturday 6th December

11 – 3pm



**Free entry
Over 25 stalls
Raffle & Tombola
Ricos Wood fired Pizza Van**



**Dorchester Living will also be collecting Christmas gift donations for the
John Radcliffe Children's Ward**

All proceeds to the Heyford Park Community Garden Project



Search 'Heyford Park Community Garden'

Heyford Park Residents & Community Development Association

HEYFORD PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Heyford Park Community Garden aims to become an important place for the Heyford Park Community. As it progresses it will be a place to rest, to meet with friends, a place for families to enjoy, have picnics and a meeting place for the whole community. Plans are underway for paths to be constructed for able bodied and not so able bodied. Areas will include a sensory garden, a mini wildflower meadow, fantasy garden and other areas for wildlife.



We are presently raising funds for a bench seat which will encircle one of the larger trees. We are all volunteers, but we feel this is an important inclusion to the new restructuring of Heyford Park and our ultimate aims are to have pocket gardens in various areas within Heyford Park, for all to enjoy, and also a dog walking area and allotments.

All are welcome. You can just sit and enjoy or get your hands dirty and help with planting and maintenance. All ideas and offers of help are always welcome. You can also find us on FaceBook: [/www.facebook.com/heyfordparkcommunitygarden](http://www.facebook.com/heyfordparkcommunitygarden), and a website is being built.

We are being fully supported by the owners of Heyford Park, The Dorchester Group. Other sponsors are : Cakes & Cookies(01869 232880), Anna's Admin(<http://www.annasadmin.co.uk/>), SJ. Bookkeeping Services (sharon.keenuk@gmail.com),

Chris Ford Photography(shutterbug01@gmail.com), Cherwell District Council, Sharon's Plants(07787120285), Wyevale Plant Centre (Bicester Avenue)... If you or your business would like to sponsor us or one of our events please contact : hpcommgarden@gmail.com

Community Garden – The Dorchester group have agreed to the site for the first community garden in Heyford Park and will be formalising arrangements to make it available in the very near future. They have allowed those who are planning the garden access to plant bulbs and a successful “planting weekend” was held with lots of help from younger residents. By nextspring we expect the garden (in Brice Road opposite the Chapel) to be a riot of colour.

Christmas Bazaar – This year’s Bazaar is in the Chapel on Brice Road on Saturday 6th December from 11 a.m. till 3 p.m. Santa Claus will be in attendance. There will be over 25 stalls selling a wide range of goods, a collection of gifts for the JR Children’s Hospital, tombola to raise funds for the scout troop and a raffle with many prizes including meals in our three local inns. Profits from the Bazaar will go to the fund for the new Community Garden.

Cherwell Local Plan Examination in Public – the Association will have a place in the discussion in front of a Planning Inspector during December and will express its concern over allocation of green-field sites at Heyford Park for housing in preference to brown-field land.

Neighbourhood Plan – 11 mid-Cherwell Parish Councils are planning to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the area including Heyford Park. The Residents Association will be taking an active role in this exercise.

Dacey Drive Closure – The Association has expressed reservations about the alternative arrangements for accessing the houses and bungalows on the South Side of Camp Road once Dacey Drive (the road past the former USAF Hospital site) is closed off, but have agreed to wait and see how the new arrangements work before considering solutions to the problems which may arise.

Site conditions and safety – During construction work there have been problems from time to time with potentially dangerous activity going on and less-than-desirable conditions occurring – for example slippery, muddy roads. We ask all residents to let us know if they see anything which they feel to be unacceptable or unsafe. It is important to note dates and times (and vehicle registration numbers) so that any concerns can be followed through to the relevant contractors. The Association can be contacted on hprcda@gmail.com.

Community Centre & Community Shop – Many local residents were sad to see the shop close a couple of weeks ago. The community centre, shop and café were managed by a charity – Oxfordshire Playbus which has had to cease operating. The Residents Association is delighted that the Dorchester Group has found a new operator for the shop and café and that they will be reopening on December 2nd. The other good news is that new arrangements have been made for running the Community Centre and that all of the furniture and equipment in the Centre has been excluded from the auction of the assets of Playbus.

Speedwatch Campaign

Once the roundabout on Camp Road at the junction with Dacey has been removed speeding along Camp Road will be even more of a problem and the Speedwatch Campaign will, we hope, help to control this. Whilst we do have a few volunteers from Heyford Park we are looking for a larger pool of people to help, in conjunction with volunteers from Upper Heyford village. The campaign will concentrate on speeding along Somerton Road through Upper Heyford village as well as along Camp Road. If you feel you could give up an hour or so of your time during the week or at weekends, on an irregular basis please let us



know. The more helpers in the pool the less time an individual will need to give! At this stage we are setting up our pool of volunteers and we hope to start early in the New Year. If you'd like more information please contact Carole Gother (07592-735669) or the Parish Clerk Jack Goodman at jackgoodman61@gmail.com

Thames Valley Police - Crime prevention advice

With the clocks having just put back and the darker evenings now is the ideal time to look at your home security. If you're not at home during the hours of darkness, you may be at an increased risk of burglary.

If no light is on in your home, curtains are not drawn, and no car is in the drive, it's an obvious sign to an opportunist burglar that nobody is at home. At this time of year it pays to secure your home. There are a number of simple and free ways to do this, all of which will help reduce the chance of your home becoming a target.

Visit a local retailer to pick up a 24-hour segment timer for under £5. The timer can be used with a lamp, radio or TV to give the impression that someone's home. Remember to use an energy efficient light bulb

Register your valuables on www.immobilise.com it's free and takes just a few minutes and if your valuables are stolen, will allow you to tell the police, your insurer, and the second-hand trade to assist in recovering your property and catch the thief

Keep valuables out of sight

Lock your doors and windows, if you have a UPVC door, make sure you have double locked it.

Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by signing up to Thames Valley Alerts today at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter @ThamesVP (or can localise this), alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

For further crime reduction advice you can also visit our website www.thamesvalley.police.uk or call and ask to speak to a Crime Reduction Adviser via the 24-hour Police Enquiry Centre on 101

You can contact the team by emailing: BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or you can call us on 101 our non-emergency number. Please dial 999 in an emergency.

LOWER HEYFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the Lower Heyford Parish Council held on
Thursday 16 October 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Church

Present: - Mrs. Ball (Vice Chair), Mr Thompson, Mr. Eggeling, Mrs. Turner

Members of the public : Mr. Armstrong, Mr. McMeekin, in attendance:

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr. Macnamara, Mr. Mortimore, Mr. Dare and Cllr Fulljames

Declarations of interest - There were no declarations of interest

Minutes of the last meeting held on 18th September 2014 were read and it was RESOLVED to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair

10.14.01 Public participation

Mr. McMeekin wished to discuss the speed limit throughout the village which is covered as an Agenda Item

10.14.02 Clerk's Report -

Letter sent to Heyford Park Management Co re routing agreement - no response received as yet

Quote received from Ryan for painting gates

Contact made with TVP re Speedwatch

10.14.03 Matters Arising

A letter had been received from OCC regarding the discontinuation of the mobile library service. This service is regularly used by only 7 residents and it was decided they should be encouraged to respond to the public consultation.

Clerk will respond on behalf of the PC.

ACTION : CLERK

The Bus Shelter had been inspected by Mr. Thompson and found to be structurally sound and in reasonable condition. Mrs Ball and Mrs Turner had also inspected it and found that the inside of the roof has been vandalised and the plastic lining is torn and burned in places. There is an abandoned bike chained to the fence nearby which has been there for at least 2 weeks. Clerk to report to CDC as flytipping and have it removed.

ACTION : CLERK

Noticeboards - Mr. Dare had agreed to inspect the noticeboards and in his absence this item is deferred to the next meeting.

Pine Trees - Emails had been received from Savill's stating that the report has not been received from Nicholsons and that they are waiting for the Ivy on the trees to die back before inspecting the trees. Clerk to contact Nicholsons direct.

ACTION : CLERK

10.14.04 - Highways/Footpaths

Ryan had quoted £120 for the repainting of the village gates and it was unanimously agreed to accept this. **Clerk to inform Ryan**

Action : CLERK

PCSO Kidd had been contacted regarding the TVP Community Speedwatch scheme and he has confirmed that he will attend the next PC meeting.

Mr. McMeekin is concerned regarding speeding vehicles in Freehold Street and estimates that some vehicles travel at speeds of up to 60mph along this road. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of a 20mph speed limit in Freehold Street and it was decided to discuss this with PCSO Kidd.

A letter had been received from OCC informing that CDC will terminate their contract with OCC for maintenance of verges from 1st January and enquiring as to whether the PC would be interested in taking over the maintenance of verges. Clerk had requested more information from OCC but had received no response. Deferred to next meeting.

The question of lorries travelling on Station Road was discussed and it was decided that Clerk should request copies of all routing agreements on the B4030 from CDC and draft a letter for Mr. Thompson to send to offending hauliers.

ACTION : CLERK

10.14.05 Clerk's appraisal. In Mr. Macnamara's absence, this was deferred to the next meeting

10.14.06 Meetings - No meetings had been attended

10.14.07 Financial Regulations

The model NALC financial Regulations had been circulated and it was **RESOLVED** that subject to amendment of financial limits these should be approved and adopted. Clerk to amend.

ACTION : CLERK

10.14.08 LHRINC

No meeting had been held

10.14.09 Playground

Mrs. Turner reported that the playground is nearing completion, only requiring fencing and planting. An opening party is planned for the Spring.

10.14.10 Website

It was agreed to ask Graham Wilson if the name of the website could be changed to Lower Heyford & Caulcott in place of Heyford.info in order that it appears higher on the Google search results. Clerk to contact Graham **ACTION: CLERK**

10.14.11 Planning

14/01424/F new dwelling and garage at Paines Field, Freehold Street - Objection submitted

14/00324/TCA Notice of intent for treework at land northwest of Heyford House

10.14.12 Finance - The following accounts were approved for payment

Payee	Detail	Amount	Cheque No
SLCC	Clerk Training (halved with SAPC)	125.00	500246
CDC	Dog bins	174.34	500247
Cathy Fleet	Clerk expenses	15.90	500248
Cathy Fleet	Clerk Salary	226.82	SO
HAGS	Playground	12437.60	500249

According to the newly adopted Financial Regulations Clerk's salary can now be paid by SO or BACS. Bank details including PIN number for phone/internet banking will be provided to Mr. Macnamara in a sealed envelope at the next meeting.

There was discussion regarding the payment of the cheque for the playground. The village hall trustees will provide a cheque to the PC (as a grant) for £3237.60 at the end of the month. The remainder (£9200) is VAT which will be reclaimed. As there was uncertainty regarding the exact figures, it was agreed that the Clerk would clarify and obtain signatures for the cheque on 17th October and send the cheque to HAGS

The meeting closed at 20.13

Date of next meeting : 20th November 2014

Signed **Mrs D Ball** **Date**

UPPER HEYFORD HOLIDAYS

My father Horace Henry Haynes Plester was born in 1904.

He was brought up in Upper Heyford by his grandmother and two Aunts, Laura and Florrie. Auntie Florrie's first husband, Albert Golder was killed in the First World War. She then married Bill Varney, a farmer in Upper Heyford.

In the 1950's and 1960's our family spent a week in the summer holidays staying along the Somerton road in The Brambles, with Jim Allen and his wife. What a house. It had a bathroom!! and an orchard, plums, cherries, apples, and pears. Sam the postman called in every day to pass on village news. Upper Heyford was so different from our home in North Cornwall, stone built houses rather than grey slate, but village life was about the same, a farming community.. I couldn't wait to return to the Cherwell and the canal. Dad knew all the best fishing spots, the Lasher, Back Brook, Rifam Plank, the Millstream, Double Bridge, Ox Lock and many others. He spent much of his time as a boy in the same spots, I believe his fellow fishing friends were Bub Reeves and Pudgy Scragg. He remembered biplanes racing the trains on the Oxford-Banbury Line. I don't think he enjoyed school too much. The cane was in frequent use. The master was to be avoided especially if he had a recent haircut, somehow it put him in a bad mood. Another reason for a caning were the tell-tale signs of stained hands. The culprits had been enjoying walnuts from neighbours trees.



Serious fishing on the canal!

Leading up to the Second World war he worked for the Air Ministry all over the British Isles, including meeting my mother at St.Eval in Cornwall, soon to be RAF St.Eval in 1938. The base played an important part for Coastal Command sending aircraft to patrol the western approaches.

After the war he returned to Upper Heyford to work for the Americans. I remember enormous aircraft labouring into the sky at the end of the runway beyond 'The Brambles'. The B36 was huge, with both propellers and jets, but the noisiest was the B52. It shook the concrete and made the air crackle. Often a group would fly off, one after the other. The experience was an adventure to me a small boy, but I am sure it more than blighted the lives of many, especially the 'Allens'.

There was always a lot of U.S. traffic coming down from the camp. I seem to remember the wall at the bottom of the hill frequently being repaired in two places. One where the lorries failed to turn and another where the wall was again demolished as the vehicle returned from the field to the highway!

I have returned and enjoyed walks through the meadows and along the tow path. The village has changed but the valley is much as it was. I wonder if anyone remembers my dad

ALAN PLESTER

UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

St Mary's Upper Heyford: Church News

After the hectic program of building work this year Autumn has been rather quieter for St Mary's, but awareness of what St Mary's is achieving is still apparent.

There was a handsome turnout for St Mary's Harvest Festival and Thanksgiving service on 19 October. With Upper Heyford's Poetry Group provided its customary fine selection of seasonal readings, Steve York producing his excellent artwork for the Order of Service and Anna Cuss ably tickling the ivories, the auguries were good and everyone there enjoyed themselves greatly. Our thanks go to everyone who helped to make the day such a success and in particular to Roger Burt for his help with the heavy lifting organisationally, without which the day would have been much the poorer!

There was also a splendid turnout for our Remembrance Sunday service on 9 November. This of all years was a poignant opportunity to remember all who have died serving their country, and all those present felt the service the more moving for the weight of history that bore on the day. Thanks to everyone too for providing a record collection of over £300 for the Royal British Legion.

Thanks to those who came along to see our proposals for work to the church on 18 October – your comments and input were very helpful. There's still time for you to have your say if you want to contribute your views – just email the PCC Secretary, at amsq@hotmail.co.uk. The PCC will be meeting at the start of December with a view to deciding on a way forward. Watch this space for news!

Finally, to refresh a plea from last time, St Mary's really does need help to maintain its beautiful state and at the moment the job of cleaning and maintaining falls to a few loyal helpers. If you feel you could commit even a small amount of time to lending a hand with this never-ending work then give PCC Chairman Ian Lough Scott a call on 232788 and find out what real gratitude feels like!

Looking ahead, we have some familiar and popular services for you to put in your diaries:

Christmas Readings and Carols 19 December at 7pm

Midnight Communion 24 December at 11pm

All these services are becoming increasingly popular as the years pass – come along and see why!

A merry Christmas to you all from the PCC and all good wishes for 2015.

["And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men".](#)

The Gospel according to St Luke, Ch. 2, vv.8-14.

Bonfire Night—a great success

Congratulations on an excellent Bonfire Night! It's getting better every year. Over 100 adults & children attended and we received lots of positive comments.

Financially we did well too. Having paid for everything, including almost £100 worth of items that will be reused each year, we still have £220.17 remaining. We plan to

hold £150 as catering seed money for next year & invest £80 in further improvements. I am also hoping to raise some funds from other sources for further improvements. There is a summary below. If you would like to see the detailed figures please just drop me a line & I'll email you the Excel.

EXISTING FUNDS

AMC Firework Donation £100.00

INCOME

Takings at the Event £324.00

2013 Bonfire Night Profit £82.00

Emma Measures to return £5.92 left from Catering £5.92
£411.92

EXPENDITURE

Catering £76.08

Extras (most of which will be used again each year) £98.67

Fireworks not paid for by AMC £17.00

£191.75

Funds to be "Banked"

£220.17

Minus original £82 profit from 2013 event

£82.00

PROFIT / LOSS

£138.17

Thank you very much. None of it is possible without you. I hope that I can call on you all again to help out next year.
Emma Measures

St Mary's, Upper Heyford Tower Lighting Church lighting for September and October, 2014

1 st September	In memory of Janice Nash by Marilyn and Tim Bigelow.
5 th September	In celebration of the 70 th birthday of the late Ron Beasley. By Fay Ellis. <i>'Roses are red, Violets are blue. There's no-one I could love more Than the way I love you. Love you, Grampy,</i> From Fay, Sam and all our cousins xxxx
12 th September	In celebration of the 78 th birthday of the late David Stillgoe. 'Remembering you with love, Dad and Granddad, Jackie, James, Vicky and Martin.'
16 th September	In celebration of the birthday of the late Jan Woski. 'All my love, Ann.'
1 st October	In celebration of the birthday of the late Jimmy James. 'With love from Maureen, Peter, Paul, Debbie and little Grace.'
5 th October	In memory of the late Gilbert 'Jack' Brain, who died in 1972. 'With love from your daughter, Ann'.
21 st October	In celebration of the 42 nd wedding anniversary of Ann and the late Jan Woski. 'Missing you on our wedding anniversary and wishing you were here. All my love, Ann'.
23 rd October	In celebration of the birthday of the late Sarah Leigh Baker. 'Thinking of you on your birthday and every day. Love from Mum, Tom, Joe, Carley, Matthew, Sandra, Mandi, Adam and families.'

Upper Heyford Village Living alongside 2500+ extra homes!



Upper Heyford Village is a very small rural community (155 homes). We're now faced with a development of 2500 or more new homes only a few hundred metres up the road at Heyford Park! This is much more than double what we expected, and will be a very big change for us.

Look beyond the rubble of the construction works (which will last for years), and you will see Heyford Park emerging as a very urban area. Upper Heyford and Heyford Park are expected to become separate communities, each with its own Parish Council - dividing along the ancient Portway track.

Any big increase in the local population brings more of everything. Some of the changes (shops, services, facilities) may benefit us. But there are also big potential downsides – for example:

If we're not very careful, urbanisation will creep on down the hill and destroy the rural peace and character of our village and its environment.

There'll also be much more traffic along narrow country lanes, and within the village.

Rousham Bridge could become a bottleneck.

Is this something that concerns YOU? If so, please let us have your ideas and your support.

We've started a Village Working Group. We've already begun thinking about the impact of Heyford Park (what we would like to see happening and what we want to avoid). We'd like to hear your ideas. We'll then make sure that Cherwell Council and the developers know what we think. And we'll be ready to support or object to proposals as they come through.

Decisions made in the next few months will have a profound impact on our village! Help us protect its character and rural peace.

If you'd like to comment, help or support please contact:

Ian Lough Scott - ianloughscott@btinternet.com 232788; or

Paul Weaver paulweaver1@icloud.com

We plan to hold a Public Meeting in February, and to circulate more information about the situation and our suggestions in advance.

SOMERTON NEWS

THE GREAT WAR EXHIBITION

This was a great success. We had 208 visitors and raised £133 in donations for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Much more important was that we remembered the men of Somerton who fought and died in the service of their country. They were just names on a memorial but now we feel that we know them and their families. Our work is ongoing as we want to find out more about them and the other men who served in both wars. Some of our relatives were also included and their stories bring them to life again.

Although the main exhibition has been dismantled the details of those men will remain in the Church until after Armistice Day.

We wish to express our thanks to His Grace the Duke of Marlborough, Karen Wiseman and the Education Dept. at Blenheim for all their help, Dave Ray for his endless patience and Dauphin Acrylics for the loan of the display cases.

Alice Bowmaker and Rosemary Arnold

RIDE AND STRIDE

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Ride and Stride last month, I think the majority who took part have returned their sponsorship forms and monies to me already. However, I have received some additional donations from various non participating villagers who wished to contribute as they could not actually take part on the day - so thank you to them too.

Should you wish to make a contribution or return your sponsorship/monies - it is not too late - please could you drop them around to me as soon as you can or give me a call to let me know so that I can do the final banking.

Thank you once again to everyone who took part
Aly Fennemore Tel: 345060

Autumn News from St. James's

We celebrated the Harvest Festival in fine style. The service was attended by more than 30 people with the usual lovely hymns and seasonal lessons beautifully read by Victoria Brown and Jeremy Brown – much appreciated. Many thought the Church had never been so beautifully decorated for Harvest – a big thank you to all the contributors.

The mowing of the churchyard should now cease to be so demanding and it is well prepared for the winter and we shall continue with the tidying up. Tony Callow has done an amazing job – we are grateful for his efforts and those of a few noble volunteers.

The exhibition on the Great War was an enormous success. It was a great privilege to have such a well researched and high quality display in Church. The visitor numbers reflected this. Many thanks to Rosemary and Alice for the enormous amount of work and time they put into this and to Karen for arranging the loan of many interesting items of display from Blenheim. It has largely been dismantled but an interesting part will remain until after Remembrance in November.

Our restoration works in the Church are very nearly complete with the hatchings due to be hung around the end of the month. We are planning an evening of celebration early in the New Year – more details to follow.

Ride and Stride was very successful with St. James's having considerably more visitors than some of the Churches we visited and of course they were all offered the usual hospitality which this year even included the opportunity to contribute to the completion of the WW1 jigsaw puzzle! The Church buzzed all day and was full of people appreciating the building, the works and the exhibition.

On 11th September The Reverend Geoff Price was licensed by the Bishop of Dorchester in a very well attended service at St. Mary's Lower Heyford and some of us have already enjoyed meeting Hope and Geoff and look forward to welcoming them into our community.

The Matins service continues on the third Sunday of the month and we shall be welcoming a new organist, Stephen Wright to play at this service on 19th October. We have been very grateful to Peter Bourton for fitting us in during the past few months.

We look forward to participating in the Christmas Bazaar on 6th December and we all very much appreciate the Bazaar Committee supporting the maintenance of the Church.

Alison Eastwood is again very kindly organizing the lighting of the Church tower during the winter months – do contact her to book your dates. The charge remains at £10. Last season the Church was lit for about 70 evenings! Thank you Alison and everyone who contributed.

Children's Services Sunday Club continues on the second Sunday with Victoria Prentis and Anna Simpson acting as leaders. New families, from 0-11, are always welcome. We will go en masse to the Remembrance Service at Upper Heyford on 9th November. We are already looking forward to the Nativity Play. We have a bonny 'baby Jesus' in the form of Honor-Rose Talbot, 2 donkeys, various sheep, pygmy goats, chickens, etc., etc If your child/animal would like to take part or if you would be happy to help with providing simple refreshments please email Victoria on themanor.somerton@btinternet.com before 13 December.

7th December 6.00 pm Advent Carols

14th December 9.30 Benefice Sunday Club

21st December 9.30 Matins & H.C.

24th December 4.00 pm Nativity with Carols

25th December 9.30 Family Communion – short service

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Fritwell Church of England Primary School

Our Fantastic Year 6 Children

I thought I would take the opportunity to tell you about our fantastic Year 6 class.

I had the great pleasure of accompanying them on their residential trip to Yenworthy Lodge in Somerset during the first week of the new term, along with three wonderful members of my staff and Miss Rachael Clark from Fritwell, who gave up their time to give the children this experience. The children really did us proud!

The leaders at the Lodge commented on how polite the children were and how they worked so well together in overcoming the many challenges they faced that week. Some children had never been away from home before and were well supported by the kind nature of their more confident friends. The children took part in a variety of activities including surfing, rock climbing, coastering and team building. We all had a wonderful time. Check out the Yenworthy Blog on our website and look out for the photographs which will be uploaded soon.

I often report about the sporting achievements of the children and this month is no exception. We entered two teams into the recent hockey competition against the other Bicester schools. All the children played exceptionally well and persevered when the going got tough. One of our teams got through to the Area finals-an amazing achievement for a small school. Later today I shall be taking a team of Year 6 children to Banbury Rugby Club for a Tag Rugby tournament. I know they will play their hearts out and show true determination whilst retaining a spirit of sportsmanship.

Next week Mrs Chadbourne will be taking a group of the children to sing for charity in Bicester. This is an annual event, but it should be noted that the children who are taking part have to give up many lunch hours to practise with their teacher.

Whilst thinking about fund raising for charity, four girls from the class have organised a cake sale to raise money for Children in Need. I am actually eating one of the cakes whilst typing, and it's delicious-we have some great cooks in Year 6! The girls have done everything themselves from publicising the event to selling the cakes. It's extremely rewarding to know that we have helped to foster such caring children.

None of the above would have been possible without the help of our parents, who are so supportive of everything we do in school, whether it be helping to train the children for sporting events, transporting them to different venues, helping them to learn words for performances or baking cakes with them. We wouldn't be able to give the children the experiences they have without their help and we're very grateful for it.

Debbie McLeod, Headteacher

COMMUNITY SERVICES

1.Cherwell Community Bank (CCB) offers financial services to suit your needs. There are many advantages to saving and borrowing with us and your money is as safe as it would be in any bank or building society. CCB is a community owned and run organisation with a commitment to providing affordable financial services for all members of the community. For more information please contact James Richards, Credit Union Development Officer on 01295 221797 or email

james.richards@southnorthants.gov.uk www.northamptonshirecu.co.uk

2.Volunteer Connect operates the Community Transport scheme serving the Cherwell area. This service helps people who cannot readily access public transport and who cannot get to essential appointments. Contact 0300 3030126 or email info@volunteerconnect.org.uk or www.volunteerconnectbanbury.com

3. Customer Services Outreach team. The team help Cherwell residents access the Council services and benefits to which they are entitled. Including Housing benefit, Council Tax, Food banks, visiting GP surgery or they can signpost to local organisations including Age Concern, Carer's Oxfordshire, CAB, Pension Service, Royal Voluntary Service and Job Clubs. Contact 01295 753757 or email Paul or Alison at paul.tysoe@cherwell-dc.gov.uk and alison.willis@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Marion Hedges is 100



Mrs Hedges and her late husband Leslie lived at Westerly Cottage in High Street, Upper Heyford, for over 50 years. They were both stalwarts at St Mary's, Mr Hedges being a church warden, and secretary/treasurer for a very long time and Mrs Hedges the organist. They were a team that expected everything to be done properly and those of us left, remember them both with great affection and admiration. George (Jack) Hudson had a special affinity with Mr Hedges as he served under him during WW2, and later as a fellow member of the PCC and church warden.

We send our very best wishes to Mrs Hedges on this wonderful achievement

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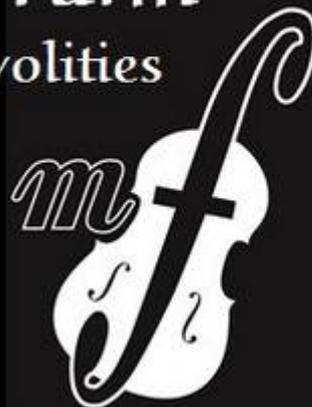
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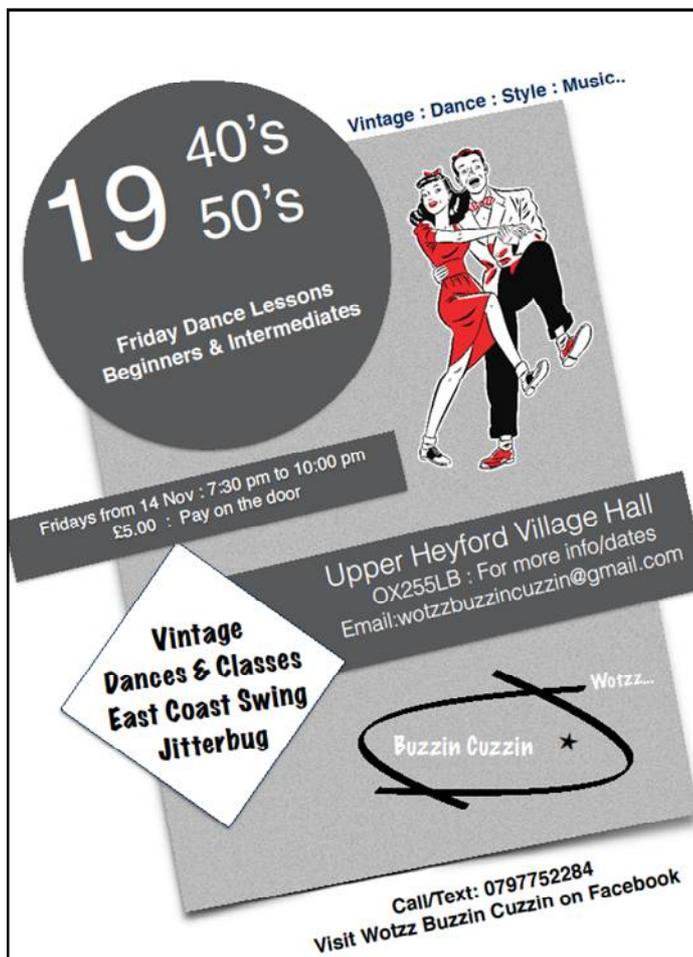
Linda Caine has kindly agreed to take over the role from Emma Measures.

If you wish to enquire about hiring the Village Hall the contact email remains the same: vhire@upperheyford.com, whilst the contact telephone number has changed to:

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For details of Hire Charges, Terms & Conditions of Hire &/or availability, either contact Linda or simply visit the Village Hall page of the Village website at <http://upperheyford.com/village-hall>.

Linda looks forward to hearing from you.



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Winter and the Yule time feasts of the Gods.

Yule means generally a feast of the gods. It includes the twelve days between Christmas and into the New Year. There is rosemary, winter jasmine and hellebore that are in flower at this time. Rosemary is believed to be the rose of the virgin Mary because it blossomed at midnight on Christmas eve when Jesus was born. Mary dried the baby Jesus's clothes on its branches and its scent is said to come from his clothes. An old remedy for a cold is to put a sprig of rosemary in either cider or red wine, boil it up and drink it. Rosemary tea stimulates the brain and memory. It refreshes the mouth and breath. The scent of jasmine is said to bring sweet dream. The flowers of hellebore when sprinkled before you brings freshness and a delicate flavour to your path in life.

Hedgerow biscuits were made to help celebrate this time of the Yule. Crumble together 250g butter with 150g sugar. Then add in seeds such as sunflower, caraway, poppy, evening primrose, pumpkin and any others. Add 250g flour and crumble together. Then add two eggs and enough milk to make a dough that can be rolled into a ball. Roll it out and cut out Christmas shapes. Bake at 180C for about ten minutes or until browned. You can also put a slice of cheese into the middle of the dough shapes.

It is a time to go wassailing. Singers carry their cups and a large bowl made out of wood. They sing to neighbours. 'Wassail, wassail all over the town, our bread it is white, our ale it is brown, our bowl it is made from a good maple tree, we be good fellows all and drink to thee.' The neighbours then fill the bowl with hot spiced cider or wine. It is a time to drink to the orchard trees and give them an offering of cider. At the time of the new moon it is also a time to drink to the health of the New Year and ask for blessings.

It is said that if on New Year's eve night the wind blows south, then there will be gentle growth. If it comes from the west there will be much milk from cows and many fish in the seas. If the wind comes from the north then there will be cold and storms. Then if it comes from the east the trees will bear much fruit. A traditional New Year's wish is the following. May your flowers flourish and your bees prosper. May your birds and fishes and all creatures live long lives. May you find in every little thing that lives and grows, a pleasure in the present moment. May you also reach in contemplation, a hint and suggestion of things higher and brighter for the future.

Debra Kaatz



FRENCH and FUN!

Mondays at 3.15 (aged 8 9 10 11) and 4.15 (aged 5 6 7) in TACKLEY Methodist Church
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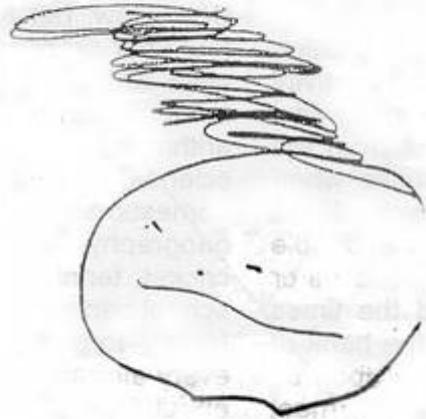
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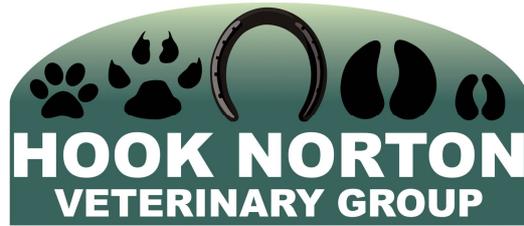


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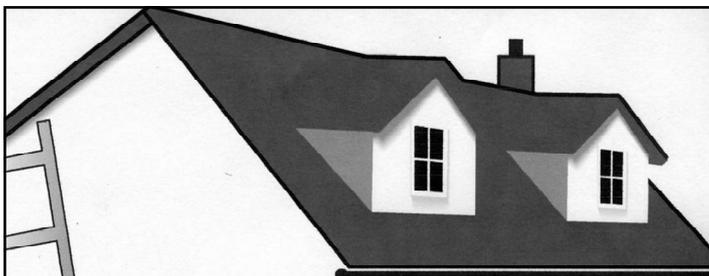
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Events Calendar - At a Glance

6th December til 5th January	Festival of Trees St Olave's Fritwell	10am—4pm
6th December	Festival of Christmas St Olave's Fritwell	12 noon—4pm
6th December	Somerton Christmas Bazaar Village Hall	2pm
6th December	Christmas Bazaar, The Chapel Heyford Park	11am—3pm
10th December	Warreners Christmas Lunch Upper Heyford Village Hall	1.15pm
11th December	WI Carol Service, St Mary's, Lower Heyford—open to ALL	7pm
14th December	Messy Church—Theme: Christmas Fritwell Wesleyan Chapel	4—5.3pm
18th December	Cherwell District Council Local Plan Examination	Plans for villages including Heyford Park Bodicote House 9.30am —1.30pm
19th December	St Mary's Upper Heyford Carols & Readings	7pm
21st December	St Mary's Lower Heyford Lessons & Carols	4pm
24th December	Nativity at Somerton 4pm	4pm
24th December	St Mary's Upper Heyford Late night Holy Communion	<u>11pm</u>
25th December	Family Holy Communion at Somerton	9.30am
25th December	Family Communion at Lower Heyford	11am
28th December	Benefice Communion at Lower Heyford	11am
14th January	Warreners Upper Heyford Village Hall	2pm
21st January	Heyfords WI - 80th anniversary Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
1st February	Celebration Restoration of Somerton Church with Sir Tony Baldry	6—8pm