

# Valley News

February 2015

No 217

News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



## **The Heyfords WI Celebrate**

Heyford WI was founded in January 1935 and last month the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated with a party organised by The Heyfords in the Reading Room at Upper Heyford, with many former members, some who had travelled considerable distances to be there.

**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](http://www.upperheyford.com)**

## Church Services in the Valley

	Ardley St Mary	Fritwell St Olave	Lower Heyford & Caulcott St Mary	Somerton St James	Souldern Annun to the BVM	Upper Heyford St Mary	Heyford Park The Chapel
1-Feb	8.30am 1662 HC	11am Family Worship	11am 1662 Communion	6pm Restoration Thanksgiving	11am Matins	9.30am Trad lang Communion	11am Communion
8-Feb	9.30am Communion	8.30am 1662 HC	11am Family Worship	9:30 Sunday Club	11am Sung Communion	9:30 Morning Prayer	11am Morn- ing Service
15-Feb	9.30am Morning Prayer	11:00 Family Communion	11am Morning Prayer	09:30 Matins/HC	8.30am 1662 HC	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morn- ing Service
18-Feb	7.30pm Ashes				10am Ashes		
22-Feb	9:30 Family Worship	6:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Communion	9.30 Family Communion	11am Morn- ing Prayer	8.30am 1662 HC	11am All Age Service
1-Mar	8.30am 1662 HC	11am Family Worship	11am 1662 Com- munion		11am Matins	9.30am Trad lang Communion	11am Communion - APCM
8-Mar	9.30am Communion	8.30am 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	9:30 Sunday Club	11am Sung Communion	9:30 Morning Prayer	11am Morn- ing Service
15-Mar	9:30 Ardley United Mothering Sunday		11:00 Morn- ing Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	8.30am 1662 HC	9:30 Morning Prayer	11am Morn- ing Service
22-Mar	9:30 Family Worship	6:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Communion	9.30 Family Communion	11:00 Morn- ing Prayer	8.30am 1662 HC	11am All Age Service
29-Mar	BENEFICE Communion Service - 11am Fritwell						
30-Mar	10am Com- munion					7pm Compline	
31 Mar		7pm Compline	10am Communion				
1 Apr				7pm Compline	10am Communion		
2-Apr							7:30pm Commun- ion& foot washing
3-Apr	4pm Quiet refelection						10-12 Children's workshop
5-Apr	8.30am 1662 HC	9:30 Family Communion	11am 1662 Communion	9:30 Family Communion	6.30am Sun- rise Service	8.30am 1662 Communion	11am Communion

### 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](mailto:administrator@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk)

[www.cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk](http://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 <a href="http://www.cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk">www.cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk</a>		
Rev Stephen Griffiths	01869 233249	<a href="mailto:stephen@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk">stephen@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk</a>
Rev Geoff Price	346262	<a href="mailto:geoffandhope@yahoo.com">geoffandhope@yahoo.com</a>
Mr. John Hine (LLM)	01869 278565	
Benefice Office	01869 233687	<a href="mailto:administrator@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk">administrator@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk</a>

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

I am writing this in the season of Epiphany, an important Christian festival which often gets overlooked as the New Year starts. At Epiphany the church considers the wider implications of the birth of Jesus Christ. Epiphany begins with the story of the wise men or 'Magi' who visit Jesus. They ask, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.'

The wise men probably travelled from what is now Iran to visit Jesus: a journey of perhaps 500 miles. The poet TS Eliot captured the exhaustion and discomfort of the journey well: *the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters, and the cities hostile and towns unfriendly, and the villages dirty and charging high prices: a hard time we had of it.*

Back home they had every pleasure and luxury. They were the highest ranking religious experts of the day, not so much kings (although we assume they were wealthy from their gifts) as part of the elite governing class of their society. They lived in one of the most sophisticated cultures of the ancient world – yet they were prepared to consider the possibility that God might reveal something, or someone, even more valuable than what they already had. The star and the news of the Jewish king drew them.

God gave a sign for all to see and they had to make a decision. They decided to turn their backs on everything they had for the sake of this baby: comforts, status, family, reputation, their health and strength. The journey, though hard, was worth it because they were able to bow in worship before God himself in person. The great and unique claim of the Christian faith is that God has visited this earth as a human being. The first title given to Jesus in Matthew's Gospel (1:23) is 'Immanuel' – God with us.

God became one of us so that he might reach out to us and we might reach out to him. The wise men remind us that there is no journey too hard to make in order to come to worship the living God in the person of Jesus Christ.

Becoming a Christian does not require us to make an arduous 500 mile journey. The Saviour and Lord of life is freely available to us – he lives throughout the world by his Spirit and is constantly knocking on the door of our lives. He will knock but he won't break the door down. We must make the effort to go to the door and open it and let him in.

Some people resist making that short journey to open the door to Jesus. Perhaps the wise men felt that way at first, believing that they had no need or space for a Saviour in their well-ordered lives. The wise men had every excuse not to make that journey, yet they couldn't resist the call to worship God in the person of Jesus. They stand in stark contrast to King Herod whose reaction was to try to silence Jesus. He couldn't tolerate the thought of Jesus interfering with his life and freedom. We are not told anything more about the wise men who worshipped Jesus, but we can be sure that when they returned home life was never the same again.

The Epiphany reminds us that God wants the whole world, regardless of the divisions we create, to gather around the King of Love and Prince of Peace. The Epiphany is God's invitation to all people to know Jesus Christ, not just the shepherds, angels and holy family who witnessed his birth.

It was so shocking to hear on the day after Epiphany of the shootings in Paris on 7th January, another sad indication that not everybody wants the Love and Peace of Christ to rule in our world. And yet in the wake of that tragedy the Spirit of Epiphany is at work, as countless people around the world stand in solidarity against such acts of violence and hate. This solidarity was seen in peaceful gatherings in capital cities across the globe, heard in the ringing of cathedral bells across Europe, announced in government statements, silently expressed in countless prayers, and digitally recorded by the million on social media sites. Our often divided world may yet unite around the vision of hope which the birth of Jesus Christ kindles in our hearts.

Happy Epiphany!

Yours in the service of Jesus Christ, Stephen

## WHAT'S ON IN THE CHERWELL VALLEY

### A warm welcome to Heyford Park and the Cherwell Valley

Lighting begins to appear in the new houses, the curtains are drawn in the evening and cars rest on the driveways, heralding a new era for the former airbase. Our very best wishes go to all the families who have already moved in and the many, many more who will become residents during the coming months.

Valley News is published six times a year (on or near the first day of the following months:

February/April/June/August/October/December), with the intention of keeping parishioners informed on topics of general interest and to advertise events and local commerce.

We welcome contributions from residents, please email the editor with any copy you would like included.

### Village Green Quilters



We are a friendly group – some beginners, some not – looking for new members. We meet every other Tuesday from 1.30pm to 4.30pm in the Barnes Memorial Hall, Somerton and the cost is £7.50 per session. We have a tutor on hand for advice and inspiration – all welcome. If you are interested, drop in anytime and say hello and see what we do. The sessions for next month are 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> Feb and 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Any queries call Freya on 3456546 or Pauline on 346654



Buy a drink and a book at The Red Lion,  
Steeple Aston

Second-hand books in good condition  
All proceeds to charity

The Red Lion is open Monday to Friday

12 pm – 3 pm and 5.30 pm – 11 pm,

Saturday 12 pm – 11 pm

Sunday 12 pm – 5 pm

Any queries please ring Christopher 01869 349808

### “HOW REMOTE WAS OUR VALLEY -BEFORE CANAL & RAIL”

A few copies of the book are still available  
from Peter Deeley.

£6.25 (p&p included) from him by post to  
2 Knapton's Close

Lower Heyford OX25 5NR

Or £5 delivered (Only £4 to Lower Heyfordites!)\*

It tells the story of the coming of the Oxford Canal in  
1793 and the GWR in 1859 and the upheavals  
wrought upon its peoples of the Cherwell Valley.

\*You can ring him and order a copy on 01869 347351

## WANTED

### Organist or Keyboard Player for Souldern Church Choir

We urgently need someone to play for us when  
we sing regularly on Wednesday evenings and  
some Sunday mornings.

We sing for the joy of working together in music  
and with mainly church pieces but are very keen  
to learn a variety of musical types and maybe  
give concerts, sing in church festivals and  
celebrations.

Please contact Anne Callow via email  
annecallow2008@gmail.com or  
phone or text on 07796110758 ASAP.

## Community Market

Souldern Village Hall 9:00am-12:00noon

Locally sourced, grown, produced or baked

*Meat, eggs, vegetables, plants, cakes & savouries*

(subject to availability)

**Hand crafted  
gifts, cards & jewellery etc**

**Sausage/ Bacon/ Egg Baps  
(to eat in or take out)**

**Come and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a  
chat with friends**

**Dates for 2015**

**Feb 21st, Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, Apr 18<sup>th</sup>,  
May 16<sup>th</sup>, June 20<sup>th</sup>**

Tel: 01869 345931 or email:  
Barbara.a.mcgarra@gmail.com for further  
information



## UPPER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL HAS A NEW BOOKING CLERK!

We have a new Village Hall Booking Clerk!

As from 1st December 2014 we have a new Upper Heyford Village Hall Booking Clerk.

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](mailto:vhire@upperheyford.com), whilst the contact telephone number has changed to:

**01869 232550.**

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.

## LENT & EASTER ACTIVITIES



Tuesday 17th February (Shrove Tuesday)  
**7:30 Pancakes at the Chapel**

Wednesday 18th February (Ash Wednesday)

**Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes**

10am ABVM Souldern

7:30pm St Mary's Ardley

Thursdays throughout Lent

**Lent Course—Faith in Action**

*(see below for details)*

Sunday 29th March (Palm Sunday)

**Benefice Service 11am St Olave's Fritwell**

Thursday 2nd April (Maundy Thursday)

**Communion & Foot Washing 7:30 HPC**

Friday 3rd April (Good Friday)

**Children's Easter Workshop**

10-12 Heyford Park Chapel

**Quiet Reflection**

4pm St Mary's Ardley

## CHERWELL VALLEY LENT

*Faith  
in  
Action*

A series of 6 talks illustrating  
how God uses our gifts to  
serve Him in the world

Thursdays at 7:30 during Lent

**19th Feb – St. Olave's Fritwell**

Rev Andrew Foran, *Bullington Prison Chaplain*

**26th Feb - St. James' Somerton**

Rev Geoff and Hope Price, *'Rowandan Challenge'*

**5th March – St. Mary's Lower Heyford**

William Shepherd *'Lost in translation?*

*The gospels in Greek and English'*

**12th March – ABVM Souldern**

Basil Eastwood *'A life between faith and politics'*

**19th March – Upper Heyford Reading Room**

Heather and Roger Burt

*'Enriching the Spirit: Poems'*

**26th March – St. Mary's Ardley**

Rev Stephen Griffiths

**2nd April - Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm Heyford Park Chapel: Communion

## THE GENERAL ELECTION 2015

*Dear Editor*

*Following the large “advert” for the forthcoming Tory candidate in the December edition of Valley News, I presume all other political persuasions will be likewise featured.*

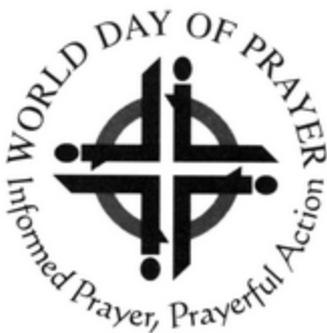
*Yours truly, PA Deeley, Lower Heyford*

Point taken!

In the tradition of Valley News all views that are honourable and well intentioned are most welcome, so I invite all candidates standing at the 2015 General Election to submit a précis of their election manifesto for publication in the April edition. On the understanding, however, that its content is not simply party political jargon, and relates to the needs and aspirations of local people.



*The Editor*



### **Women's World Day of Prayer (International & Interdenominational)**

**Jesus said to them:  
'Do you know what I have done to you?'**

Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, interchurch, organisation which enables us to hear the voices of women, from a different part of the world each year, expressing their hopes and concerns and bringing them before the rest of the world in prayer.

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March an estimated 3 million people, in over 170 countries, will gather to observe the day of prayer, using an order of service written by Christian women from the Bahamas and translated into over 1000 different languages and dialects. In the British Isles alone over 5,000 services will be held. The day will begin when the sun rises over the island of Samoa, and continue until it sets off the coast of Smerican Samoa some 35 hours later.

The theme of the service is taken from St John's Gospel, chapter 13 verses 1-17, 'Jesus said to them: "Do you know what I have done to you?" and it challenges us to demonstrate the same radical, unconditional love for others that Jesus showed when he washed the feet of his disciples.

Everyone is welcome to attend the service, men, women – people of all ages.

**11am service**

**Followed by a light lunch to which all are welcome**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Heyford Park Chapel**

**572 Brice Road Heyford Park OX25 5TE**

## Poetry Corner

A well-known but not well-known enough poet, recently professor of English Literature at Oxford university and personal friend of my family, passed away recently aged 79. His name is Jon Stallworthy and I would like to offer you one of his best - known poems, written when he was only 27 in 1963. The title is "No Ordinary Sunday" and for me it is the best evocation in words that I know of that special Sunday in November set aside for Remembrance. Its a poignant, sad poem for a silent, serious occasion when the country comes together to recall and give thanks. It takes me straight back to my childhood, hearing the piercing bugle on a, usually, misty damp day. It's not a poem that needs analysis: some of the lines hit you between the eyes, others make you pause and nod in agreement with the emotion conjured up. It is evocative and deeply felt: Jon was a gentle man, but with deep intense eyes and a very quick, sometimes even sharp, wit. It seems appropriate to remember him with a poem about remembrance itself and the presence of the past. He was a regular customer in my Oxford shop and is much missed: a real old-fashioned romantic husband who bought flowers for his wife at least twice a month.



Jon Stallworthy FBA FRSL

1935-2014

Professor Emeritus of English at the  
University of Oxford.

*Richard Bailey*

### No Ordinary Sunday

No ordinary Sunday. First the light  
falling dead through dormitory windows blind  
with fog; and then, at breakfast, every plate  
stained with the small, red cotton flower; and no  
sixpence for pocketmoney. Greatcoats, lined  
by the right, marched from their pegs, with slow  
poppy fires smouldering in one lapel  
to light us through the fallen cloud. Behind  
that handkerchief sobbed the quick Sunday bell.

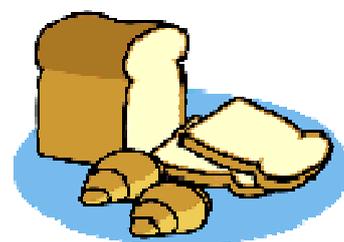
A granite cross, the school field underfoot,  
inaudible prayers, hymn-sheets that stirred  
too loudly in the hand. When hymns ran out,  
silence, like silt, lay round so wide and deep  
it seemed that winter held its breath. We heard  
only the river talking in its sleep:  
until the bugler flexed his lips, and sound  
cutting the fog cleanly like a bird,  
circled and sang out over the bandaged ground.

The , low voiced, the headmaster called the roll  
of those who could not answer; every name  
suffixed with honour--'double first', 'kept goal  
for Cambridge'-- and a death--in spitfires, tanks,  
and ships torpedoed. At his call there came  
through the mist blond heroes in broad ranks  
with rainbows struggling on their chests. Ahead  
of us, in strict step, as we idled home  
marched the formations of the towering dead.

November again, and the bugles blown  
in a tropical Holy Trinity,  
the heroes today stand further off, grown  
smaller but distinct. They flash no medals, keep  
no ranks: through Last Post and Reveille  
their chins loll on their chests, like birds asleep.  
Only when the long, last note ascends  
upon the wings of kites, some two or three  
look up: and have the faces of my friends.



**SOUP SUNDAYS ARE BACK!**  
**Upper Heyford Reading Room**  
**8th & 22nd February, 8th March**  
**12 noon—2pm**  
**Just £2.50 soup & bread**  
**£1.50 tea & cake**



## What's going on at Cherwell District Council?

### Councillor Calling

To celebrate the New Year, let's talk rubbish! Waste collection is being reviewed as it's just over ten years since Cherwell introduced our blue recycling bins (I still remember the furore, being one of those who were sure it would never work...), there's a new EU Waste Framework Directive to comply with and, most importantly, having raised recycling from 11% then to just under 60% now, it seems to have got stuck and needs reinvigorating if we are to reach the potential 80% that we could recycle.

I think it's worth talking about as it affects all 60,000 homes, not to mention all businesses, every week and costs a lot of your money. The good news is that your satisfaction keeps increasing and is now at an astonishing 88%, while the cost, which was £63 per property per year in 2009/10 has been driven down to £48 this year – less than £1 a week – and is set to fall further in 2015/16. This matters as, with an average council tax of £123.50 and central grant support continually falling, efficiencies here help protect other vital services. Joining with South Northants has helped a lot. Although, in line with our deal on joint working where each council preserves its different policies, they collect rubbish slightly differently, a single management team and identical vehicles minimise costs and, when lorries break down, there's a lot more flexibility for back up so you don't get let down.

The cost is helped enormously by your care: less than 5% gets rejected at the recovery facility, boosting the price of recycled materials. (An interesting sign of the times: as email reduces the paper in the mix, online shopping has increased the cardboard). However, all the extra homes being imposed bring extra costs: 13,000 new homes in Bicester equate to three extra crews costing £150,000 pa plus the capital cost of the vehicles, so we need to be robust in ensuring the developers pay a fair share from their building profits and the costs don't fall on existing residents.

The EU Directive now requires separate collection of recyclables, which we currently sling all together (apart from glass to "bring banks" and food/garden refuse in the brown bin) into the blue bin – "commingled" in the jargon. Luckily, there is a get-out clause if this is technically, environmentally or economically impractical – which it clearly is:

Technically, there's the little issue of persuading 45,000 residents who have bought a blue bin to abandon them for boxes plus the safety issues of lifting and handling non-wheeled bins

Environmentally, the fall in recycling is estimated at 3,000 tons as, the less easy and convenient the system, the less people bother to recycle, not to mention the environmental nuisance of wind blown litter from boxes

Economically, the cost would be exorbitant, not only of writing off the current capital investment but also of implementing an elaborate new scheme.

But, that leaves the question of how to rescue the estimated 12,000 tons of recyclables – 1,000 tons of glass, 4,000 of paper, plastic and metal and 7,000 tons of food – which are idly chucked in the green bins, at a cost to the environment, of course, but also of £180,000 in landfill charges – not to mention fuelling the horrible incinerator at Ardley. One way is to extend the range and convenience of bring banks: as to range, they can collect textiles, shoes, batteries and small electronic equipment as well as clear, green and brown glass (it's important to separate as this dramatically increases its value), while the council is always keen to find new sites. Another is to make it easier for blocks of flats, where there obviously isn't the same room for separate bins. Meanwhile, expect more and more regular communication to encourage all of us to do a little more: I hope you'll understand the financial and environmental incentives and do your best.

*James Macnamara*



### **Brian Fox flying through the air on a parachute (albeit strapped to a real parachutist)**

Brian (formerly of Heyford Park and a member of Warreners) took on this foolhardy task to raise sponsorship money for Cancer UK.

Brian lost his wife eight years ago to cancer while living in Zimbabwe at a time when the facilities and political situation were far from ideal.

He is most grateful for the medical support the doctors gave his wife and the help he received from friends when he had to take his wife to South Africa for treatment.

**Brian wishes to thank his many sponsors which resulted in £650 being donated to Cancer UK towards cancer research.**

## Coarse Gardening

Suddenly, we are fifteen years into the new millennium - how did that happen? - and Spring is just around the corner. Maybe. It might be some corner, a bit of a five-mile sweeping bend, like a curve on the Canadian Pacific Railroad, rather than a turn down a village side street, and by the time you get to read this everything could be under a foot or two of snow. All the same, if Spring isn't exactly springing yet, it is at least twitching. In fact, there were snowdrops showing by the roadside and hazel catkins blowing yellow in the wind at Middleton Stoney *before* New Year's Day. Which means, bizarrely, that those particular plants flowered twice in 2014, once at the beginning of the year and again at it's end. I have never known that before. It has been such a madly mild winter so far - hardly any winter at all. Now *that* should provoke the weather gods.

In my garden, a very welcome sign that things are on the move again is the new growth on the hellebores. White flowered 'Christmas Roses' have been out for a while and now the larger, coloured ones are putting up buds and fresh leaves. Hellebores do especially well here on our heavy, wet soil, as do snowdrops, and both are increasing very nicely. The snowdrops pretty well double the size of their clumps every year by bulb division and need regular splitting and replanting, but they also propagate by seed (only the single flowered ones) and by a neat trick they have - in old, congested clumps, sideways pressure on bulbs in the middle can become so great that they get squeezed right out of the ground, a bit like what you might do to a cherry stone squidged between finger and thumb, if you know what I mean. Or perhaps you were a well-behaved child. Presumably, bulbs which have popped up like that then get carried off by mice or birds and spread around, apart from the ones gathered up by me, that is. I picked up a pocketful the other day and dug a hole for them up near the house, where they can be seen through a window without drizzle down the back of the neck.

As for the hellebores, the more the merrier, please. They are very expensive things to buy at flowering size, but sometimes small seedlings are available which bloom in their second or third year with you. It is worth the wait. Also, once you have flowering specimens, you can save their seed. The books tell you to collect seeds the moment the pods begin to split and to sow them at once, either in open ground or in trays left outside. They will then germinate in November or December. Except that they don't. Not always. I followed the instructions to the letter and got lots of seedlings one year and none at all the next. Also, in at least two past years, I missed the boat and found only empty pods to collect. Last year I gathered the pods at exactly the right time, dried them off in the greenhouse for a couple of days, and sowed the seeds in a row outside. Nothing whatever came up. But they have NOW! Hurrah! Only a couple of months late. There is a lovely row of fat, glossy cotyledons which look rather like lupin seedlings which have been stretched. They will need to be left alone for a year before planting them out and it will then be another one to two years before they flower, but there are already some young ones in the garden which will come on before they do, so there should be a succession, which is the way to do it. They look very delicate, exotic things, but they are actually as tough as old boots.

It is the right time of year for fooling with brambles. Those of you who are members of the Scratches and Lacerations Appreciation Society had better not read on, because I have declared war on the vicious blighters, particularly ones growing in the lane-side hedge. The thing is, blackberry bushes throw out long bramble trails every year which arc up and over like vast, spindly croquet hoops whose tips root down, so that they are fixed at both ends. They are then ideally suited to tripping you up as you amble vaguely down the garden paths alongside the hedge, doing their best to get up your trouser legs and scarify your shins at the same time. They also wait for you to drive by on your sit-on mower so that they can swipe you across the face, given a gust of wind and half a chance, and maybe take out a piece of scalp if you duck. Beastly things. Anyway, on one of those bright, frosty days we had around Christmas I decided I would go and cut a few of them out of it. It was quite a pleasant occupation, out in the fresh air for an hour or so, and, like many a similar task, it escalated. What started out as a bit of bramble-management became a major hedge-tidying exercise, resulting in large piles of cut and fallen branches tangled up with briars. I had help: a robin came on most days to supervise. Then, when I brought out the little garden tractor and trailer to haul away all the cut stuff, a very friendly black-and-white collie came prancing up - probably from a canal boat moored near Allens Lock. He shouldn't have been allowed out loose like that, but he was good company for a while, until he saw his own reflection in the shiny side of the trailer and went absolutely mataglap, leaping high in the air and plunging down again, forepaws first, like an arctic fox hunting lemmings under the snow. This was entertaining and funny until he started yapping and dancing all over the road and nearly got run down by one of those Waterways white vans that come down there, so that I had to chase him off for his own safety.

All this thorny amusement required bomb-proof cord trousers, brick-layers' leather gloves and other items of elegant attire from my extensive haute couture wardrobe, to achieve the look of an out-of-work rat-catcher, which is pleasing in itself - not to care what you look like. Such are the delights of retirement. Even more pleasing is that the clearance will allow the wild snowdrops in the hedge bottom to be seen and to flourish. I had intended to clear some more of the ground-cover ivy, but left it too late - the bulbs are already coming through, abundantly.

Roll on the *real* springtime. Can't wait.

Old Hodge the Hedger.



# NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CHERWELL VALLEY



## Keep warm and well this winter

As you get older it **takes longer to warm up**, which can be **bad for your health**.

The cold thickens blood and increases blood pressure, which can lead to a heart attack or stroke.

It's important to keep your bedroom window shut on a winter's night, as breathing in cold air can increase the risk of chest infections.

Use a wheat bag or hot-water bottle to keep warm, and enjoy a cup of your favourite hot drink.

**Make sure you claim all of the financial assistance you're eligible for.**

To find out more, call Age UK Advice free on **0800 169 6565**.



### Above 70°F (21°C)

Warm

### 70°F (21°C)

Ideal living room temperature

### 64°F (18°C)

Ideal bedroom temperature

### Below 59°F (15°C)

Cold

**The cold thickens blood and increases blood pressure, which can be bad for your health.**

**For more details please call the Age UK Oxfordshire on:**

**0345 450 1276**

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



### CARE FOR A CUPPA!

**Sunday 1st– Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Brighten up the dark winter months by taking part in our **Care for a Cuppa** fundraiser! We would like to invite you to organise a coffee morning or afternoon tea for Katharine House between Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Invite your friends and family around for a cuppa, cake and chat and we will provide you with a Care for a Cuppa fundraising pack complete with posters, balloons, recipes and top tips to make your event a success. Simply ask for donations on the day for coffee and cake, or hold a raffle or sweepstake for something a little different. You can hold your Care for a Cuppa at home, at work, at school or at your local club or society – the possibilities are endless!

To find out more please call the fundraising team on 01295 812161 to order your Care for a Cuppa fundraising pack. Every penny that you raise by organising a Care for a Cuppa event will make a tremendous difference to local patients and their families. Thank you.

### BLACK DYKE BRASS BAND CONCERT

Don't miss the opportunity to see the world's most famous brass band in concert at St. Mary's Church, Horsefair, Banbury on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**. Doors open at 7pm (concert start time 7.30pm) and tickets are £20 each. Please call KHH Fundraising on (01295) 812161 to purchase tickets or download an application form from our website at [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk). Tickets are selling fast, so we would urge supporters to get their tickets early, to avoid disappointment.

### FESTIVAL OF OPEN GARDENS 2015

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to open their garden to raise money for the hospice in 2015. Your garden would be featured, along with all the others, in a programme that will be distributed to all our supporters with our spring newsletter in late March/early April. We already have supporters opening their gardens around Banbury and would be delighted to hear from anyone else willing to take part in our festival. For further information please telephone Sarah (01295) 812161 or email [sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk](mailto:sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk)

### KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE LOTTERY

Our lottery is a vital income source for Katharine House, having raised over £1 million since May 2000. If you're stuck for a birthday present idea, we have a variety of Lottery Gift Membership solutions. For £1 per week you might get a phone call on a Friday morning from Wendy our Lottery Administrator telling you that you've won £1,000- Wendy loves making that call! For more information call the Lottery Office on 01295 812161 or email [lottery@khh.org.uk](mailto:lottery@khh.org.uk).

Thank you, **Sarah Brennan** Community Fundraiser



## The Heyfords WI

Formed January 1935



### The Heyfords WI Celebrate

Heyford WI was founded in January 1935 and last month the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated with a party organised by The Heyfords in the Reading Room at Upper Heyford. We were pleased to welcome many former members, some who had travelled considerable distances to be there. Guests included Cheryl Boorman, Oxfordshire Federation Chairman, as well as both our Group Convenor and Area Advisor. Messages of congratulations and best wishes were received from former members far and wide unable to attend. The event was opened with the traditional singing of Jerusalem. Much memorabilia was on display including Minute Books, Certificates and many photographs of members in the nineteen fifties.

A potted history of our Institute recalled that it was in January 1935 that Mrs Ward-Jackson with a newly elected committee held the inaugural meeting at the School Room Lower Heyford. Subsequent monthly meetings followed at the Parish Room, School Room or the Rectory with tea and cake at 1 penny each. Prospective new members were proposed, seconded and the nomination put to a vote. In 1936 the use of borrowed china was deemed to be unsatisfactory. Following an assessment of sample chinaware an order for cups and saucers, plates, jugs and teapots was placed. (Remarkably a surviving cup saucer plate and jug were on display!) At the outbreak of war in September 1939 and as a result of the compulsory blackout restrictions meetings were suspended for a while. However an offer of 2cwt of sugar, presumably from the Ministry of Food; was accepted with the understanding that it would enable members who had available fruit to be making preserves etc. for local people. (Perhaps this gave rise to the 'jam and Jerusalem' tag that the WI continues to have these days). Additionally all members were strongly encouraged to grow more vegetables. In 1942 Miss Ward-Jackson joined the ATS and reluctantly resigned as Heyfords president.

However returning to the recent celebrations; obviously there was a lot of catching up to do with former members and so many reminiscences of earlier days in The Heyfords. A superb buffet was provided and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The (very) local press called in and many photographs were taken with one example hopefully being reproduced on the front cover of this magazine. Judging by the number of cards e-mails and phone calls received following the event a most memorable and enjoyable evening was had by all.

We have a busy year to look forward to which marks the WI 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary nationwide. There will be lots to celebrate and commemorate so our calendar will be full.

Our next meeting is at The Reading Room, Upper Heyford on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February and features Eileen Race speaking on 'Care & Finances in later life'.

The Heyfords WI would like to take this opportunity to wish all Valley News readers a very happy and healthy New Year.

If you are at all interested in us and want to know more, we welcome you to come along as our guest. Contact: Lynn Humberstone 01869 340596



## *20 Years Caring for Pets*

- Local friendly caring independent vets specialising in dogs, cats and small family pets
- Modern premises with excellent facilities. Separate dog and cat wards. On-site parking
- Gold standard care - unlike most vets we have a nurse working through the night caring for our patients
- Quality health care - independently inspected and accredited by the RCVS to veterinary hospital standard
- 24/7 emergency service - provided by our own vets

**01869 323223**

*Keep up to date with our latest news and offers:*



[www.hartvet.co.uk](http://www.hartvet.co.uk)



[www.facebook.com/hartvets](http://www.facebook.com/hartvets)



[www.twitter.com/hartvets](http://www.twitter.com/hartvets)



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**Browning Drive, Bicester, OX26 2XL**

## THAMES VALLEY POLICE

### Police update from WPC Caroline Brown

We are continuing to have reports of oil thefts, there was an attempt theft just prior to Christmas in Duns Tew and a theft of heating oil in the village the first week of January. Please be extra vigilant and report any suspicious incidents to Police on either 101 or 999.

As we start a new year we are looking at planning and what events are taking place on the rural area. If you have any events such as fetes, coffee morning's, village fund raisers or similar and would like us to attend then please

E Mail me the details at

[caroline.brown@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:caroline.brown@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) and we will do our best to ensure someone can attend.

### Courier Fraud scam

A new type of scam is spreading across the country, which tricks people into handing over their bank cards and pin numbers.

Courier fraud, which often targets the elderly and vulnerable, sees the victim receive a phone call from fraudsters who say they are from their bank or the police. They tell the victim that they are calling because there has been suspicious activity on their account and advise them to call the bank from the number on the back of their card, which helps the victim believe the call is genuine.

The victim disconnects the phone and dials their bank or police, however the fraudster has kept the telephone line open so even though a number is dialed, it is not connected and the victim is still on the phone to the fraudster, who then gains their trust and asks them to either say or key in their pin, before telling them their card will be collected and a replacement delivered. Once the fraudster has all the information they need, a courier is sent to collect the card from the victim, and a replacement is delivered at the same time, which is not a genuine bank card.

The offender has obtained the person's name, address, full bank details, the card itself and the PIN. The bank cards are then used fraudulently without the victim's knowledge.

### Advice for a victim to protect themselves against courier fraud

- If you receive such a call end it immediately
  - If you think you have received one of these calls please consider using another phone line, mobile or other method to contact your bank or the police.
  - If you can only use the same phone, disconnect the call and wait 5 minutes before you dial.
  - If an offender is nearby or you feel in danger dial 999.
- If you have handed over any details to the fraudster, inform your bank and cancel your cards immediately.

## February

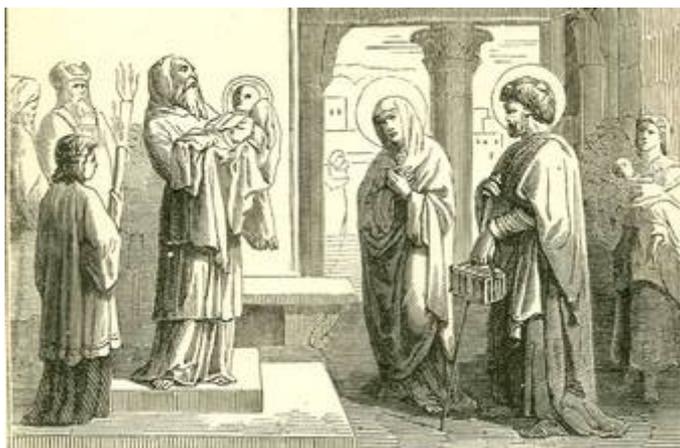
In Anglo-Saxon the month of February is called Solmonath or the cakes offered to the Gods. The first of February is Imbolc, the Celtic feast of awakening spring. On this day it is traditional to make a sheaf of the previous harvest into an image of St. Bridgid who is the Saint of fertility, childbirth and the bringing of spring. Cakes are made of seeds and honey and left as offerings for a fruitful spring The second day of February is Candlemass or the festival of the light that the baby Jesus brought. It is said 'If Candlemas Day bring snow and rain, the winter is gone and it won't come again. If Candlemas Day be clear and bright then winter will have another flight. In anyway it is good to plant beans this day.'

With spring slowly moving her hands through the soil the birds begin to mate on valentine's day. This was also the festival of Lupercalia of ancient Rome when couples drew names from a bag and were paired for the festival. It is said that the first person you meet this day will become your valentine. It is, however, permissible to keep your eyes closed until the right person appears. Some herbal aphrodisiacs are cyclamen, pansies, periwinkle, bay, thyme, wormwood, cinnamon, lavender, rose, borage, violet, parsley and chervil. Small heart shaped bags with violet and lavender were traditionally made for lovers on this day.

It is said at this time of year it is good to bring in various plants. Alder leaves are said to cast out trouble. Chamomile is used to take away weariness. Lavender is for all grief and pains of the head. Mint is to induce strength and to invigorate the system. On the 24th of February there is the ancient Roman festival of Terminalia when farmers placed garlands of grain and herbs on boundary stones. This protected the village and brought good crops for the following year.

Although there is not much showing on the earth, the longer days bring the excitement of a new year beginning. The catkins on the alder trees, the celandines along the river and the first violets kindle the dreams of this year's gardens.

*Debra Kaatz*



Candlemass - Presentation of Jesus at the Temple

# Heyford Park Residents & Community Development Association

## **HEYFORD PARK RESIDENTS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BRICE ROAD  
ON SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015 at 3.00 p.m.**

**ALL HEYFORD PARK RESIDENTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY MEMBERS  
& EACH HOUSEHOLD HAS A VOTE**

The Residents Association at Heyford Park has had a really busy year with many successes (and some failures). We will be circulating the formal notice of our Annual General Meeting to at Heyford Park residents. We will also be circulating an annual report highlighting what we have been doing during the year. We are hoping for a great turnout and will especially welcome those residents who have moved into the new Bovis and Dorchester houses, along with recent arrivals in the rented bungalows and houses.

2015 started with considerable difficulty for those of us who live South of Camp Road. An electricity fault on New Year's morning meant that almost 300 dwellings were without light and heat from before six in the morning till four in the afternoon (with a few houses not reconnected till about later in the evening). We are reviewing with the Dorchester Group the improvements which might be made to provide better information on progress with repairs should something like this happen again. During the cut, community spirit kicked in and those residents with gas cookers were able to help others with hot water and food. The airfield security guards joined in and let it be known that folk could boil kettles in the huts at the entrances to the airfield - many thanks to them, and to everyone who rallied round.

### SNIPPETS

- Building work on the Free School and on the Sports Centre is due to be completed at the end of April.
- Camp Road resurfacing and new footways due to start early summer.
- Work due to start very soon on creating the new village green & children's play area.
- The Children's Centre (in the Community Centre) is expanding its activities.
- The refurbishment programme for houses and bungalows is under reconsideration – a new programme is likely to emerge in the next few weeks

And finally – something about speed: There is frequent concern about vehicles exceeding the speed limit (by a considerable margin) both on Camp Road and in the housing estates. PLEASE watch your speed in Heyford Park! We will be co-operating with the Parish Council during 2015 in a "Speed Watch" campaign. This will involve use of "speed guns" and reporting back to Thames Valley Police.



For Rural Families with Children under Five Years  
Bicester Rural Children's Centres – Heyford/Caversfield Children's Centre

**YOUR LOCAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE  
AT HEYFORD PARK**



**Calling all families with children under five years!**

We provide sessions such as:

stay and play, fun activities, baby drop-in, health visitor drop-in, breastfeeding support and self-weighting scales, mobile playbus, baby massage, parenting and child development information and many more

The Children's Centre is somewhere your child can make friends and learn as they play. Support for speech and language development is also available.

You can get professional advice on health and family matters, learn about training and job opportunities, or just socialise with other families.

**We look forward to welcoming you to one of our sessions soon!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER FOR EMAIL ALERTS**

Visit us at the Community Centre, Brice Road, Upper Heyford, OX25 5TE  
Telephone 01869 233151



**BABY DROP-IN**  
For up to 18 mth's  
Thursdays  
10am to 11.30am

**STAY AND PLAY**  
For under 5's  
Community Centre  
Tuesdays  
9.30 to 11.30am

**COME AND JOIN US AT OUR**

**Baby Drop-in**



**Especially for Babies from 0-18 months and Mums-to-Be**

**Held at  
Heyford/Caversfield Children's Centre on  
Thursdays from 10.00 to 11.30am**

Meet other mums and dads with babies, and mums-to-be, while your babies play in a safe and stimulating environment

**FUN ACTIVITIES**

**MONTHLY HEALTH TEAM DROP-IN**

Qualified staff are available to help with information and support on: breast/bottle feeding, sleeping, weaning, childcare options, returning to work

**SENSORY EXPERIENCES**

Self weighing scales are available to use during the session

**For more information please email  
heyford-  
caversfieldchildrencentre@oxfordshire.gov.uk  
or call 01869 233151**

**COME ALONG TO OUR STAY & PLAY**

**for children under five and their parents/ carers**

**EVERY TUESDAY FROM 9.30AM TO 11.30AM**

at

**Heyford/Caversfield Childrens Centre  
The Community Centre, Brice Road  
Upper Heyford, OX25 5TE**

For more information please email  
heyford-caversfieldchildrencentre@oxfordshire.gov.uk



**LOWER HEYFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting of the Lower Heyford Parish Council held on**  
**Thursday 15th January 2015 at 7.00 pm in the Church**

Present: - Mr Macnamara (JJ) (Chair), Mrs. Ball (DB) (Vice Chair), Mr Mortimore (CM), Mr Dare (DD) , Mr. Eggeling (BE) , Mr. Thompson (LT) Mrs Turner (PT)

Members of the public : Mrs Hayley Brown, Mrs Janine Beckwith, Mr. Andrew McMeekin

In attendance: Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

Apologies: Apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs Fulljames

**Declarations of Interest** : DB declared an interest in the South Street planning application.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 20th November 2014 were read and it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

**Public Participation** Members of the public were invited to speak and it was agreed they could speak during the relevant agenda items.

**01/15/01 Clerk's Report and actions from previous meeting**

Clerk has been unable to establish from OCC/CDC areas of the village grass currently cut and will pursue the action.

**ACTION : CLERK**

The hedge on The Lane has been cut by Mr. Jones, the landowner.

No response has been received from Sanctuary regarding the Cherwell Bank hedge. Clerk to chase **ACTION : CLERK**

Clerk had been informed by CDC that the only Routing Agreement in place is that with Heyford Park Management.

Councillors doubted this and clerk will make further enquiries.

**ACTION : CLERK**

JJ to contact Chair of Bartons PC to ask about their routing agreements.

**ACTION : JJ**

**Overgrown vegetation** - Councillors had walked the village identifying areas of overgrown vegetation causing a hazard.

Clerk to write to home owners.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**01/15/02 Highways**

**Speeding** It was expected that PCSO Kidd might attend the meeting, and in his absence it was agreed that he has little power for action. Clerk has contacted PC Caroline Brown and provided dates of future meetings and it is hoped she will attend to discuss the matter of speeding. It was agreed that application would be made to OCC for a 20mph speed limit on Freehold Street and that LT investigate purchasing '20mph' and 'children crossing' signs for both Caulcott and the crossroads by Kingdom Hall.

**ACTION : LT/CLERK**

**SID** - It was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of SID from Radarlux, to be delivered to the boatyard and installed by DD/LT.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**Bin** on Freehold Street - Mrs. Beckwith had written to and been responded by the Clerk requesting that the bin in Freehold Street be removed and replaced with a Dog Bin. It was agreed that this should be done. **ACTION : CLERK**

**Additional Street light in Freehold Street** - Mrs. Beckwith requested that the council look into the provision of an additional street light on Freehold Street opposite No 72 and it was agreed that Clerk would write to the residents of Nos. 70-93 seeking their opinions.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**Tree report received from Nicholsons** - No action has yet been taken to cut branches of the Pine trees on Station Road as promised. Clerk to chase.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**01/15/03 Meetings** - no meetings had been attended

**01/15/04 Complaints procedure** - It was agreed to adopt the Complaints Procedure previously circulated by the Clerk and publish it on the website.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**01/15/05 Freedom of Information document** - It was agreed to adopt the Freedom of Information document previously circulated by the Clerk and publish it on the website.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**01/15/06 LHRINC** - Due to a resignation, the Charity are in need of an additional trustee and it was agreed to place adverts on Noticeboards and on the website.

**ACTION : CLERK**

**01/15/07 Defibrillator** - A suggestion had been made that the village purchase a defibrillator for public use, or possibly train volunteers in its use. It was agreed that this should be pursued with the assistance of SCAS who the clerk has already contacted. It is thought the cost would be in the region of £1000 which could be achieved by fundraising and donation, and the machine could possibly be housed in the telephone box which is available for adoption at a cost of £1. BT would donate £75 worth of paint for its upkeep, however it was agreed not to pursue the adoption of the phone box due to the on-going maintenance issues. Clerk to follow up with Dave England of SCAC **ACTION : CLERK**

**01/15/08 Playground** - PT confirmed that the fencing has been completed, that there will be an opening party on 19th April and that no further financial involvement is required from the PC.

**01/15/09 Website** - The email from Graham Wilson was discussed and his suggestions considered. Clerk will respond to Graham. It was agreed that the website serves a useful purpose but that it is underused. The subscription for the website hosting will be renewed and every effort will be made to make more use of the site. PT to contact known local businesses and ask them to forward links to their businesses to the Clerk for submission to Graham to put on the website. She will also provide photos of the newly refurbished playground. **ACTION : CLERK/PT**

**01/15/10** The following planning applications had been received :

14/01739/F White Horse Cottage, Freehold Street

14/00414/TCA Merrys Farmhouse - treework - **APPROVED**

14/00411/TCA 21 Freehold Street - treework - **APPROVED**

14/00132/LB the Bell Inn - re-thatch barn

14/01978/F 2 & 5 South Street, Caulcott

14/02025/F Manufacturing and storage at Camp Road

15th January minutes continued

**01/15/11 Finance** - The following accounts were approved for payment

Thirsk Community Services	Payroll	45.75	500305
Cathy Fleet	Clerk expenses	74.66	500306
Cathy Fleet	Clerk salary	230.26	SO
Cathy Fleet	NALC payment	13.40	DD
Nicholsons	Playground fencing	1586.22	500307

The proposed precept for 2015/16 circulated by the Clerk was considered and discussed and it was agreed that the sum of £8636 would be requested from CDC. Possible purchase of an additional SID will be made from reserves.

**Other matters**

**Litterblitz** - Clerk will inform PC when information is received from CDC

**Bus Shelter** - to be agenda item for February

**Letter received from Gay Hawkins** - clerk to respond

Date of next meeting : 19th February 2015 (may be changed due to half term)

proposed Meeting dates for 2015 : 19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June, 16 July, 17 September. 15 October, 19 November

**Signed** ..... **Mr J J Macnamara**

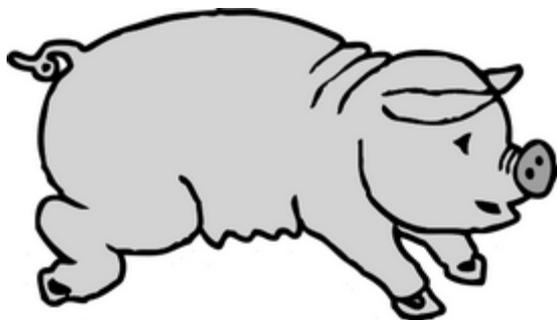
**Date** .....

**LOWER HEYFORD EVENTS COMMITTEE**

The Committee is already busy working on its traditional **May Day Fete**, which is to be held this year on **Saturday 2nd May**. However, our numbers have become a little thin on the ground and we are looking for new members to reinforce the Committee. If you don't want to go the whole hog and join the Committee, we also need volunteers to carry out house to house collections, just in the week prior to the event. We trust the people of Lower Heyford and Caulcott will see this appeal as a worthwhile commitment, so please contact our Chairman, Terry Hawkins, on 01869 340772 if you can come to the Committee's assistance in either case.

**Date for your diary: Bonfire & Fireworks 7th November**

**An extraordinary Breed of Pigs!**



The following instances of heavy weights in pig feeding have been made at Lower Heyford, Oxfordshire, with two pigs bred by Mr W Padbury-King, of Manor Farm, and sold to the Reverend H Furneaux, the rector of the parish, by whom they were fed. Number one was purchased for 25s on 2nd April 1883, being then eight weeks old, and was killed on 6th November in the same year, weighing 350lbs. Pig number two was purchased on the 7th May 1883, for £1 at eight weeks old, and was killed on 26th November following, weighing 305lbs. The pigs were fed so rapidly that they were found to be too large for household use at the Rectory, and were sold to Mr Walton, a butcher at Steeple Aston.

*Peter John found this fascinating article on Welsh Newspapers Online*



**Tribute: Ian Morton**

Ian Morton, who sadly passed away on New Year's Eve, was a Falklands War veteran who served for 13 years with the Scots Guards before being medically discharged from the army in 1993 as a result of his injuries. He moved to Oxfordshire from his native Scotland in 2005, moving to Heyford 6 months ago. Ian, just 52 when he died from a heart attack, served in the Scots Guards for 13 years with tours in Northern Island and the Falklands. He was injured at the Battle of Mount Tumbledown, moments before the end of the conflict in June 1982, being hit by shrapnel from a grenade as he was attacking an Argentinian position. Later training Scots Guards recruits, before serving in Northern Island during the troubles.

He worked recently on security duties at the Mini plant at Cowley.

Ian was laid to rest with full military honours at a ceremony at Banbury Crematorium on 21st January.

With the greatest respect for his outstanding military career we send our condolences to his family at this sad time.

# UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

## St Mary's Church

The Christmas period once again provided memorable events at St Mary's in 2014. A large congregation enjoyed what is now becoming our traditional service of readings and carols, with the interaction of biblical texts and devotional poetry providing much pleasure and food for thought. Thanks again to Roger & Heather Burt for providing so much organisational commitment and inspiration, to all our readers for their carefully-prepared readings and to Stephen Yorke for yet another lovely illustration for our order of service. Many stayed afterwards to enjoy some excellent mulled wine (thanks Anna!) and commented on how enjoyable it was to be there. Many more showed their appreciation with their donations which exceeded £400 this year – a welcome record!

Christmas Eve brought us another regular fixture in the shape of our Midnight Communion service, which attracted another substantial congregation from within and outside the village. It was a moment of peace to remember what Christmas is meant to celebrate before the festivities start. We hope that this year will be another eventful one for the fabric of the church, with a push to seek funding for the next stage of its modernisation and renovation. Our aim is that by Christmas next year everyone attending our Christmas services will at least be enjoying greater warmth and modern facilities. Watch this space.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is on Monday 2 March at 7.30 in St Mary's. All are welcome to attend and see what the PCC does, but if you want to participate in the voting for who is on the PCC and on other matters – or even stand for the PCC yourself – you have to be on the church Electoral Roll. We want the Roll to be truly representative of our village and so if you would like to be on it please let our Secretary Andrew Gotch know by 28 February and he will send you the necessary form to fill in. You can leave him a message on 232778 or you can email him and [amsq@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:amsq@hotmail.co.uk). If you want to talk about what is involved, please call Andrew or the PCC Chairman Ian Lough-Scott (232788) and we can explain what the PCC is about. It's your church – please take part.

### Ann Woski

Though sadly Ann is still in hospital we are all hoping that she will be back with us very soon. Her lovely garden will soon be full of the colours of spring, and it will be a joy to see her enjoying again her pride and joy - her garden. Ann has been blessed with so many visitors and get well cards and she greatly appreciates the kindness and messages of goodwill she has received.

Ann sends her very best wishes to the village she loves and her many friends throughout the Cherwell valley.

**We send her our love and best wishes.**

## Parish News



We need more volunteers for the Speedwatch Campaign for both the village (Somerton Road) and Heyford Park (Camp Road). Please contact Carole Gother 07592735669 or Parish Clerk, Jack Goodman at [jackgoodman61@gmail.com](mailto:jackgoodman61@gmail.com)

### Upper Heyford 200 Club

There are still several spare numbers available for this village fund raiser (just 25p a week) so please consider joining in support of the community. It raises approximately £1400 a year (provided all the numbers are taken) and in the last financial year the following funds were distributed:

Over 75s Christmas parcels and cards	£150.00
Warreners Christmas lunch	£175.00
Church Fabric Fund	£1000.00

If you would like to join please contact Veronica on 232788

### The Warreners Club

This is the agenda for 2015:

11 February	Fish & Chips at The Barley Mow	12.30
11 March	Boccia /Kurling	2pm Village Hall
8th April	Picture Quiz	2pm Village Hall
13th May	CDC re-cycling talk	2pm Village Hall
10th June	Meal out	
8th July	Colin Oakes talk	2pm Village Hall
12th August	Bingo	2pm Village Hall
9th September	Age UK talk	2pm Village Hall
14th October	Harvest Lunch	2pm Village Hall
11th November	Film	2pm Village Hall
9th December	Christmas lunch	1pm Village Hall

New members are always made most welcome, if you are over 50 and have just moved into the locality why not come along and join us for a taster. We are a friendly group who meet monthly for two hours at Upper Heyford village hall, with delicious refreshments and lots of cups of tea, and of course, plenty of chattering!

The meeting fee is £3, and the annual membership £4.

Contacts: Brenda 233746 or Veronica 232788 or Sheila 232649

## St Mary's, Upper Heyford Tower Lighting Church lighting for November and December, 2014

- 1<sup>st</sup> November In celebration of the 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday of the late Mrs. Nora Medhurst. By her son, Dave.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November 'To celebrate the happiness of our life together on this, our wedding anniversary.' Bob and Hansa Menzies
- 5<sup>th</sup> November In memory of Di Hudson, much loved late wife of Roy. 'Loving you always, darling.' From husband Roy. 'Love you Mum.' From son, Michael
- 9<sup>th</sup> November In celebration of the birthday of Canary Lord.
- 11<sup>th</sup> November In memory of the fallen, particularly those from this parish. From Mary and Jack Goodman.
- 21<sup>st</sup> November In Celebration of the birthday of Rebecca Radda. 'Happy 7<sup>th</sup> birthday Pixie.' Lots of love, Mummy, Daddy, Joe & Beth. xxxx.'
- 24<sup>th</sup> November In celebration of Heather Burt's birthday. 'From Roger, with love.'
- 30<sup>th</sup> November In memory of the late Pat Hedges. From the Poetry Group with love.

### December

- 2<sup>nd</sup> December In celebration of the birthday of Edward. With love from all the family.
- 16<sup>th</sup> December In celebration of the 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary of Eileen and Ray Booker. 'With all my love and thanks for 42 wonderful years, dear Eileen. From Ray'.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> December Remembering with love Peggy Cuss (23.12.10) and Ronald Cuss (22.1.59). Greatly missed by all the family.
- 24<sup>th</sup> December In memory of Jan Woski and all deceased family members and friends of Ann Woski.
- In memory of the late Archibald Slatter. 'With love from Jean, John and Hannah.'
- \* In celebration of the 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Jean and the late Ron Beesley. 'Thinking of you Ron every day, missing you more and more. In our hearts forever more. From your wife Jean and all your family.'
- In memory of Helen Byrne, 'May she rest in peace.' Audrey, Les and family
- 29<sup>th</sup> December In memory of the late Mrs Doris James who died in 2000. 'With love from Maureen, Peter, Paul, Debbie and little Grace.'
- 31<sup>st</sup> December In celebration of the birthday of the late Heather Woolcott. Also in memory of her late husband Vic who died last year. Much loved and greatly missed aunt, great-aunt, uncle and great-uncle of Roland, Stephen, Catherine, David and the late Christine..

\*Jean and Ron were married in St Mary's Church on Christmas Eve, 1966

Ann, Maureen, Peter and Mary would like to take this opportunity to wish you all very best wishes for 2015, and to say thanks to you who have supported the Church lighting project. Without Ann, the lynchpin of this project who is recovering in hospital, no receipts will be issued until she is well enough to do so.

Ann thanks all who have supported the monthly bingos. She will publish the combined amount raised from these two programmes for 2014, which together supports the Fabric Fund of St. Mary's Parish Church.

In the absence of Ann (which we hope will not be much longer) please get in touch with Maureen and Peter on 23 2878 or Mary on 23 2722 if you wish us to light the Church Tower for your special occasion.

### Wassailing at Upper Heyford

On Saturday 17th January, a merry bunch of Heyfordians were to be seen wandering around the village and entering several gardens shouting "Wassail" (good health). Nobody really knows the origin of Wassailing, but it is thought to date back to the Anglo-Saxon tradition of blessing the home or orchard. The date of the 17th January is the original Gregorian calendars 12th Night and is the date most favoured by cider producers.

So in an effort to secure a bountiful apple crop for this years cider production, a group of villagers visited many of the apple trees and orchards to recite the traditional poem while drinking from the makeshift clayen cup:

That blooms well, bears well.  
Hats full, caps full,  
Three bushel bags full,  
An' all under one tree.  
Hurrah! Hurrah!

We then completed the blessing by pouring the remaining cider over the tree while shouting Wassail.

Next years Wassail fails on the Sunday so put the date in your diary.



A happy bunch of wassailers!

## SOMERTON NEWS

**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, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015**

**6.00-8.00 pm  
drinks & canapés**

**Adults £10 Children 15 and under free of charge  
Acceptances to Suzie Leon 01869 346814**

BAZAAR. Despite there being two other events in the neighbouring villages Somerton Christmas Bazaar raised a whopping £1,821.08. Perhaps the Mulled Wine had something to do with it! There were a variety of stalls from Christmas items, Crafts, Gifts, Children's Games, Cakes to Kitchenalia not to mention the popular Tombola and the Big Raffle. Santa and his Elf were well received and had enough presents for everyone.

Most of us have been doing it for so long that the only arranging to be done is setting the date. Perhaps next year we shall liaise with our neighbours so we don't clash over that.

Proceeds as ever were divided between the Church and the Village Hall.

Thanks to all.

CAROL SINGING. As always we sang our way around the Village in December. Lots of children came with their parents and it was lovely to hear the young voices. For the first time in over 40 years I was unable to complete the course but joined the remaining faithful few for the counting of the generous donations. The total was £247.08. By majority vote £100 was sent to both Sightsavers and Canine Partners and the remainder to the Red Cross Ebola Fund.

Our thanks as ever go to those who gave and the ones who plied us with wine and food. It really is a special occasion and a great start to Christmas.

SOMERTON SENIORS LUNCH. Our 'Christmas' lunch took place in January, the feeling being that so much goes on over the festive period it is something to look forward to. As the weather at this time of year is unpredictable we used the Village Hall where Minna cooked us a delicious meal and we enjoyed a glass, or two, of wine. Our thanks to her and Mary who, almost without fail, arranges the coffee morning once month whereby we raise the funds for the meal.

We shall meet again at 10.30 a.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in February for coffee in the Village Hall.

## Lighting Up St James 2014/15

Many thanks to all who have sponsored the lighting of the church this year. Here are all the accompanying messages. There are still sponsorship opportunities till the clocks go forward. Please ring Alison Eastwood or email [stabledyardalison@gmail.com](mailto:stabledyardalison@gmail.com). Only £10!!

### November

20th Parochial Church Council - Happy birthday Tony from the church. Thanks for all the grass cutting!

23rd Alan and Linda Mitchell - In memory of Edna McLean and Marjorie Cowley

29th Jill Burton - For the Schola Cantorum

30th Michaela Rees Jones - Happy Advent to the village from The Old School House

### December

1st Catriona Renk - Happy birthday Greg. Love from Catriona, Ailsa and Jonty.

2nd Philippa Morrison - Thanks to Sue for the wonderful Somerton Hour

3rd Parish Council - Happy Advent to Somerton from the Parish Council

4th Tracy Clark - Remembering my lovely Mum on her birthday. love Tracy and family

5th Ruth Power - in memory of Rupert Scott and Jilly Russell

6th Eastwoods - Happy Family weekend on Cecily's birthday

7th PCC - Carols by candlelight

8th Ruth Power - for John, Maureen and Jonathan

9th PCC - Congratulations and thanks to the Bazaar Team

10th Freya Davy - In memory of Paul from Christabel

11th Michaela Rees Jones - Happy birthday Juliet with love from all the family

12th Julie Cole - Happy birthday Nick. Hope you have a fantastic time. Lots of love from Jules Eirian Billy and Harris

13th Dave Ray - Somerton welcomes Audrey Ray

14th Greg Renk - Happy 50th birthday Catriona, Love from Greg, Ailsa and Jonty

15th Gill and Nick Rowe - Looking forward to Christmas Nanny D. Love Joe and Rebecca

16th Malcolm Arnold - Happy Wedding Anniversary Lucy and Cliff.. From Mum and Dad

17th Diane Barnard - Happy birthday Richard with lots of love from Mum, Dad, and all the Barnard family

18th Parish council - Happy Christmas to the carol singers and the village from the Parish Council

19th Harry Smee - Welcome back Xianfu!

20th Andrew Hunter - Happy 23rd Wedding Anniversary to Annie. Love, Andy.

21st Neil Amanda Cecily - Happy Christmas to all the Village

22nd Jill Burton - Happy Christmas Everyone from Jill and David Burton.  
 23rd Rebecca Falloon - All good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from Rebecca and David  
 24th Pete Clarke - Looking forward to Christmas with you Nanny D. Love from Jo and Rebecca  
 25th Anonymous - Happy Christmas from Santa  
 26th Neil Clare - For Ray, from the Clare family  
 27th Aly Fennemore - Happy birthday Mandy. UK to LA. Much love. Ralphs and Fennemores  
 28th Victoria and Sebastian Prentis - Happy wedding anniversary to Sebastian and Victoria  
 29th Freya Davy - in memory of my father from Freya and family  
 30th Jill Burton - Happy sixth birthday Phoebe!!  
 31st Rebecca and David Clarke - Happy birthday Dad with love from Rebecca david and the family

**January**

1st Philippa Morrison Happy New Year everyone with love from Philippa & Bart  
 2nd Diane Barnard Happy birthday Robert love from Mum, Dad and the family  
 3rd Alice and Alan Bowmaker Bonne année a' tout le monde  
 4th Chris and Mike Gresham-Smith Thanks super Somertonians for the good food and good fun  
 5th Parish Council Happy New Year Somerton  
 7th Victoria Prentis Happy Orthodox Christmas to Sebastian, Maxim, Natalia, Maria  
 8th Kate Dunning and Kath Wishing everyone an excellent New Year 2015 from Kath & Kate  
 14th Basil Eastwood Happy birthday to Melissa and Alison  
 16th Victoria Prentis Happy 40th birthday to Emily from V, S, C, T  
 23rd Freya Davy For my father from Tim Davy and family  
 29th Rosemary Arnold Happy birthday Malcolm. Love from Rosemary and family

**February**

14th Neil and Amanda Good Happy birthday Cecily. Love from Mummy and Daddy

**March**

4th Alison Eastwood Happy birthday Don Basilio!

**'CONNECTIONS'**  
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**at Heyford Park Chapel**

**SWIG**



Karen Wiseman Head of the Education Dept. at Blenheim Palace will be speaking on  
 Behind the Scenes at Blenheim Palace.  
 You are welcome to come and join us in what should be a very interesting talk.  
**Tuesday Feb. 10th. 7.30 p.m.**  
**Somerton Village Hall**



**The Cherwell Swifts Conservation Project**  
 Swifts are visitors to the UK that create "the sound of summer". Their spectacular acrobatic flight and calls can enliven even the grimmest urban landscape and their vast appetite for aphids and mosquitoes also does us a lot of good.

Information collected by the British Trust for Ornithology shows that the number of swifts breeding in Britain has declined considerably over the last 20 years. Much of the decline is caused by the loss of nesting sites due to building repairs or even simple re-pointing of brickwork, which means that swifts can no longer access traditional sites.

The Cherwell Swifts Conservation Project has been recording swifts for seven years. Its aim is to encourage as many local people as possible to help gather information about where swifts are nesting. This information makes it easier to preserve nest sites. Existing nest places can be reinstated and new ones designed and built into eaves. Swift nest boxes can also be installed. Without this information nest sites will continue to be lost.

Main Aim Working with volunteers and the Cherwell District Council to:

- find and protect Swifts' traditional nest sites
- encourage provision of new nest sites
- encourage interest in Swifts and awareness of the risks they face

Project guidance and the 2013 project report are available on the CDC website

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A full copy of our 2014-15 brochure is available to download on the Marlborough School website [www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/community](http://www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/community)

If you would like a free printed copy of our brochure or to book a place please telephone **01993 813592** or email [comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk).

It is possible to join some of our weekly classes throughout the term - if there is still availability - please ring to check.

For up to date and comprehensive information about availability on courses please see the school website (as above). As courses become full they are listed for your information

Some of our courses can be joined late (you pay pro rata) the following still have availability:

**Anyone Can Sing Level 1** (Tues 6pm)

**Anyone Can Sing Level 2** (Tues 7pm)

**Archery and Badminton** (Mon 8pm)

**Pilates** (Mon 11am, Thurs 11.15am)

**So Now You Can Sing** (Tues 8.15pm)

**Tai Chi** (Tues 7.30pm)

**Yoga** (Mon 9.40am, Tues 4.30pm, Wed 7pm)

**Zumba Gold** (Thurs 5pm)

On **Saturday 14 March** we are offering the following workshops:

Patchwork for Beginners with your sewing machine  
9.30am-4.30pm £38.50 + materials

Bicycle Maintenance 10am-2.30pm £26

EFT/Tapping: An Introduction 10am-12.30pm £18

iPad/iPhone for Beginners 9.30am-12.30pm FULL

iPad/iPhone for Improvers 1-4pm £18

Italian for your Holidays 2 10am-1pm £18

Painting using special effects 10am-4pm £33+materials

Photography with your Digital Camera for Beginners  
10am-3pm £27.50

Stained Glass 10am-5pm FULL

Yoga for neck and shoulder pain 10am-1pm £18

Sugarcraft for Mother's Day and Easter 1-4pm  
£21+materials

For more information about any of our courses or to book a space please contact me.

Jenny Bodinham

**Mrs Jenny Bodinham, Coordinator**

**Marlborough C of E School, Community Education**

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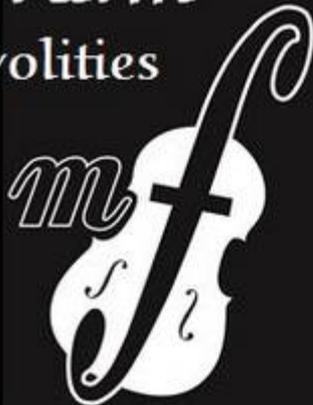
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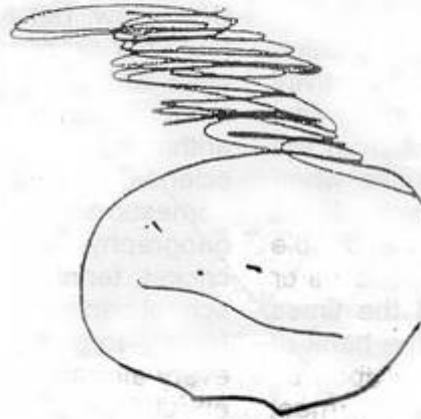
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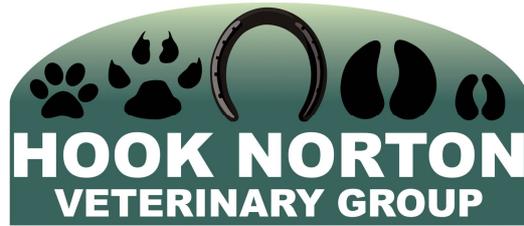


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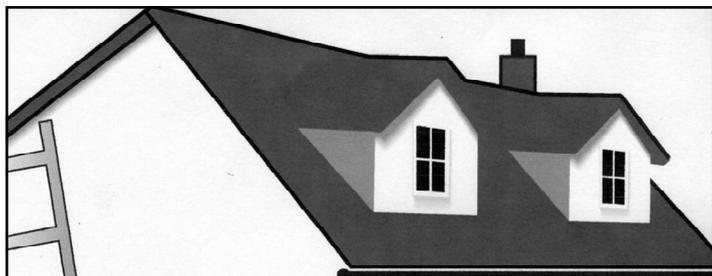
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## *Events Calendar - At a Glance*

<b>1st February</b>	Celebration Restoration of Somerton Church with Sir Tony Baldry	6-8pm
<b>8th February</b>	Soup Sunday Upper Heyford Reading Room	12—2pm
<b>10th February</b>	Behind the scenes at Blenheim Palace Somerton Village Hall	7.30pm
<b>11th February</b>	The Warreners Group <b>Fish &amp; Chips at The Barley Mow</b>	<b><u>12.30pm</u></b>
<b>18th February</b>	Heyfords WI Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
<b>19th February</b>	Fritwell Church—Rev Andrew Foran, Bullington Prison Chaplin	7.30pm
<b>21st February</b>	Souldern Community Market Souldern village hall	9—12 noon
<b>22nd February</b>	Soup Sunday Upper Heyford Reading Room	12—2pm
<b>26th Febraury</b>	Somerton Church Rev Geoff and Hope Price, <i>'Rowandan Challenge'</i>	7.30pm
<b>5th March</b>	Lower Heyford Church William Shepherd 'Lost in translation? The gospels in Greek and English'	7.30pm
<b>1—8th March</b>	'Care for a Cuppa' In aid of Katharine House	
<b>6th March</b>	Women's World Day of Prayer Heyford Park Chapel	11am Service followed by light lunch
<b>8th March</b>	Soup Sunday Upper Heyford Reading Room	12-2pm
<b>11th March</b>	The Warreners Club Upper Heyford Village Hall	2pm
<b>12th March</b>	Souldern Church—Basil Eastwood <i>'A life between faith and politics'</i>	7.30pm
<b>18th March</b>	Heyfords WI Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
<b>19th March</b>	Upper Heyford Reading Room Heather and Roger Burt <i>'Enriching the Spirit: Poems'</i>	7.30pm
<b>21st March</b>	Souldern Community Market Souldern village hall	9-12 noon