

# Valley News    June 2012

No 201    News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



In celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

We send our best wishes to Her Majesty and our thanks for her devoted service to the peoples of the United Kingdom, and those of the Commonwealth

**“GOD SAVE THE QUEEN”**

	Ardley St Mary's	Fritwell St Olave's	Lower Hey- ford & Caulcott St Mary's	Somerton St James	Souldern Annunciation to the BVM	Upper Heyford St Mary's	Heyford Park Chapel
<b>3-Jun</b> Jubilee Week- end	08:30 1662 HC	6:00 Fritwell- Chapel Joint Ser- vice	11:00 Jubilee Celebra- tion	9:30 Jubilee Celebra- tion	11:00 Jubilee Celebration		Chapel Away W/E
<b>4-Jun</b> Jubilee Weekend						11:00 Jubilee Celebration	
<b>10-Jun</b>	9:30 CW Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	9:30 Sunday Club	11:00 CW Sung Communion	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contemporary Worship
<b>17-Jun</b>	9:30 CW Family Communion	11:00 Family Worship Communion	08:30 1662 HC	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship	11:00 Contemporary Worship
<b>24-Jun</b>	9:30 Family Worship	18:00 Evensong	11:00 CW Family Communion	9:30 Trad Language Communion	10:30 Souldern Chapel Coffee & Christ	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship
<b>1-Jul</b>	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Matins	9:30 Trad Lang Communion & Hymns	11:00 Contemporary Worship Communion
<b>8-Jul</b>	9:30 CW Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	9:30 Sunday Club	11:00 CW Sung Communion	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contemporary Worship
<b>15-Jul</b>	9:30 CW Sung Communion	11:00 Family Worship Communion	08:30 1662 HC	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Family Wor- ship	11:00 Contemporary Worship
<b>22-Jul</b>	9:30 Family Worship	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Communion	9:30 Traditional Language Communion	10:30 Souldern Chapel Coffee & Christ	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship
<b>29-Jul</b> Olympics	10:30 Family Worship Communion - Somerton						11:00 Contemporary Worship

**Community Market - Souldern Village Hall - June 16th**  
**9:00am-12:00noon**

Provisions \* Vegetables \* Plants \* Jams & Chutneys \* Gifts & Crafts (All subject to availability)  
Breakfasts (supplied by the Pig Place)  
Come and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a chat  
Tel: 01869 345931 or email: [barbaramcgarry@btinternet.com](mailto:barbaramcgarry@btinternet.com) for further information

**Valley News is delivered FREE to every household in:**  
**Caulcott – Heyford Park – Lower Heyford**  
**Somerton – Upper Heyford**

Editor: Ian Lough-Scott, The Rickyard, Upper Heyford, Bicester OX25 5LH Telephone: 01869 232788  
Email: [ianloughscott@btinternet.com](mailto:ianloughscott@btinternet.com)

Treasurer: Stan Morris, The Orchard, Water Street, Somerton OX25 6NE Telephone: 01869 345544

## The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford

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



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

Dear Friends

Jesus said "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends".

As Christians in a tolerant democracy, where freedom of religion is protected, the idea of giving our life up for our friends may seem difficult to apply. For many other Christians in past centuries, and in many parts of the world today, the application is far clearer. In persecution they have willingly given up their lives for others, facing torture and martyrdom for the sake of protecting the friends they loved.

As two world wars grow more distant other stories of self-sacrifice grow more distant too. Yet so close to Heyford Park we cannot forget sacrifice made by Capt. Lindh and Major McGuire in 1992. Still to this day in the Near East service men and women are laying down their lives for one another, and to build a future of world security for our children and our grandchildren.

And yet when Jesus speaks about life in John's Gospel the word means far more than just our physical life and well-being. In John 12 Jesus says "those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life".

Does this mean we are being called to asceticism? Giving up all the pleasures of this world, not caring for our bodies or our physical needs? Some Christians are certainly called to a life of simplicity. But Jesus himself certainly enjoyed the pleasures of food, wine, clothing and company.

But perhaps the clue is in the text itself: To lay down one life - for many friends, there is a movement from the individual towards the community. We are to be willing to lay down our needs and preferences for the good of others, to not always feel the need to fight our corner but to seek the benefit of all.

As we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee we remember the long service of Her Majesty the Queen. The Coronation service makes it clear that the role of Monarch is not simply tradition. Rather it is a role ordained by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Archbishop of Canterbury said "*Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who by his Father was anointed with the Oil of gladness above his fellows, by his holy Anointing pour down upon your Head and Heart the blessing of the Holy Ghost, and prosper the work of your Hands*".

Although Her Majesty enjoys great privileges she also carries great responsibility, and has been willing over the years to serve Nation and Commonwealth laying aside her own preferences and agendas. During that time she has spoken honestly of the sustenance provided by her own faith whilst acting as both Supreme Governor of the Anglican Church of England and having special responsibilities as a member of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. She has served through times of war and peace, prosperity and recession, and many different governments. Her Majesty is an example we can all learn from in our engagement in community and religious life, as she has offered her life for many friends across the globe as we are all called to do.



So I hope you can join with us as a Church in praying:

God of time and eternity, whose Son reigns as servant, not master;

we give you thanks and praise

that you have blessed this Nation, the Realms and Territories

with Elizabeth our beloved and glorious Queen.

In this year of Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace

as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God

and in devoted service to her lands and peoples, and those of the Commonwealth,

now and all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God Save the Queen.

God Bless, Eddie



# STEEPLE ASTON FESTIVAL PARTY

**30 JUNE, 7PM-1AM**  
STEEPLE ASTON PLAYING FIELD

**PUT ON YOUR WELLIES, MAXI DRESSES,  
HATS OR SUNGLASSES AND GATHER YOUR  
FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR AN EVENING OF  
GREAT LIVE MUSIC, FUN, DANCING,  
PIG ROAST, BAR AND MORE...  
(ADULTS ONLY)**

## **HARRY PANE**

"SOULFUL AND EMOTIVE"  
HIS TALENT IS ONE NOT TO BE MISSED!

## **TALLULAH RENDALL**

"SHE CAN BARELY HIDE HER STAR QUALITY...  
THIS IS AVANT-GARDE ROCK/POP AT ITS BEST"

## **RICHMOND HARDING**

ALIVE IS... "A GREAT ALBUM" **JOOLS HOLLAND**

## **COOPER BLACK**

"ECLECTIC FOLKBLUESCOUNTRYPOP"  
FROM GENTLE AND SENSITIVE ACOUSTIC  
TO HIGHLY CHARGED INTERPRETATIONS  
OF THE OBSCURE AND FAMILIAR.

## **FABULOUS AUCTION OF PROMISES!**

**AUCTION ITEMS INCLUDE WEEKEND  
HOTEL BREAK, WEEKEND IN  
ANDALUCIAN COTTAGE WITH  
INFINITY POOL, 4 COURSE MEAL  
WITH WINE, COOKED IN YOUR  
HOME BY LE MANOIR CHEF,  
PHOTO SHOOT, RED BULL RACING  
F1 PRIVATE FACTORY TOUR,  
GARDEN LANDSCAPING, AND  
MUCH, MUCH MORE!**

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**INCLUDES**

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IN FESTIVAL MARQUEE**

TO BOOK TICKETS AND/OR FOR A COMPLETE LIST  
OF ITEMS UP FOR AUCTION (AUCTION  
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STEEPLEASTONFESTIVALPARTY@HOTMAIL.CO.UK  
CALL 07795 072064 OR ASK THE STEEPLE ASTON  
LOCAL SHOP.

Reg charity No 304376

### **Councillor Calling continued:**

Cherwell has combined with OCC and the other four Districts to approve a streamlined Code, which Towns and Parishes are invited to adopt for simplicity, though they are at liberty to design their own. The trouble is that "prejudicial interests" and "personal interests" are being replaced by "disclosable pecuniary interests", which must be registered but have yet to be defined!

Meanwhile, I survived the **London Marathon** - 3:58:36, since you ask! I'm so grateful to all my sponsors (though it's never too late on [www.justgiving.com/james-macnamara](http://www.justgiving.com/james-macnamara) ) who have contributed almost £2,000 this year to **St John Ambulance**. This brings my total over three marathons close to £20,000, reinforcing that moment at the 17<sup>th</sup> mile marker when I swear never to run another step – at least until next year...

**James Macnamara**

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

### Councillor Calling

As always, **Planning** plays a major part in District Council life...

The new **National Planning Policy Framework** was published hard on the heels of the budget, to a sigh of relief from campaigners who feared that the first draft would see the concreting over of the countryside. Instead, the principle of "brownfield first" has been incorporated, with protection for open countryside and a better definition of "sustainable" development to prevent any old building being railroaded through. At 48 pages, it shouldn't be too long a read, though this means that its statements are bound to be much less detailed than the previous reams of accumulated detail so, no doubt, the time will be spent arguing about its meaning!

Locally, a draft **Conservation & Urban Design Strategy** is out for consultation. Its aim is "protection of the local heritage and promotion of high quality urban design". This may sound remote but, as most of our villages are Conservation Areas and, at the heart of our area lies Upper Heyford, a lot of the policies could end up affecting you so it's worth a look.

Next off the blocks is the **Local Development Framework** which will finally show where development will go over the next ten years. This will be supported by **Bicester and Banbury Masterplans**. All of this affects us in multiple ways, so please make your views felt both directly to the Council and to your councillors, so we have ammunition to fight your corner.

Meanwhile, the District's **Housing Strategy** has been revised and updated. As a "joined-up" innovation, it now incorporates the Homelessness Strategy, a sensible move. Over the last few years, we have reduced the latter from some 300+ families in temporary accommodation at any one time to less than a tenth of that, which, in terms of human misery averted, is a pretty amazing achievement. However, sitting on our laurels is not an option in today's economic climate and in the light of forthcoming changes to the welfare system, so it makes sense to tie in work to keep homelessness to a minimum with ensuring a steady flow of affordable homes. In this, last year saw our target of 100 soundly thrashed with over double that number given planning permission.

Again, though, we need to see what the best in the country are doing and copy their practices – there are no penalties for cheating in this game! As well as housing numbers, the strategy covers safety, warmth and sustainability and also focuses on our most vulnerable residents. As always, the policies read very well to me but it's our record in delivering them that matters in the real world.

At a more local level, it was a relief to hear at the **Ardley Compost Site** liaison meeting that there have been only two incidents reported. Clearly, it is the return of warm weather that we dread but, hopefully, the measures taken by Agrivert, the site operators, including cessation of food-only deliveries, reduced throughput and stockpiles, removal of oversized waste and halved windrow size, will be effective in solving the problem. In case it's not, keep the Environment Agency hotline number to hand and call it straight away – 0800 80 70 60.

Meanwhile, back in the world of bricks and mortar, **Bicester** developments continue to unfold:

**Community hospital** plans have been submitted by the PCT, for a 12-bed hospital, much to local satisfaction, and not just a day centre. This will be built in the car park of the current hospital, which will then be demolished to make way for housing to pay for the new one.

**Private hospital** is still planned, though, for the "medical village" area of the new Kingsmere development and so we could end up with two facilities! There is no medical or planning reason why there shouldn't be two: it's purely a financial viability decision for the backers.

**Bicester Village** plans to expand further, onto the site currently occupied by Tesco. Recognising that they are now a "destination" for day-long outings, they recently got permission to increase the space devoted to dining, which should ease some queues.

**Tesco** will move South across the ring road onto what is planned to be a business park extending to Bicester Avenue (alias Wyevale) with offices and an hotel. They will pretty much double in size as a "Tesco Extra", with a separate roundabout entrance, which is expected to greatly ease traffic holdups.

**Employment** should be boosted by up to 3,500 jobs by all this. That's not counting the immediate prospect of Unipart moving in, reinforcing yet more Bicester's motor engineering credentials.

**Park-and-Ride** facilities will be built by Bicester Village by the new ring road roundabout, helping people get to Oxford on weekdays and to Bicester Village at weekends, another traffic-easing measure, along with the ring road itself – have you tried it yet? It completely foxes my satnav, which thinks I'm doing 50mph across open fields!

**Sainsbury and the cinema** in the town centre leap ahead by the day. The original plans had them open in time for Christmas shopping, but they are doing so well I hear rumours they may be up and running by September.

On the political front, **elections** in 17 wards produced two changes, where Banbury wards swung to Labour, so Cherwell now has 41 Conservatives, 6 Labour (taking over as the official Opposition once more) and 3 Lib Dems. The Leader remains Barry Wood, while Colin Clarke from Banbury begins his year as Chairman. Meanwhile, at OCC, the Leader for the past ten years, Keith Mitchell from Deddington, has handed over to Ian Hudspeth of Woodstock, who'll have a year to make his mark before the whole County Council is up for re-election next May.

On a personal note, I have stepped back after a decade on the Executive in a variety of portfolios (simply due to time constraints rather than any political machinations). This should give me more time to concentrate on local issues in the Astons & Heyfords and, of course, Planning, where I remain on the Planning Committee along with my co-ward member, Mike Kerford-Byrnes.

**Standards** of behaviour are in the spotlight, with the old disciplinary regime changing with the council. The Standards Board for England has been abolished, along with disciplinary sanctions for councillors (serious issues will be dealt with by the criminal courts) and the centrally imposed Code of Conduct. *Continued on the left page*

# NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CHERWELL VALLEY

## ***The Monarch of Wit***

**Celebrating John Donne**

**The 17th century British Poet**

A beautifully crafted performance by James Clarkson in St Mary's, Upper Heyford on 6th May was much appreciated by a large audience



**Call's what you will, we are made such by love;  
Call her one, me another fly,  
We're tapers too, and at our own cost die,  
And we in us find th'eagle and the dove.  
The phoenix riddle hath more wit  
By us; we two being one, are it;  
So, to one natural thing both sexes fit.  
We die and rise the same, and prove  
Mysterious by this love.**

### ***John Donne evening***

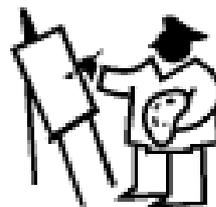
St Mary's was packed on 6 May with an audience from all over the Cherwell Valley who were fortunate to witness James Clarkson perform his well-known and excellent production 'The Monarch of Wit', an account of the life of John Donne expressed entirely in the great poet, scholar and preacher's own words. It was uplifting and moving to hear extracts from Donne's work come to life in the serene setting and beautiful acoustic of St Mary's and to gain an insight into what faith and worship meant to people in those days. The whole event, including refreshments before and after, was free, and the audience expressed its appreciation of a wonderful evening by making donations which, with Gift Aid, will raise St Mary's well over £600. Many thanks for your remarkable generosity.

Of course successful events like that don't organise themselves, and our thanks go to Heather and Roger Burt, Mary Goodman, Hansa Menzies and all the Friends of St Mary's for their time and commitment in making the whole thing work so well.

*Andrew Gotch*

## **FRIENDS ART GROUP**

Are you interested in continuing the Thursday a.m. art group?



We could meet every Thursday morning 10 -12noon in the Upper Heyford Reading Room.

We could

- Share ideas/help one another
- Finish paintings!
- Try other mediums
- Club together to invite a tutor sometimes
- Have demonstrations

Provide an opportunity for other folk who might be interested in joining the art groups.

We would need to commit to 10 weeks, as the Reading Room would need to be booked and paid for. Ideally there would be 6 of us paying £2 per week. i.e. £20 for the 10 weeks.

Starting Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October through until 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Please let me know by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and I will organise for the key.

01869 232135

07764 616739

[bpandrp@btinternet.com](mailto:bpandrp@btinternet.com)

Thank you, Ruth

## **Faster BT Broadband.**

At the beginning of May 2012 my BT broadband was running very slow. I rang BT who checked my line, indeed there was a fault and this was rectified within 48hrs. However during my conversation with BT it would appear that BT Infinity is not available for my area yet. To get this faster speed BT told me that I needed to register my interest for BT Infinity on line. I would ask all BT Broadband users to do the same so we can all enjoy faster broadband speed. Gay Hawkins.

## **ROAD CLOSURES**

Please note that the following roads will be closed for road works, so you will need to plan alternative routes in order to avoid being late for work!

### **From 18 June for approximately 5 days:**

From the B4030 (Lower Heyford parish) to Kirtlington

### **From 11 June for approximately 2 days:**

Road through Kirtlington village

**Further information regarding the works may be obtained by contacting Simon Marsden, OCC Highways & Transport on 0845 310 11 11.**

## The Poetry Corner

In January 2011, Bob and I (the latter very tentatively) joined the Poetry Group and, although this was completely out of my comfort zone, we could not have found a friendlier, more encouraging and more supportive group than this. Not only did we host a few evenings at our home but we also presented poetry! But I don't do poetry – I'm a scientist!

So on 19<sup>th</sup> March it was my great pleasure and privilege to introduce the Group to India's greatest poet, Rabindranath Tagore.

Tagore was born on 7 May 1861 in Calcutta, India, and was a Bengali poet, author, songwriter, philosopher, artist, and educator who reshaped his region's literature and music – in short, a polymath. In translation, his poetry was viewed as spiritual and mercurial; his seemingly mesmerising personality, flowing hair and other-worldly dress earned him a prophet-like reputation in the West.

It was his own English translations of his long poem *Gitanjali* (literally, *Song Offerings*) that earned him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. He was the first non-European to be awarded this prize and the citation included the words, "because of his profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse...he has made his poetic thought...a part of the literature of the West..."

In his introduction to the book, W B Yeats wrote, "I have carried the manuscript of these translations about with me for days, reading it in railway trains, or on the top of omnibuses and in restaurants, and I have often had to close it lest some stranger would see how much it moved me".

As a result of winning the Nobel Prize, Tagore was invited to lecture in many countries and he travelled far and wide and met and got to know many distinguished personalities of his time including Albert Einstein, Thomas Mann, George Bernard Shaw, H.G. Wells, and many more.

In 1915, Tagore was knighted by the King Emperor, George V, but he renounced this honour in 1919 after the Amritsar Massacre because he was shocked by the harsh actions of the British troops.

He composed some 2,230 songs and at the age of sixty took up drawing and painting and became a prolific painter. His works were exhibited in Paris and London. After a lengthy illness Rabindranath Tagore died on 7 August 1941 at the age of 80 years.

Here are three short extracts from his poems. These give something of a flavour of his work.

### **Gitanjali (Song Offerings) 13**

The song I came to sing remains unsung to this day.

I have spent my days in stringing and in unstringing my instrument.

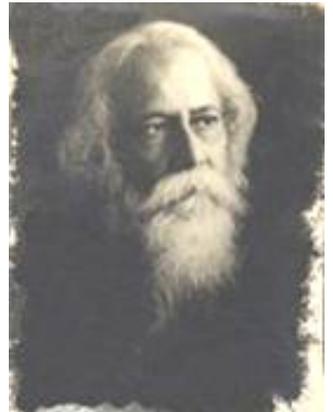
The time has not come true, the words have not been rightly set;  
only there is the agony of wishing in my heart.....

I have not seen his face, nor have I listened to his voice;

only I have heard his gentle footsteps from the road before my house.....

But the lamp has not been lit and I cannot ask him into my house;

I live in the hope of meeting with him; but this meeting is not yet.



### **The First Jasmines (1913)**

Ah, these jasmines, these white jasmines!

I seem to remember the first day when I filled my hands with these jasmines, these white jasmines. I have loved the sunlight, the sky and the green earth;

I have heard the liquid murmur of the river through the darkness of midnight;

Autumn sunsets have come to me at the bend of a road in the lonely waste, like a bride raising her veil to accept her lover.

Yet my memory is still sweet with the first white jasmines that I held in my hand when I was a child.

Many a glad day has come in my life, and I have laughed with merrymakers on festival nights. On grey mornings of rain I have crooned many an idle song.

I have worn round my neck the evening wreath of bakulas woven by the hand of love.

Yet my heart is sweet with the memory of the first fresh jasmines that filled my hands when I was a child.

### **Do not go, my love**

Do not go, my love, without asking my leave.

I have watched all night, and now my eyes are heavy with sleep.

I fear lest I lose you when I am sleeping.

Do not go, my love, without asking my leave.

I start up and stretch my hands to touch you. I ask myself, "Is it a dream?"

Could I but entangle your feet with my heart and hold them fast to my breast!

Do not go, my love, without asking my leave.

Hansa Menzies

## **Wildlife Watch** **Our deadliest garden predator!**

Yes, you've guessed it, the family cat.

Steve Backshall reports: Cats are fantastic hunters that have evolved over thousands of years to become expert at catching other animals, birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, especially at night. So locking them up at night is the absolute number one thing for stopping cats going on the rampage. It has been shown that cats can travel as much as twelve miles across gardens and fields. We love our cats of course but equally we love and value wildlife, so lock them up in the garage or utility room at night and fit them with a collar and bell.



## **The Heyfords WI**

At our April meeting John Chipperfield came talk to us about "My Life as a Journalist." He gave us a short history of the newspaper industry in Oxfordshire and how he started in journalism and how his career progressed. It was a very informative, and at times humorous talk, and was enjoyed by all.

We had planned an evening walk on 3<sup>rd</sup> May to see the wild orchids at Otmoor but this had to be cancelled due to all the rain that we had had. We have rearranged this for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May, fingers crossed the weather will be kind to us this time.

Our May meeting was a supper provided by the new committee, it was a lovely evening where we all enjoyed good food and good company. Thank you to all who helped to make this a very enjoyable evening, as one person was heard to mention "We must do this more often"

Our June meeting will be a visit to Iron Down Farm where we will be having a sausage making demonstration and afterwards there will be a variety of produce available for purchase. We will be meeting at 6.30pm at the farm.

We are also hoping to have another evening walk, this time to Kirtlington Quarry on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

I know this seems a bit far off but with the holiday season coming up I thought it worthwhile to mention our August meeting when Stephen Griffiths will be coming to talk about The Mary Rose. This is open to all who would like to join us and there will be an entrance fee of £2.00 which will include tea and biscuits. The date to put in your diary is Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August.

The WI meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month in Upper Heyford Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm. Visitors are most welcome to come and join us for the evening.

## **Healthy Heyford**

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

**For either walks ring Jo 07734562028 for more details**

## **School's Out Holiday Activity Programme** **Marlborough School**

School's Out is a children's activity programme running every school holiday (except bank holidays) at The Marlborough School: 6-8 June and 23 July–24 August.

Activities will include:

- Art, craft and cookery (6+)
- Sports activities (6+)
- Street dance (8+)
- Musical Theatre (8+)
- Survival (8+)
- NEW Sewing (8+)
- NEW Crazy Clay (8+)
- NEW Specialist Sports Days (8+)

Days run from 9:30am–3:30pm, with an optional "chill out" 8:30–9:30am and 3:30–5pm.

Costs are £17.25 per day/£80.50 per week, or for a family ticket (up to four children from the same family) £36.50 per day. There is an additional charge of £3.75 per child per session for the morning Chill Out and £5.75 for the afternoon Chill Out (8+). Some activities carry an additional £2 charge towards the cost of materials – see flyer for more specific information.

Financial support may be available — please contact Jenny Bodinham at The Marlborough School or your child's headteacher, family support worker or health visitor for more information. We accept childcare vouchers — please ring for information.

Courses fill up very quickly so please book early to avoid disappointment.

**\*\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*\***

We are always keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in tutoring. Also, if you have ideas for courses that you'd like to see please let us know – we can't promise anything but we will consider all suggestions seriously.

**Mrs Jenny Bodinham, Administrator**  
**Woodstock Partnership Extended Services**  
**Tel: 01993 813592**

## **Deddington Health Centre News**

Hospital at Home – an explanation

This is a relatively new service that has been set up in parts of Oxfordshire, and is available in the north of the county. The aim of the service is to keep people at home rather than to admit them to hospital by providing more intensive nursing care than is available through the District nursing service. The new service is provided by nurses who may have had a District Nurse background, or may have been hospital nurses, and the service is performed in association with the GP practice of the patient. It is not a long term service. Patients can be treated for a maximum of 14 days, but more usual will require care for 2 to 5 days only. Patients can be referred into the service by their GP, or by a hospital discharging a patient whom they feel needs 'added care' for a few days when they get home. This service is still in its infancy.

Surgery Bus – an update

From the 1/4/12, the Dial a Ride service has become much more limited. We are still able to provide a bus service to the surgery but only on 1 day/week – a Thursday, but as the numbers of people using the bus service had dropped this seems to be sufficient. Plus there are other services available e.g. the volunteer taxi service- for which there is a mileage charge, but still much cheaper than getting a taxi.

## Judy Lee Foti (nee Gregory)

18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1951 - 1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2012

Judy was born in Oxford. She was the daughter of Sue Gregory and lived at Somerton Road, Upper Heyford with her mum, her grandparents, an aunt, and several uncles. Following Granny Gregory's death in 1955 Sue became housekeeper and took care of the family. Sue married Albert Paviour in 1960 and Judy became the much loved big sister of Carole (b. 1960-), Melvin (b. 1961-), Angela (b. 1962 - d. 1969) and Michael (b. 1968-). Most of the Gregory's had married and moved away to make lives of their own by this time.

Judy went to school at Upper Heyford and later Dr Radcliffe's school at Steeple Aston.

As a young girl she loved to be around horses and would love to ride. Her love of horses remained with her for all of her life.

Upon leaving school she worked in various retail establishments in Oxford including The Cadena Bakery, The Co-op and F. W. Woolworths.

In 1972 Judy married U.S. airman Joe Foti and Beverley their baby daughter was born in Bicester Cottage Hospital in November of that year.

Judy, Joe and Beverley left for a new life in U.S.A. in March 1973, in November 1973 a second daughter Angela was born followed by the arrival of their only son Joseph Michael (III) in November of 1978.

Judy, Joe and their children were living at this time in Masontown, Pennsylvania. Later due to Joe's work commitments the family moved to Michigan.

Judy and Joe were further blessed later by the arrival of their five grandchildren, Jody (b. 2003-), Karmen (b. 2005-), Jeremiah (b. 2007-), Samantha (b. 2008-) and Jacob (b. 2011-). All of whom they absolutely adored. Judy with her family and sometimes by herself, visited Upper Heyford as many times as was possible. They enjoyed too the visits made to them by the family from England.

Judy became ill in late 1990s and suffered various health problems up to the time of her unexpected death. She will be remembered with love forever on both sides of the Atlantic and missed by everybody who knew her. May she rest in peace.

Carole Walton (nee Paviour)



Judy at Heyford School with teacher Mrs Cooper Scott

## May

May comes from Majus and was dedicated to the oldest citizen's of Rome who were called Majores

May is also from the name of the Roman Goddess Maia She was the Goddess of growth and increase  
May in Welsh is Mai

May in Gaelic is Mios Bochuin or the month of swelling. The first of May is celebrated in many ways. In Roman times flowers were gathered and placed on the shrines of Flora the goddess of flowers. It is the Celtic festival of summer's beginning. May flowers are gathered before sunrise and hung up on the doors of friends and loved ones. These are often great celandine, white ox daisies, solomon's seal, lemon balm, pennyroyal, sweet woodruff, hawthorn, elder, birch and rowan. In Saxon times, young milk maids as they gathered to milk the cows would also select the most beautiful maid to be the Queen of May for the day. Cows were said to give milk three times a day in month of May.

The first of May in Oxford has everyone awake and waiting for sunrise when the choir sings, Morris dancers composed of ten men, a Maid Marian and a fool of the may, do traditional steps and children dance the May pole. In 1890 on May 1<sup>st</sup> half a million workers marched in Hyde park for an 8 hour day. It was the first of the political May day celebrations.

On Holy Thursday, on about the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, priests of country parishes would go around the boundaries of the parish and ask God for the blessings of the fruits of the earth. He carried a long pole decorated with flowers and herbs, especially sage.

In the middle of May the springs and wells were traditionally decorated with flowers and sweet herbs to ensure good water for the next year.

At the end of May is Oak apple day People wear oak leaves to commemorate the time when Charles II escaped in 1651 from the parliamentarians by climbing an oak tree. May salads can be made with sage, mint, early lettuce, baby spinach, beetroot leaves, violets and marigolds. It is said if a drop of dew gathered from the leaves of a Lady's Mantle is taken for washing the face, the person will grow fair.

In Upper Heyford on the allotments the soil turning and digging is waiting for the seeds to come up or the plants to go in. By the end of May the frost is past and early crops begin to yield. The beans and salads are growing inch by inch each day. Fruits are beginning on the trees and there maybe a strawberry or two. Just for a change you might try an evening primrose sandwich or a sage and freshly picked onion omelette. Of course the pigeons are determined to eat their share. I think they were probably shot for pigeon pie in earlier times Now we have CD discs distracters, netting and close planting to discourage them. I somehow feel that discouragement is not known to a pigeon only opportunity. And if something does not come up, well we can but try again.

Debra Kaatz

**Final date for copy August edition:  
16 July**

## HEYFORD PARK RESIDENTS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

**“To create a vibrant community with a sense of pride, place & purpose”**

Email: [heyfordpark@btinternet.com](mailto:heyfordpark@btinternet.com)

Telephone: 01869 233707

#### Committee members

##### Chairperson: Jenny Luff

I have lived up here since August 2010, with my Husband Steve and 3 children Jon (12 yrs), George (2 yrs) and Amy (8 mths). I joined the Association to make friends. I enjoy gardening & reading I also really like cooking.

Before Amy was born I worked at the Horton and JR Hospitals as a Phlebotomist. I am originally from Eynsham by way of the New Forest.

Steve is also a Committee Member. He works as a Radiographer and is currently working in the Isle of Man. He is originally from Sheffield, but used to live in Glasgow. He likes American T.V shows and football.

##### Vice-Chair: Richard Henderson

I have lived on the base since June 2004, with my wife Kate and daughter Tabitha (3). I joined the residents committee as a chance to take part in the local community and help steer any developments towards the good of the residents. It was also a time where with all the uncertainty I wanted to get the information direct from the horse's mouth so to speak. I also work on the Park as a Facilities Controller so I'm used to dealing with building problems. I enjoy reading, music, cooking and computers to which has turned into a small business. I'm originally from the Midlands but have moved about a bit and have picked up a broad scope of knowledge on the way.

Kate is also on the Committee and has lived here for over 12 years and in the area for most of her life. She works in finance for a local company.

##### Vice –Chair : Paul Fortnam

My wife Sarah and I have been Heyford Park residents since August 2009. Until 2009 I was in the RAF (for 15 years) and I now work in the IT industry. Originally from Cheshunt in Hertfordshire, I have lived in many places in the UK and abroad during my RAF career and I now choose to settle down at Heyford Park.

I joined the Residents Association to help make our home a better and nicer place to live and to build on the local Community spirit.

In my spare time I am a musician and enjoy playing in bands. I also enjoy cooking and socialising.

Sarah is also on the Committee.

##### Secretary: Sharon Keen

I have lived at Heyford Park since Jan. 2003, and have lived in the area since 1970 and even worked for the 79th squadron. Previously from Norfolk, where I qualified as a chef and a dressmaker, then to Devon, I was born in the USA. I have a son, 2 grand children, a dog called Ben and a parrot named Bobbie. I am also a gardener / grower, and a book keeper.

We are in need of more members, even if you can only help out once a month that will be fantastic, this is your chance to help with a growing community.

Our aim is to bring the local and wider community together at lots of different events for all age groups. We extend invites to “the Valley” to all our events.

#### Nose Bag Cafe

##### OPEN NOW

The cafe will be open from 08.30 till 10.30 for breakfast and lunch from 12.00 until 2.00 pm, Monday to Friday.

There will be a special lunch menu to pre-order, we will need confirmation by 11.00 am for the special. The special lunch menu can be anything between lasagne to home made meat and potato pies. You can call in for anything from a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of homemade cake to a bacon, sausage, BLT or beef burger and chips and eat in our cafe. We will also be providing fish, chips and peas every Friday lunch. We will also be available to cater for children's parties.

#### Heyford park Over 50s

We will be providing a hot home cooked lunch at the community centre every month in the future, dates to be arranged.

We would also be interested in setting up an indoor bowls club if anyone is interested please contact Nuala on 233838.

## CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The children's centre provides a range of services to meet you and your child's needs, all in one place. These services are available to you from pregnancy right through to when your child goes into reception class at primary school. The range of services available for you and your baby includes baby massage, baby moves (movement and sensory play), dedicated baby areas in stay and play sessions, breastfeeding support and self-weighing scales. The weekly stay and play sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays (10.00 – 11.30 a.m.) are popular with local families. These sessions are a great place to meet other parents and activities are provided for babies and young children. Trained staff are on hand if you would like information, support or advice. The children's centre recently enjoyed a visit from Zoolab who brought along some interesting creatures. This week the children's centre is holding first aid training for parents. The children's centre is somewhere your child can make friends and learn as they play. You can get professional advice on health and family matters, learn about training and job opportunities or just socialise with other people. You can obtain the full programme of activities by dropping in to the children's centre or by emailing:

[heyford-caversfieldchildrenscentre@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:heyford-caversfieldchildrenscentre@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

More information is on [www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk](http://www.oxonchildrenscentres.org.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you at the children's centre.

**There are other small businesses up here too and once we get details we will publish (If you are a small business and need some advertising please contact us). We have 8 notice boards around the estate, if you would like to advertise on them, £2.00 per month.**

# Forthcoming events

## Karate

Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm in community centre.  
Please contact Phil Patrick information on 07764182687 or email; [philpatrickis@yahoo.com](mailto:philpatrickis@yahoo.com)  
**One month's free trial for all children**

## Zumba

Wednesday nights 6pm in the community centre.  
Fee payable. Contact; [zumba4u@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:zumba4u@hotmail.co.uk)

Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>All Money Bingo</b>	Heyford Park Community Centre	Doors open at 6pm Play starts at 6.30pm
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Social Evening / Quiz Night</b>	Heyford Park Community Centre	Doors open at 6.30pm Play starts at 7pm Bring your own drinks
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>All Money Bingo</b>	Heyford Park Community Centre	Doors open at 6pm Play starts at 6.30pm
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Heyford park Over 50's for information contact Nuala 233838</b>	Heyford Park Community Centre	11am – 2pm Lunch is provided £2.00 Social activity

Some folks are still not picking up their dogs poo even though there are:  
*Free green bio-degradable bags available at the community centre.*

**Come on dog owners start to pick up after your dog has fouled. To all responsible dog owners  
THANK YOU**

## Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

MONDAY NIGHTS

**Beavers from 5.15pm – 6.15pm**

**Cubs 6.30pm – 8pm**

Contact Akela (Elaine) 01869 232886

**Scouts 7.30pm – 9.00pm**

For more information please contact Nigel or Candy by email; [www.heyfordparkscouts.org.uk](http://www.heyfordparkscouts.org.uk)

### Our heritage

**From The Bicester Advertiser 6 September 1957:** Streets on the new housing estate for Service personnel and their families at the United States Air Force Base at Upper Heyford are to be named after RAF heroes of the last war. The ceremony for naming the streets will take place next Thursday during the Battle of Britain week. Such famous airmen as Group Captain Douglas Bader, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, and Wing Commander Guy Gibson are among the names to be used. Other names include Marshal of the Air Force Viscount Portal; Sir Arthur Harris, former chief of Bomber Command; Air Marshal Sir John Whitley; and Group Captain JB Tait, who, with Group Captain Bader and Group Captain Cheshire have been invited to participate in next week's ceremony as guests of honour.

Streets will also be named after the late Viscount Trenchard and Wing Commander Nettleton.

A plaque to be erected at the entrance to the housing site will carry the inscription: "The streets of this housing area are named and dedicated in honour of the achievements of RAF officers and men in war and peace" followed by the words of Sir Winston Churchill: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few".

During the past two years 240 bungalow-type houses have been built, they are named "tobacco" houses because they were built under an arrangement between Britain and America, under which America provided tobacco valued at the cost of the houses. Each house cost about £3500.

*Upper Heyford Historical Society*

.....  
A few weeks ago the former Peace Camp was remembered at a ceremony held on the base, let's also not forget the contribution of RAF & USAF personnel during a period of over 70 years at RAF Upper Heyford. *Editor*

## READINGS OF HIS OWN POETRY BY IAN BLAKE - 14 MAY 2012

The Upper Heyford Poetry group and many of those who read poems at the *Village Medley* in January this year had a rare (*Scots' use of the word*) treat on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 when Roger and Heather Burt persuaded their longstanding friend, Ian Blake, to leave the Highlands of Scotland and to come to the Reading Room here to read some of his own poems.

Ian Blake is something of a polymath! Not only is he a much published poet, but his potted biography tells me that he is a graduate of both Trinity College Dublin and Balliol College Oxford, a former climbing instructor, a columnist for *The Irish Times*, a Near Eastern archaeologist, an English teacher and housemaster at a major public school and a novelist. During his "spare time" he also became *President of the Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland and the UK* and Vice Chairman of the annual *Iain Dall Gairloch Piping Festival*.

In addition to these not inconsiderable achievements, he turned out to be a most engaging personality, an amazing raconteur and no mean actor!

The first part of the evening was largely devoted to poems about Scotland, a country of which he has deep understanding and for which he has deep affection.

He opened with a short, hilarious and almost entirely politically incorrect poem in which the attributes of a widow are assessed by a *very* Scottish elderly (but canny!) bachelor considering marriage. Whilst the fact that she is *armigerous* makes her of moderate interest to him, the fact that she owns a large farm makes her downright desirable! Nothing is said of any personal qualities she may have possessed - charm, beauty, intellect, personality, disposition, etc, etc.

Having got his audience's attention, Ian demonstrated the breadth of his imagination and of his powers of expression. Three of the poems he read stood out for me.

The Battle of Flodden between the Scottish and English armies in 1513 was the greatest disaster ever experienced in Scottish military history. King James IV of Scotland led his army himself and became the last reigning monarch to be killed in battle in the British Isles. Additionally, a huge proportion of the Scottish nobility was killed together with, perhaps, some twelve thousand soldiers.

In his poem, Ian imagines the news of Flodden eventually coming to a crofter in the Highlands, a huge distance, by the standards of the day, from the site of the battle. The pensive crofter puts the news of the disaster into context in his own mind. He is apparently unaware of the international politics between France, Scotland and England that led to the battle or, perhaps, he simply feels that this is unimportant to him. He, his family and his community confront disaster on a regular basis as they scrape a meagre living from an unforgiving land and an indifferent nature. The crofter's words and observations contrast sharply with other views of the victors and vanquished of Flodden written at the time and since by more important personages and the poem exudes a pathos, almost a fatalism, that is profoundly moving.

Until relatively recently, unbaptised and stillborn babies could not be buried in consecrated ground and, quite close to his home, Ian knows of a burial ground where many such children were interred over the generations until only some sixty years ago. There are no individual memorials nor, indeed, any features at all that might indicate to a stranger what this now overgrown piece of land contains.

In this poem, Ian considers the tragedy of such deaths to the families of the children who had died but also the potential *eternal* tragedy for the children themselves whose souls, according to the legalistic tenets of the Scottish Church, are necessarily excluded for ever from Heaven. He muses on how any god could deal harshly with such souls. Again, a profoundly moving poem.

He ended the first session with a poem entitled *Unlocking*. Here, a blacksmith, presumably now rich in years, returns to his forge which he last saw some fifty years before when he padlocked it for the last time. His business had become unsustainable as horses were replaced in agriculture by internal combustion engines.

In this poem, Ian demonstrates his mastery of visual images and their communication in words. It is clear that the forge has remained undisturbed - by humans, if not by mice - since the blacksmith "*snapped this rusting padlock through the hasp*" and left the house "*where he'd been born*". We can see, even smell and hear the working forge as the blacksmith remembers it while he stands there and the poet finally conjures up the ghostly image of a massive and gentle Clydesdale, a favourite working horse on Scottish farms, in the process of being shod. I'm a farm boy and this is truly authentic!

The Poetry Group runs, not only on rhyme and reason, but also on wine and nibbles, so there has to be an interval! Ian also needed a rest!!

In the second half, he ranged far and wide and well beyond the shores of Scotland. For me, it was dominated by two relatively long poems. In both, Ian raises the question, "What if..."

Some readers will remember their Shakespeare and, in this case, particularly Sir John Falstaff, the reprobate corpulent companion of Prince Hal in *Henry IV Parts I and II* and who later becomes King Henry V. After he became King, Hal disowned his friendship with Falstaff most cruelly and publicly and even had him arrested and imprisoned for a time. Before he was arrested, however, Falstaff saved his page from joining him in prison. Long after Falstaff's death, Ian imagines in *Remembering Falstaff* the page returning and telling *his* story.

*Continued over.....*



*Ian Black continued....*

I mentioned that Ian Blake was no mean actor, and he proved this magnificently by holding a cockney accent - albeit somewhat cultured - throughout this lengthy poem. The poem itself contains narrative, description, humour and, of course, a question left hanging. Was the shadowy figure at Sir John Falstaff's pauper's funeral really The King? It would be comforting to think that it was but we will never know with any certainty.

Finally, we moved to Germany!

The Pied Piper of Hameln (or "Hamelin" as the English *will* have it) agreed to rescue the city from its plague of rats for the sum of one thousand guilders. He got rid of the rats, but the city refused to pay so he (allegedly) stole all the children of Hameln by playing his magic pipe and causing all but one - a little crippled boy - to follow him into a mountain.

Many years later, the Piper is spotted in Hameln and is arrested and charged. The poem had been written to be read the day after our meeting in Upper Heyford by Ian at Gray's Inn in London and it is, therefore, (humorously) rather legalistic in its construction.

To be precise, it opens with *the charges*, continues to *the case for the prosecution* and proceeds to *the case for the defence*. Finally, the judge *sums up* and the decision is left with the jury. Is the Pied Piper of Hameln guilty of stealing the town's children or is he not? Again, a hanging question. Sadly, Upper Heyford never decided.

Ian's performance would be rather difficult to follow so the Upper Heyford Poetry Group will now retreat quietly for a season into the houses of its adherents where we'll discuss (in hushed tones) the relative merits of *iambic pentameter* and *vers libre* (albeit whilst still drinking our wine and nibbling).  
*Bob Menzies.*

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
FREE, WALL & LOFT INSULATION!**

**Free, gratis and for nothing**

Cherwell residents might now be able to take advantage of a free energy-saving scheme which could save them a small fortune.

Cherwell District Council's partner, the United Sustainable Energy Agency, has managed to access grants to provide free cavity wall and loft insulation through its Cocoon scheme.

The free insulation offer starts Monday, 14 May and is expected to be available until the end of September this year.

For more details visit [www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk](http://www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk) or call 0800 8048777 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

For further information please contact:  
Craig Forsyth  
Tel: 01295 221639  
Email: [craig.forsyth@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:craig.forsyth@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

## SOMERTON NEWS

### Bell-ringing at Somerton

A team of bell-ringers from Marston St Lawrence rang at towers around the valley on Bank Holiday Monday, ending with Somerton as their last tower.

Out of respect for the Brown family, ringing in Somerton was cancelled and also the booking for The Four Shires and Milton Keynes' bell-ringing teams.

We will be ringing for Max and Hannah's wedding on the 16<sup>th</sup> June, and a team of bell-ringers has been booked for a visit on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June, ringing between 10.00 and 10.45am.

Somerton, in conjunction with Lower Heyford bell-ringers rang to celebrate St George's Day on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, and on 3<sup>rd</sup> June we will be ringing to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell-ringers has asked its members to ring for the Jubilee.

Neil Clare

Tower Captain

### Village History Walk

The walk this year took place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May, starting at the church and finishing at Willow Barn. This year we viewed the northern part of the village. We were lucky with the weather, which helped make it an enjoyable afternoon, along with the tea and cake afterwards. I would like to thank all those who helped with the research and the tea afterwards.

Neil Clare

# Festival of Flowers

**A festival of floral art & creativity in  
many forms & mediums**

Including work from

Local Artists & Flower Arrangers

Create *faith in art*

The Heyford Park Women's Art Group

**Saturday**

10:00-12:00pm Flower Arranging Workshop

2:00-4:00 Cream Teas

**Sunday**

11:00 Jubilee Celebration Service

**Annunciation to the Blessed  
Virgin Mary Souldern**

Sat 2nd June - Sun 3rd June

10:00am-4:00pm daily

# UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

## St Mary's Church, Upper Heyford

The past month has been an exciting and encouraging one for St Mary's Upper Heyford.

### APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 24 April and all were agreed that this year has seen an upsurge in interest in St Mary's and that the future looked bright. Fund-raising has been particularly successful and all expressed their gratitude to those who have contributed so generously over the course of the year. There is still a long way to go – our target is £70,000 – and a flyer explaining why that target is so high will be delivered shortly to all houses in the Parish. Please give what you can!

Of course it's not just money that counts. Many people give generously of their time and effort to St Mary's to keep it in good repair and looking beautiful, and the PCC sent letters of thanks to those whose contributions this year have been so helpful. Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.

It was also agreed to invest some of our generous grant from Viridor in the acquisition of a new "all seasons" altar-front, since some of our current ones are exhibiting some decrepitude. Our Church Wardens Madge and Sally-Anne have identified a lovely example and it should be arriving soon. We have also decided to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a new brass plaque, which will complement the one erected to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee back in 1897 – not a double header to miss!

### Church kneelers

We have a lovely collection of kneelers that have been hand crafted by parishioners, often in memory of a loved one, over a very long period. We would like to add to the collection in recognition of the Queen's Jubilee, which is a very important occasion for the Church of England.

The kneelers are supplied in kit form, however, it requires patience and skill (not too skilled though so don't be put off!) to carry out the cross stitching to produce the finished article. Would you like to take on the task? There is no hurry, it could be left until the dark nights are with us; if you would like to help please contact a member of the PCC, Paul or Eddie.



Kneeler produced in kit form by Jacksons of Hebdon Bridge  
Size: 14" x 10" x 3"  
CHURCHKNEELERS.COM

**Fridays June 1st & July 6th at 7.30 pm**

**Upper Heyford Village Hall**

**All money prizes & good raffle**

Proceeds in aid of the church



## **Diamond Jubilee Coronation Service – let your family take part!**

On 4 June 2012 at 11am, there is a special Family Service at St Mary's. Paul Hunt has had the great idea of modelling the services in the Benefice on Queen Elizabeth's 1953 Coronation Service, and so we will be doing our best (in the absence of a choir!) to get the flavour of what Her Majesty experienced all those years ago.

This service is a family and community event before the village celebrations in the afternoon. Its success depends on the support you give. Can you help us?

We would like at least 12 children to come along dressed as kings and queens so that they can take an active part by presenting the various items (orb, sceptres, spurs, sword, oil, spoon and crown – and don't worry – we provide the regalia!). The idea is that the children present the items and the parents read the parts of the service (don't worry – it's not a lot to read and you'll see it in advance!) that relate to the items the children are presenting.

It's a great opportunity to let your children find out what a coronation is all about – after all it's not something that happens every day and few parents will have witnessed it either! Join us and help make St Mary's contribution to Upper Heyford's Diamond Jubilee celebrations go with a swing!

**IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SAID YOU WANT TO TAKE PART BUT WOULD LIKE TO, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ANY PCC MEMBER OR WITH THE PCC SECRETARY, ANDREW GOTCH, AT CHAPEL HOUSE, HIGH STREET, UPPER HEYFORD, TEL 232778 OR EMAIL ANDREW ON [amsg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:amsg@hotmail.co.uk)**

**IT'S ONLY FOUR DAYS AWAY – SO DON'T DELAY!**

## **The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

### **Upper Heyford Parish Celebrations**

#### **11.00am**

Family church service in St Marys, Upper Heyford following the structure of the 1953 Coronation. Children please come dressed as Kings and Queens, and be ready to join in the service. The National Anthem will also be sung, and a special commemorative plaque will be unveiled.

#### **7.00pm**

Pig Roast for all the family at Upper Heyford Village Hall and Recreation Ground.

#### **10.15pm**

Official lighting of the Bonfire Beacon.

Please contact Alison Graham for more information or if you have any questions at all.

[alison\\_a\\_graham@hotmail.com](mailto:alison_a_graham@hotmail.com)  
233696 or 07775 507412

## Parish Council

The Parish Council has co-opted two new members on to the Council. The new Councillors are:

Mr Roger Burt, The Willows, Upper Heyford

Mr Chris Scarrott, No 5 Rising Hill, Upper Heyford.

## The Allotments

The Parish Council at the Annual Meeting appointed three Trustees for the Upper Heyford Pools Allotments. Sue Prattley was returned in the role with two new Trustees, Kevin Allen and Bernard Rear.

## Warreners

We are enjoying a sojourn in the Reading Room while the village hall is undergoing its refurbishment. Hopefully the sun will be shining at the June meeting so that we can open the doors and really enjoy the beautiful setting and lovely views. It is a most lovely venue.

We are most grateful that WPC Caroline Brown has kindly agreed to attend the June meeting to talk about local neighbourhood policing, she is always very generous with her time in respect of parish matters. Thank you, Caroline.

We will enjoy a very lazy afternoon at our July meeting, a summer visit to Fringford for lunch. It is a great joy to be able to sit back and enjoy a delicious meal served by the Scullery Maids.

## Over 60s Parcels

How often have you heard it said that 60 is the new 40? Well perhaps 60 is too young to be considered a 'senior citizen' and it might therefore be sensible to reconsider the age at which the Christmas parcels are applicable. This was discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting and the general consensus at the meeting was that the age should be raised to 75.

There has been a very long tradition in the village of celebrating the achievements of the older generation in the village (starting with a Christmas Party way back in 1958 organised by the WI) so it is not a matter to be taken lightly. However, many of the over 60s in the village have indicated that they feel the money would be better spent on community projects.

The committee would welcome the observations of parishioners before it decides whether or not to change the age group.

## Village Hall

Work is progressing on the refurbishment, the toilet for people with a disability is complete and looking very smart. The original male and female toilets have been completely stripped out, including partitions, to allow the layouts to be re-planned in a more functional manner. *The ladies in particular will find the new toilets much more to their liking!*

Work on the small kitchen is in hand and it will soon have smart new fittings, flooring and a working cooker. The extended main kitchen/bar will be the final project and when complete will provide excellent facilities for large events.

The main hall floor will be repaired and sanded, so it will look like new.

Externally, the rendered walls will be painted and a new footpath laid on the south side to provide external access to the large kitchen.

**In the meantime it will NOT be possible to hire the hall, apart from those already in the diary, until early September.**

**Craig Lord presents Film Night 3  
Upper Heyford Reading Room on  
Friday 15th June 2012 at 7:45pm.**



We will be showing 'Forbidden Planet' the 1956 classic Sci Fi starring Walter Pidgeon and Robby the Robot. It is a PG certificate.

A certain website whose name reminds of a river in Latin America states: -*'This 1956 pop adaptation of Shakespeare's The Tempest is one of the best, most influential science fiction movies ever made. Its space explorers are the models for the crew of Star Trek's Enterprise, and the film's robot is clearly the prototype for Robby in Lost in Space. Walter Pidgeon is the Prospero figure, presiding over a paradisiacal world with his lovely young daughter and their servile droid. When the crew of a spaceship lands on the planet, they become aware of a sinister invisible force that threatens to destroy them. Great special effects and a bizarre electronic score help make Forbidden Planet as fresh, imaginative and fun as it was when first released.'*

The usual shenanigans of a late start, overlong intermission, drink, snacks, Cornettos (or similar iced products) and a raffle - will be present.

Please can you let me know if you want to attend.

**N.B.**

***Film Night Lives on - In August we will be showing Casablanca, in Sept / October we intend to show 'O Brother Where Art Thou'. If you have a film that you would like to see - just let me know.***

Craig Lord 07764992107

*Editor: Not to be missed, the Film Nights are great fun.  
Thank you Craig*

## Cream Teas

Upper Heyford Reading Room

Every other Sunday 2-4pm on:

24th June, 8th and 22nd July

5th and 19th August

## COARSE GARDENING.

### Coarse Gardening.

I promise not to go on about the weather. I will not mention drought, hosepipe bans and sheets of flood water in the same sentence, nor will I blame the weathermen for the fact that we had May (if not June) in March, March at the beginning of May, and a fair old bunch of past Novembers in April. What fun. Forty days and forty nights of it and that chap Noah coming round with a handcart and a bell, scrounging gopher-wood for recycling, he said. My poor tulips came up far too early in the March heat, were stunted by the drought and were then flooded to the point where - and I have never seen this before - they rotted; stems and leaves collapsed and turned to mush. Not all of them, but a fair few. At the same time, my little baby plants in the greenhouse started off early, then sulked for a good while, and have recently become leggy teenagers overnight, playing loud music, eating us out of house and home, staying out late with unsavoury friends and treating the place like a hotel. They had to go. At least, when planting them out, there was no need to water them in. Of course, then we had a couple of sunny days with clear nights, which means, down here, frost. So far we haven't lost all the apple blossom, like we did in May last year, but we still have some greedy little thugs in the greenhouse which I dare not set out yet, like fat pumpkin plants and their relatives.

Some things have enjoyed the weird conditions. Cowslips seem to have had a bumper year everywhere, not just in my garden, and primroses did very well here, except for my beloved *Primula* 'Wanda', which flowered for about five minutes and then went to nothing but leaf. We have wonderful camassias, too, revelling in the wet. If you don't know them, imagine giant bluebells with star-shaped florets facing up, not bells hanging down. It is a North American bulb. The one we have is *Camassia leichtinii*, which is a big one, clump-forming. It just loves soggy wet clay and flowers at the same time as its ideal companion plant, my fave rave pheasant's eye narcissus. I've put a few in the black mud next to the canal, with the kingcups, and they seem to like it there.

Speaking of weird conditions, how annoying it is that, no matter how hard you try to get things just right for your favourite plants, given half a chance they will choose to grow just where you would never have expected them to and where you don't really want them. Our gravel paths, for instance, are rapidly being taken over by self-seeded sweet violets and wild primroses, far too charming to be weeded out or (heaven forbid!) sprayed. *Nothing* is supposed to grow in that gravel, dammit. It is limestone chippings laid over horticultural plastic weed-suppressing sheet and is intended to remain clean and labour-saving, ho ho. Precious and delightful little hardy cyclamen are seeding into it, too - but not in the rockery bed where I want them. It'll need hours of careful work to niddle them out. All in all, I am beginning to understand why people take up golf. There are interlopers in the greensward, too (you may recall that we have foresworn use of the L-word when speaking of our grassy areas). Near the house there is a strip of turf with so many broadleaved items in it that it looked more like something you might buy in a transparent plastic box at Sainsbury's salad counter. I have decided not to mow this, to see what appears. Already two unexpected cowslip plants have flowered there, as well as countless dandelions, and it looks like buttercups, various hawk-things and big dog-daisies will soon put in an

appearance. It'll be interesting - if untidy - to see how many grass species are in there, too.

As it has not been exactly a period for lolling about in a deckchair making daisy chains, out of sheer frustration I have actually read some of the catalogues and leaflets which daily shower through our letterbox and which, usually, go straight into the recycling bin. In doing so, it has occurred to me that readers fairly new to the gentle art of gardening might benefit from some explanation of certain horticultural terms, so I have compiled the following glossary, in which all the definitions have been honed by expensive and bitter experience:-

Half-hardy annual = Will die within weeks

Prone to mildew in a wet season = Prone to rust in a dry season

Once established, will form large clumps = Takes one look and turns up its toes

Overwinter under cover = Needs hothouse conditions which you can't provide

Good drainage required = Will rot

Autumn flowering = Blooms for three days in October if you're lucky

Slug-proof = Eaten by snails

From our hybridisation programme = Inbred and feeble

Tried by the RHS = Came last

Prune in winter = Hack the damn thing down and hope it never recovers

Frostproof to minus ten degrees = Shiveringly delicate

Plant deeply = Best buried and forgotten

Good for patio pots = Needs hourly attention

Hardy bulb = Vole fodder

Can be shy-flowering = Will never flower, ever. Not ever

A dioecious rhizomatous *Arundinaria* clone, monocarpic = Huh?

Strong growing, undemanding herbaceous perennial = Will invade entire garden

Autumn colour = Goes brown

Deep rooting = Will block the drains

May need support = Flops around until eaten by mice

Sap may be mildly toxic = Dial 999 now

Rare and unusual form = Distorted freak

Vigorous and self-seeding = A weed

Needs rich, moist but well-drained friable loam in full sun = Get real

A profusion of gloriously fragrant blooms all summer long!! = Oh shut up.

Happy mud-puddling to all.

Roger Burt.



*Camassia leichtinii*

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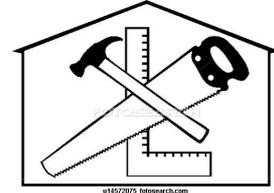
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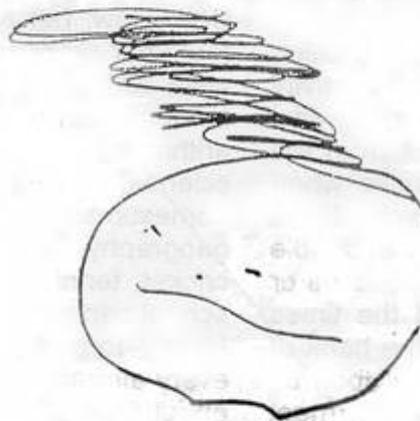
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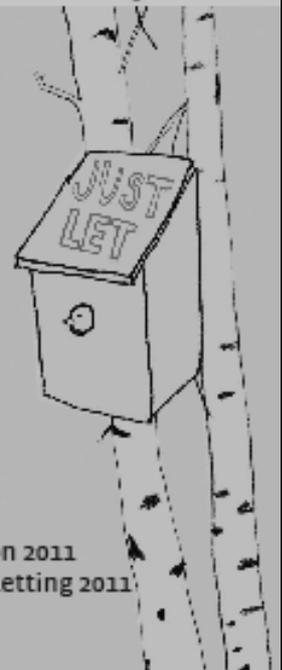
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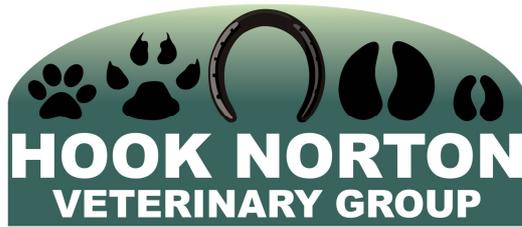


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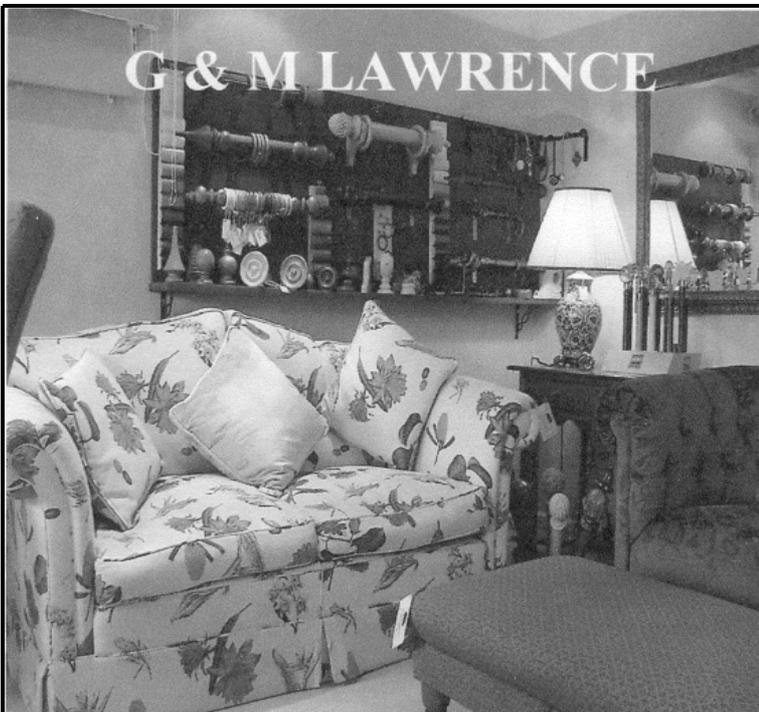
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