

Valley News

October 2014

No 215

News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



Well done, Ray & Marc, they made it all the way to Ulan Bator, Mongolia

After 3 transmission body mounts, broken exhaust, blown out tyre, both rear leaf springs busted at different times, new clutch fitted, car side window smashed plus robbed of radio, tracker dash camera, 1000 miles of driving with low octane fuel (80), and seeing some magnificent sights, paragliding off 5200ft, meeting kind and helpful people WE MADE IT Total distance to finish line 11800 miles in 58 days. Now we are on the way home via Russia, see you soon, Ray & Marc

Valley News is delivered FREE to every household in:

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

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Also published on line www.upperheyford.com

Church Services in the Valley

	Ardley St Mary	Fritwell St Olave	Lower Heyford & Caulcott St Mary	Somerton St James	Souldern Annun to the BVM	Upper Heyford St Mary	Heyford Park The Chapel
5-Oct	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 HARVEST	11:00 1662 HC HARVEST	No Service	11:00 Matins	9:30 Trad lang Communion	11:00 Contempo- rary Worship Communion
12-Oct	9:30 CW Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Fam- ily Worship	9:30 Sunday Club	11:00 Sung Eucharist	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contempo- rary Worship
19-Oct	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Fam- ily Worship Communion	11:00 Morning Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	6pm HARVEST	11:00 Contempo- rary Worship
26-Oct	9:30 Family Worship	6:00 Even- song	11:00 Fam- ily Com- munion	9:30 Family Wor- ship Com- munion	11:00 Morning Prayer	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 All Age Service
2-Nov	8:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 Communion	6:00 All Souls Re- membering the Faithful Departed	11:00 Matins	9:30 Trad lang Communion	11:00 Contempo- rary Worship Communion
9-Nov				9:30 Sunday Club	10:45 Service of Remem- brance	10am Re- membrance Service 10.45am War Memo- rial	11:00 Contempo- rary Worship
16-Nov	9:30 C W Communion	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 Morning Prayer	9:30 Matins and HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Contempo- rary Worship
23-Nov	9:30 Family Worship	6:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Communion	9:30 Family Wor- ship Com- munion	11:00 Family Service	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 All Age Service
30. Nov	Benefice Communion Service – 11:00am St Olave's Fritwell						

Services are correct at the time of publication but on occasion these may regrettably need to be changed. Up to date services can be found on the pew sheets or on the website: www.cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk

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

Thank you, Peter

For everything you have brought to this Benefice, everything you have been part of and all the lives you have touched during your ministry here.

Our prayers and thoughts will be with you as you return to London to continue your ministry in Clerkenwell.

BENEFICE OFFICE

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

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30 –2.30

Tel: 01869 233687

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

www.cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk

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

CHERWELL VALLEY BENEFICE

The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford www.cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk		
Rev Stephen Griffiths	01869 233249	stephen@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk
Rev Geoff Price	346262	geoffandhope@yahoo.com
Mr. John Hine (LLM)	01869 278565	
Benefice Office	01869 233687	administrator@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk

When I rejoined the ministry team at Cherwell Valley just under two years ago it was to help Rev'd Edward Green after the retirement of Rev'd Paul Hunt. Edward Green was then invited to a parish in Hertfordshire and Rev'd Stephen Griffiths arrived. He has now been joined by Rev'd Geoff Price so two very experienced parish priests are active in the benefice.

In London, for most of the time that I was attached to the two Clerkenwell parishes there were two full time priests, two part time clergy and some occasional help from a vicar of a City of London church with a weekday but no Sunday congregation. Now there is one full time vicar, some help from a retired priest and some from the City of London vicar, but no more than that. The situation has turned in those parishes and it is to help there that I am returning.

What I have learned here though is that important though clergy are to the wellbeing of the church community, the church is supported and kept going by armies of volunteers, heroes indeed. The church, to adapt Tennyson, is like The Brook-clergy may come and clergy may go but I go on forever. It is supported by those who give their time in so many different ways, sometimes as part of church worship and practice and just as importantly if not more so reaching out into the community. There are those who look after the buildings by cleaning, restoring and developing them. You only have to look at the modernizations at Somerton and Lower Heyford, the renovations and future plans at Ardley, the works at Upper Heyford and Fritwell and the repairs at Souldern to see the work and giving all this entails. We are blessed with those who lead services, sing at services, play the organ at services, are on hand and help on Sundays and with weddings and funerals. There are those who arrange the special services of Christmas, Palm Sunday, Easter, Remembrance and Harvest, the flower arrangers, administrators, treasurers, church wardens, PCC members, synod representatives. There are those who lead, teach help, mentor and cook for the Kidz church, Frenzy and youth groups at the chapel. We have the create art group, the prayer groups, the house groups and lent groups. Church members visit the sick and housebound and keep in touch with their neighbours and keep the clergy informed of those in need of visiting. It is difficult sometimes to see where church stops and community starts which is inevitable where the church is so interwoven into the life of the community and has been for hundreds of years. The 3 Parishes and Valley News are cases in point.

Church buildings and the people who work and worship in them are an inspiration and beacon in what is a troubled world. In the Cherwell valley these wonderful communities of followers of Jesus are not dying, but live in the contemporary world and are adapting themselves to serve new generations. There is every reason to be hopeful.

Peter



Oxfordshire Age UK

Circles of Support project

Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Oxford, Wallingford & Witney

Is seeking volunteers to help people who are frail and at risk of isolation

Would you like to work with us to help establish Circles of Support around people at risk of hospital admission or who have recently come out of hospital?

We believe that people who are supported to stay active, involved and in touch are more likely to remain well and happy at home.

If you would like to find out more about how you could help with *Circles of Support*, please contact:

Ann Nursey at annnursey@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or 07584 148 507, or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire

WHAT'S ON IN THE CHERWELL VALLEY

At St James's Somerton

A Christmas Concert

In aid of the British Heart Foundation

Saturday 29th November

6—7.30pm

With the Schola Cantorium from Oxford

Tickets in advance £12 for adults, £6 for children from minnamoller@btinternet.com
£15 on the door

Souldern Community Market

Saturday 18th October

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

**CHRISTMAS MARKET
SATURDAY 15th NOVEMBER**

In the Church 9:30-1:00

If you would like a table at any of the Markets please

Tel: 01869 345931 or

email: barbara.a.mcgarra@gmail.com for further information

NO BINGO at Upper Heyford Until further notice

As most people will know by now Ann Woski is in hospital and it will be several weeks before she is fit enough to get out and about again. We all know what wonderful work she does for the community but it is most important that she rests and recuperates so bingo will have to wait. We send our best wishes to Ann and look forward to seeing her back home soon.

Harvest Festival

St Mary's Church,
Upper Heyford.

Sunday October 19th 2014 at 6.00pm.

Conducted by the Rev. Stephen Griffiths.

*With readings by church members
& Friends of St Mary's.*

Please bring donations of dried or tinned food suitable for Bicester Food Bank. Items can be brought to the service or left earlier at the back of the Church.

Tackley Christmas Craft Fayre

Sunday 30th November

10—4pm

Held at Tackley Village Hall

Organised by Tackley Craft Club

Lots of great handmade crafts and gifts to see and buy

Stalls including Silversmith, fused glass artist, handmade soaps, scarves, Christmas decorations, cards, boxed gifts, handbags, and much much more

Great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping

All proceeds from the raffle and Christmas refreshments will go to Macmillan

PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES

A World War 1 Revue presented by

Upper Heyford History Society and Poetry Group

to commemorate those who fought and fell in the war and those they left behind

on Sunday, 23rd November at 6.00pm

Join us in the Reading Room, for about one hour, to sing the familiar songs with us, to hear readings of letters written at the time (some by Upper Heyford villagers), enjoy the black humour of the trenches and the war poetry of the day.



Albert Golder
who perished
within weeks
of the start
of the war

No charge. Refreshments
provided. Retiring collection.
(Not suitable for young children)



Daniel Reeve
who survived
the war

DEDDINGTON HEALTH CENTRE

Seasonal flu is a highly infectious illness caused by a flu virus. The virus infects your lungs and upper airways, causing a sudden high temperature and general aches and pains. You could also lose your appetite, feel nauseous and have a dry cough.

Symptoms can last for up to a week. We offer 'at risk' groups the flu vaccine at a certain time each year to protect you against the flu virus. You may be invited for a flu jab if you are:

- over 65 years of age
- Pregnant
 - or have:
- a serious heart or chest complaint, including asthma
- serious kidney disease
- diabetes
- lowered immunity due to disease or treatment such as steroid medication or cancer treatment
- if you have ever had a stroke

ALL healthy children who are aged 2, 3 and 4 years old are invited to receive a new flu vaccine this year. This is in the form of a nasal spray. [For more information, read the leaflet.](#)

Our Flu Clinics can now be booked. If you have any queries please contact the surgery on 01869 338611



**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
HEYFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH**

**THE FIRST WORLD WAR
THE EARLY YEARS**

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK

by the popular

Mr BILL KING



The Second Battle of Ypres April-May 1915 by Richard Jack

Upper Heyford Village Hall

22 October 2014

at

7:30pm

Entry Free

Light refreshments available for a small charge

Coarse Gardening

Bulb catalogues arrived this year in June. Or was it July? Anyway, whenever it was, it seemed madly early and completely inappropriate. It was hot and sunny at the time and I was fit only for sitting in the shade with a glass of something that tinkled, admiring the butterflies. I can't say I have much recollection of putting an order in, but I must have done, because the bulbs are here, in bags in the shed, and I now have to think about putting them in - and just now, at the end of September, it is still pretty warm and sunny and seemingly inappropriate. Last year, as I recall, it was a question of dodging the showers and guddling about in the mud: this year, the places in the rough bits of the garden which require extra bulbs are like rock, needing serious effort to prise up the turf with a heavy-duty, road mender's fork. There is a lot of stone and builders' rubble under the surface, which adds to the fun, but there are occasional patches where the fork goes in easily, which seems too good to be true, and it is, because this is where the stones were removed when bulbs were planted in previous years and, hey presto! - up they come. Even worse is using a spade for the job. That dismaying, juicy crunch, like slicing onions, as you chop into last year's expensive hyacinths or whatever puts your teeth on edge. Best to kid yourself that you are increasing your stock by division. After all, that's how the professionals do it. Sort of. If you've bought rare bulbs at twenty pounds apiece, that's how to bulk up the collection. Admittedly, they do it under laboratory conditions, more or less, with sterile scalpels, and what I am describing, using violence and a rusty spade, isn't *quite* the same. On the other hand, the bulbs I buy are not that precious, more like twenty pounds for a couple of sackfuls, so maybe I should stop moaning and get on with it.

As well as bulbs, I am putting primroses and cowslips into the turf, hoping that they will colonise the area in future years. Last year the existing plants in the garden made large quantities of seed, producing patches this April where seedlings came up like mustard-and-ress. Some tedious fiddling around with seed trays and these tiny babies in early summer has resulted in dozens of welcome young plants to put in now, so once I have achieved an actual hole in the ground, suitable for crocuses or small daffodils, and backfilled it, I can plant small primulas on top. The same applies to violets. There are several large patches of sweet violets in the flower beds, where they make a lot of leaf (which is salad for the pheasant) and not enough flowers. I have noticed a couple of places in the village where wild violets are growing in the turf, in sunny spots, where they make a wonderful display in their short season and withstand regular mowing after they have flowered. It seems that they appreciate being treated roughly and like to have their roots in poor soil. Mine seed themselves liberally into the gravel pathways and flower beautifully there, where they are not wanted: typical.

The rest of the place is giving me pause for thought this autumn. Many of the young shrubs and trees I planted nine or ten years ago are now rushing upwards and outwards with tremendous vigour, whereas my own vigour seems to be diminishing at a comparable rate. In the last three months or so, my student friend James and I have pruned off vast quantities of excess branches, 'raising the skirts' of some of the shrubs and thus opening up lines-of-sight in the garden. Having done this, it is now clear that quite a number of largish bushes should be removed so that labour-intensive flower beds can be converted into areas of grass-and-shrubs that can be kept tidy with a motor mower, maintenance work which I can handle. It is time for a change. This is a large scale winter project which will need professional help.

Another job which I can't do myself concerns the big trees in the garden, such as the pollarded willows along the canal and the wild ash in the middle of the top lawn. The willows have many dead and broken branches which need to be cut out and the ash, worryingly, since it is near the house and the conservatory, has a fungus in the heartwood of one of its main forks, requiring a good deal of thinning and cutting back to make it safer. As we are in a Conservation Area around here, this is not work you can just go out and get on with; you have to have planning consent, with all the tediousness and delay that that implies. Trees, like children, bring endless pleasure and delight, but are also, just like children, both troublesome and expensive to maintain, and there are rules about what you can do to them. Sadly, they won't let me sell a couple of grandchildren to fund the work.

Trees in the countryside are about to give us quite a show. We recently travelled down to Dorset, noticing the beginnings of dramatic autumn colour on the way, especially once you get onto the chalk and limestone country. The present warmth and drought conditions are putting trees and shrubs under stress, so that they are already starting to show yellows and reds - especially the field maples and dogwoods, which are widely planted now along motorways and arterial routes. Wild cherries are hinting at crimson to come and we saw some spindleberry bushes turning to their characteristic shocking pink. It isn't just the leaves this autumn. It is a fantastic berry year. We did very well for soft fruits in the summer, but that was nothing compared to the present harvest of hawthorn berries and rose hips. Some hawthorns appear to have lost the bulk of their leaves already and are deep crimson all over and drooping with the sheer weight of berries. Where hedges have been allowed to grow tall the colour is fabulous - well worth, if you can, going for a drive around the lanes just to have a look. There should be plenty of fat blackbirds this winter.

Apparently it has been the warmest September on record. Let's hope we don't have to pay for it with a particularly cold winter. Make yourself a nice heap of dry leaves and keep snug.

Roger Burt.



What's going on at Cherwell District Council?

August is usually a quiet month in council terms, with holidays for councillors and officers precluding new initiatives. Not so August 2014! Due to the tight timetable set by the Inspector to enable our **Local Plan** to be approved – with 6,000 more houses and all the necessary infrastructure added in – on schedule next April, the revised Plan was issued for consultation on 22nd, with comments required by 29th September so the full Council can approve a final version on 20th October and the Inquiry resume shortly thereafter.

So we have very little time to get our heads round the development of our District over the next generation: not a good way to go about things, if only the alternative – having no Plan so developers can continue to run riot with their bulldozers – were not even worse. What makes the task more difficult is that, rather than having a new Plan to read, we have three books of detailed modifications, so, to work out what is going on you need:

the original Submission Local Plan: 359 pages

the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications: 162 pages plus maps

Appendix 8 (Infrastructure) to that Schedule: 50ish unnumbered A3 pages

the Schedule of Proposed Minor Modifications: 43 pages

While the big headlines are well trailed, my fear is, as always, that something has been slipped through in the small print. A little tweak to a definition that, for the next two decades, may permit the unacceptable: if we don't spot it now, it could become set in stone. Already, I've found a typo that moved one parish from the lowest ranking for development to the highest – by a simple error! I've asked both for councillors to be briefed by officers and for a reprinted Plan incorporating the amendments (which will, of course, cost a bit) because, otherwise, I fear what I can't see. All other pairs of eyes with the time should go to the Cherwell website and see what you can spot: let me know and I can try to make corrections.

As for the headlines, 200 previously discounted sites have been reconsidered, 300 new sites proposed by developers have been looked at and every site in the old Plan or already granted permission has been reviewed to squeeze more on to it. The result proposes:

Banbury: Canalside, Bankside, Hanwell Fields and Bolton Road will take more, with new sites at Salt Way, Drayton lodge and Higham Way taking nearly 2,000 new sites.

Bicester: 300 new sites will be at Gavray Drive (the cheese wedge south of the railway), with all the existing developments taking more, including Graven Hill.

Kidlington gets a much needed 250 – tightly constrained by the Green Belt, squeezing these in meets a real need.

Upper Heyford, of course, is what most closely affects us. Here, the Plan proposes an extra **1,600** homes around Camp Road and south of the runway in addition to the 1,135 which already have permission.

Villages share the burden with an extra **500** in developments of more than 10 at a time in the "larger, more sustainable villages". In this ward, that points the finger at Fritwell and Steeple Aston, with Lower Heyford and Middle Aston as "satellite villages" (we need to examine any revised definition of "satellite" extremely carefully).

The **Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan** now has a clear target in controlling where rural development in our area, both under the Plan and preventing developers winning unplanned sites on appeal, should be channelled. It's been submitted to Cherwell for consultation about the boundary. Now other, single-parish plans are going through the process (Hook Norton, Bloxham, Deddington), this, much more ambitious and therefore difficult, one at least has some examples to follow. Getting so many different interests to agree is hard enough without having to pioneer the process!

But there's always room for surprises: **Blenheim Estates** have just launched a proposal to develop 1,500 homes at Woodstock. Woodstock's in West Oxon and nothing to do with us? Apparently, 1,100 of them would cross the border into Cherwell, so this could ease our figures materially – sometimes, you can feel sympathy for Planners....

James Macnamara

THIS IS WHAT CPRE THINKS!

We believe the long term consequences of accepting the SHMA figures would be even more devastating than having to re-think the Local Plan. If these absurd figures are allowed to stand, then it might resolve the problems with the 5 Year Housing Supply in the short-term, but when the new numbers prove undeliverable (as seems to us almost inevitable) we will just be back in the same position again.

In addition, the situation would be worse as Cherwell would also be forced to accept Oxford's over-flowing figures (also based on the SHMA). Finally, the SHMA figures will have a significant impact across the County. If they are not challenged at the Cherwell Examination in Public, then they will be taken as read as the other Districts bring forward their own Local Plans. Therefore the Cherwell Examination in Public is not only our first significant opportunity to challenge the SHMA, but also quite possibly our last.

We must hope that CPRE successfully challenges the ludicrous SHMA figures

Ian Lough-Scott

POETRY CORNER

U.A. Fanthrope 1929 – 2009.

Frustrated by hospital bureaucracy and doctors' treatment of out-patients while she was a receptionist in the neuropsychiatric unit of a Bristol hospital, U.A. Fanthrope began to write poetry during her lunch hour in 1974 - perhaps to give deeper meaning to her work.

In addition to an acute ear for voices and accents and a love of language she had enormous sympathy with the patients. One doctor, in particular, she observed never credited patients with *saying* anything, instead they *claimed, admitted, denied*. This, she thought, demeaned vulnerable people.

Her first collection of poetry, *Side Effects*, was published in 1978. The poem below from that collection describes part of her work. The last verse, I feel, speaks to us of her respect for the patients.

The List – vs. 1, 4, 5 and 6:

Flawlessly typed, and spaced
At the proper intervals,
Serene and lordly, they pace,
Along tomorrow's list
Like giftbearers on a frieze.

Tomorrow these names will turn nasty,
Senile, pregnant, late,
Handicapped, handcuffed, unhandy,
Muddled moribund, mute,

Be stained by living. But here,
Orderly, equal, right,
On the edge of tomorrow, they pause
Like giftbearers on a frieze

With the proper offering,
A time, number, a name.
I am the artist, the typist;
I did my best for them.



Urusla Ashman Fanthrope read English at St. Ann's College, Oxford and was head of English at Cheltenham Ladies College for the last 8 of the 16 years she taught there. Among her many awards for literature she was the first female to be nominated for the post of Oxford Professor of Poetry and a strong contender for the laureateship, which went to Andrew Motion in 1999.

I find her poetry, among other things, accessible, imaginative, light-hearted and meaningful.

M. Goodman

MINDLESS VANDALISM IN LOWER HEYFORD

Between the dates of the 21-23rd August one of our new goal posts was damaged causing it to be bent in several places. It was so damaged it was unfit to be used for football games. These are expensive pieces of equipment that required a lot of fundraising to buy and took minutes for mindless and careless individuals to damage.

Two cars had been seen joy riding around the playing field between these dates. The car/cars would have sustained scratches and dents from damaging the posts.

If anyone had any information on this please let the football club know.

The social club has taken this matter seriously and may have to lock the access to the playing field to prevent this from happening again.

With the improvements to the play area underway, it would seem a shame to have to close off this access.

Please come forward if you have any information.

Sam Suter, Secretary Heyford Athletic Football Club

Samantha.suter@hotmail.co.uk

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CHERWELL VALLEY

St Mary's, Upper Heyford Tower Lighting

- 13th July In celebration of the birthday of the late Ben Brain. 'With love from Karen and Sean.'
- 17th July In celebration of the birthday of the late Kathleen Smith's 92nd birthday. 'With love from Jim'.
To celebrate the fourth wedding anniversary of Zoe and Adam Berry. 'With love from Grandpa, Jim'.
- 25th July In celebration of the birthday of Jon Radda. 'With love from Katie, Joe, Beth and Rebecca. xxx.'.
- 31st July In memory of the late Timothy Tad Barker who died a year ago in Florida. A native and former resident of Upper Heyford Heyford, he was the son of Ray and Valerie. 'Much loved and greatly missed, Dad'
- 10th Aug In celebration of the 101st birthday of Edith Murray. 'Congratulations and lots of love from Sheila, Bernard and all the family.'
- 11th Aug In celebration of the 2nd wedding anniversary of Marilyn and Timothy Bigelow.
- 23rd Aug In memory of Mrs Gladys Gray. 'Fondest memories.' Rebecca and Sara.
In celebration of the birthday of Mr. George Gray. 'Fondest memories.'
Rebecca and Sara.



211 Camp Road, Upper Heyford,
Bicester, Oxfordshire. OX25 5HE

We produce 100% recycled, bio-degradable animal bedding from used cardboard.

The GreenBed is dustfree, very economical, non-toxic and highly absorbent. It also rots down far quicker than traditional bedding, making it an ideal compost material.

Another big bonus for horse owners is that mucking out is considerably quicker too!

If any resident in the area would like to bring their cardboard waste to us I would be more than happy to oblige.

Deborah Bryant
Business Development Manager
www.thegreenbeddingcompany.co.uk
01869 233588

SPEEDWATCH INITIATIVE

A Thames Valley Police representative from the Cherwell Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team recently contacted the Upper Heyford parish council with regards to setting up a Speedwatch Scheme within our parish. The representative was invited to give a short presentation on the scheme, and this took place at the September parish council meeting.

What is Speedwatch?

Community Speedwatch is about empowering local communities to help solve their speed problem or, in some cases, to prove they do not have any speed problems. This is a traffic-monitoring scheme co-ordinated by the police and the local highway authorities. In most local areas it is managed and run by volunteers in the community. Locations for monitoring speed are selected from sites suggested by the community, based on where there is most local concern about speeding traffic, or the impact of speed. The nominated sites are risk assessed by the police for their suitability before any checks are made. Community Speedwatch can only operate in areas subject to a speed limit no greater than 40 mph.

What happens with the information obtained from the speed enforcement?

When a Speedwatch event takes place, the volunteers log offending vehicles on a community Speedwatch log sheet. This information is then passed to the police co-ordinator who will enter these details onto the Speedwatch Database. The owners of the vehicles will then receive a warning letter regarding their speed. If they are entered onto the database on 3 occasions, an officer from the Roads Policing Department will pay the owner a visit and advise that further formal action may be taken against them.

Speeding regularly occurs along Somerton Road through Upper Heyford village and Camp Road through Heyford Park, both of which are 30mph zones, and the parish council as well as the Heyford Park Residents Association have become increasingly concerned about the problem.

The parish council believe it would be productive to enter into this initiative and is looking to set up a pool of volunteers. If you feel you could donate an hour of your time during the week or at weekends on an irregular basis please contact the parish clerk Jack Goodman (jgoodman61@gmail.com) or Carole Gother (grotmail@thegothers.co.uk) who will be happy to give you further information on what is involved.

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



KHH Christmas Cards

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

Katharine House Hospice 'Make a Will Week' – 13th – 17th October 2014

Have you made a Will? Does your existing Will need updating? You never know when something will change your life so why not take this opportunity to ensure your loved ones are taken care of? Local solicitors and will writers are generously donating their time and expertise and will write a basic or standard Will or update your existing Will in return for a donation to the hospice. Please be guided by their usual fee when making your donation. Act now, make a Will and at the same time benefit Katharine House. Last year's campaign raised over £20,247 to help fund the hospice services. For further information and details of participating solicitors and will writers, please phone Sheila Norton on 01295 812161 or visit www.khh.org.uk.

Faure's Requiem Workshop and Concert Saturday 25th October, St. Mary's Church, Banbury

Internationally renowned choral director, Stephen Barker, will be holding a one-off workshop of the beautiful Faure's Requiem at St. Mary's Church, Horsefair, Banbury, in aid of Katharine House. The workshop will run throughout the afternoon and the Requiem will then be performed as part of a concert at the church during the evening. Also an accomplished organist, Stephen will perform a variety of pieces, including J.S Bach and Lefebure-Wely.

Places for the workshop will be limited and we therefore encourage supporters to book early to take advantage of this rare opportunity. Tickets for the workshop will be £10, and for the evening concert, £10 (£5 under 16s). For further information and to register book for the workshop or concert (no charge for participants), please call Sarah Brennan on (01295) 812161 or email sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk. Applications forms may also be downloaded from www.khh.org.uk

Lights of Love Services

Our annual Lights of Love Remembrance Services will be held at St Mary's Banbury on Thursday, 27th November 7.15 pm, and St Peter's Brackley on Wednesday, 3rd December, 7.30 pm. Christmas trees will be placed in Horsefair, Banbury and in St Peter's Church, Brackley, and the lights will be dedicated to those being remembered. If you would like to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one, you are invited to complete a dedication form and return it to the hospice by Monday, 10th November. Previous contact with the hospice is not required. Further details from Sheila on 01295 812161.

Christmas Knitted Novelties

Our Christmas knitted novelties preparations are well underway and we'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to knit our mini Christmas novelties. Please call Fundraising

on 01295 812161 for a pattern or download a copy from our website at www.khh.org.uk. To all our wonderful supporters who have already been knitting, we'd love to receive any Christmas novelties you've made for us as demand always exceeds supply!

Santa Fun Run 2014

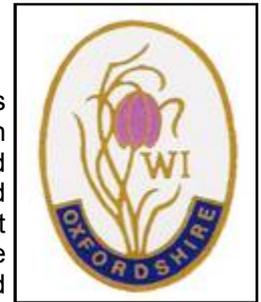
Our 5th Santa Fun Run is scheduled for 11am on Sunday 7 December at Spiceball Park, Banbury. To add to the festive feel, this year there will be reindeer and real snow and Father Christmas is also due to make an appearance! Adults £13, children £7 and under 6's free. To come and join in see our Autumn Newsletter for an application form on the back page, apply online at www.khh.org.uk or call fundraising on 01295 812161 and we can pop an application form in the post.

Thank you, **Sarah Brennan** Community Fundraiser

The Heyfords WI

Formed January 1935

Our August meeting was a 'hands on craft evening'. Lynn Humberstone first demonstrated fabric flower making. This entailed burning fabric over candles (bit scary). Chiffon and organza were cut into circles, the edges passed



over a flame, which curled being 100% polyester. Several layers were stitched together to make a flower, and by incorporating a bead in the centre they looked good enough to wear on a dress or add to a present. Next we made fish from willow. Shapes were pre-made, and soaked rush was woven around the shape to resemble scales of a fish. Members were very pleased with their efforts.

At our September meeting the speaker was Dr Gillian White from Chipping Camden. Gillian gave us the history of Teddy Bears over the last 100 years starting with the Steiff bears though to Winnie the Poo and Paddington. Many speakers who come to the Reading Room comment on what a lovely building it is, and although we are small in numbers we are lucky to have our meetings there.

September is a busy month for us. Among other things we have a cake stall at the Flower Show, and on the 24th we are hosting a history walk and tea for Potten End WI who are visiting from Hemel Hempstead. (grateful thanks to Ian Lough-Scott for leading the walk). On Saturday 27th there is a Macmillan Coffee Morning fund raising event, which we always like to support.

At the October 15th meeting the Recycling Officer from Cherwell District Council will be talking to us. We should no doubt hear what happens to the contents of our wheelie bins and CDC recycling plans generally.

There has been much going on in the County through the Oxfordshire Federation supported by our members. Two members participated in the 'Mystery Treasure Hunt' in Woodstock and did very well. It gets one looking at things more closely. The celebrity event this year features Michael Portillo at Oxford Town Hall on 27th October at 7.30pm. This promises to be a fascinating evening with no doubt his railway journeys featuring.

You will be made very welcome at any of our meetings. Do come and join us.
Lynn President, Denise Secretary



Photos: Bob Menzies





UPPER HEYFORD ENTERS INTO THE FUN!

 Saturday, 20th September saw the Upper Heyford Flower & Produce Autumn Show on the Village Hall playing fields. And what a turnout it was! With such a fantastic response from volunteers, helpers and donors alike – both before and during the event – the Show couldn't fail to be the success it turned out to be. So please, on behalf of the whole committee, a heartfelt thank you for all those who helped in every way and entered into the spirit of the event - and not least- to all those who turned up on the day and entered into the fun! Well done







Heyford Park Residents & Community Development Association

HEYFORD PARK STREET PARTY

On August Bank Holiday Monday a “street” party was held in Heyford Park. Due to the atrocious weather it was not on the “street” but in the Community Centre! A great time was had by all who ventured out and barbecued food was served through the window from a “kitchen” under a gazebo just outside the Centre. The organisation, by Sharon Keen with help from Anna Rosewell, Debi Aris and Cath Mullineux, was quite magnificent!

We also had a competition, with a soft toy won by Lorelei Smith for being the prettiest girl attending.



Heyford Park is still looking like a major construction site – not surprisingly because it is!

The ongoing work has led to some concerns being raised about the amount of dust being generated, the blocking of footpaths with vehicles and machines and about the behaviour of some of the workmen. A big concern has been the fact that a few works vehicle drivers appear to think that one-way systems do not apply to them! Additionally, builders’ language is sometimes unacceptable in public places – especially the Community Centre where there are often young children around. The Dorchester Group is aware of these issues and is addressing them. If anybody has an incident to report please let the Residents Association have details including date, time and location. If a vehicle is involved, a registration number is handy to track down the driver.

The better news is that Camp Road is slowly emerging from its period of looking like a bombed site. Most of the service trench works have been completed and the first of the Dorchester houses now have lawned frontages. There’s still a long way to go though!

The Association is taking an active role in the Neighbourhood Planning Forum – which includes 11 parishes in the Mid-Cherwell area. We will also be making comments on Cherwell’s recently published Local Plan proposals for more housing at Heyford Park. We accept that housing is desperately needed in the South of England in particular, and feel that Heyford Park can play its part in helping Cherwell to meet its housing obligations. However we are concerned that the current proposals include quite a lot of green-field farmland despite the fact that there is a good deal of “spoiled” brown-field land here. We feel that the latter should be developed in preference to the former. We will also want to be assured that the development of commercial, employment, transport and social facilities keeps pace with the population growth.

Heyford Park Community Shop

The shop is now open and stocks every day essential items plus Fresh Sandwiches prepared daily, Freshly Baked Bread, Fresh Fruit, and Vegetables, plus a Cafe

Open Mon-Fri 7am to 7pm

Sat 8am-6pm Sun 9am-1pm

Please support the Community Shop as it is run by residents for the local community.

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Your local general builder and property maintenance expert

No job too big or small

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WHY DOES IT TAKE SO LONG TO REPLACE RIFAM PLANK?

A walk to Steeple Aston across the meadows takes one over a narrow timber footbridge across the Cherwell stream, which in living memory has been called 'Rifam Plank' (sometimes spelt 'Rifeham Plank'). It is a very old and unusual name and one is left to ponder its derivation.

Brookes 'History of Steeple Aston' mentions Ryfarm Meadow, which is adjacent to the bridge, and suggests that the original name of the bridge was 'ad ripam' (to the bank). It is likely that it is a Latin name that has been corrupted over the years, perhaps from the Latin **ad riparian** – ad (next, near, to); riparian (of, inhabiting, or situated on the bank of a river; denoting or relating to the legal rights of the owner of land on a river bank; property law, a person who owns land on a river bank).

The recreational walker is pleased to find the plank in place to make life easy, however, in Victorian times it was of much greater importance, as cross country footpaths were main routes between villages. Edmund Creek, a farmer with land in Steeple Aston & Upper Heyford, wrote to the Oxford Chronicle in September 1876 to complain about the delay in replacing the plank following winter storms.

THE LOST PLANK

Dear Sir,

*The above, known as the Rifeham Plank, is or was a long wooden slab which, up to November 1875, when it was washed away by the floods, spanned that part of the Cherwell stream which divides the parishes of Upper Heyford and Middle Aston in this county, and also formed part of the public foot-road which immediately connects the parish of Upper Heyford with those of Steeple and Middle Aston and other contiguous parishes. The plank could not be restored during the winter on account of the floods, but, so soon as the cuckoo came to pick up the dirt, we fondly but vainly hoped to see a new one put in its place, and when our disappointment found vent in a question respectfully addressed to some of our road officials as to when the new plank was to be laid down, the usual reply was, that it was awaiting the solution of a question *ratione tenuteo*.*

*I think, Sir, that this consideration of *ratio tenuroe*, officially applied, ought to have its weight in inducing those gentlemen, whose special business it is, to endeavour to solve, if not yet solved, the very difficult problem whether or nor an ancient and public footpath ought to be maintained, and whose duty it is to maintain. Everybody grumbles, not excepting the district medical officer of Upper Heyford, who resides at Steeple Aston, and grumbles at being deprived of a short cut to visit his patients, while his patients themselves helplessly groan away the time lost in fetching the doctor and obtaining the required relief. If we should have another series of autumn and winter floods set in before the work is done, we may have to wait till next midsummer, and I therefore hope that as this *ratione tenuroe* question has had a good six months run, it has by this time, received a satisfactory solution, and that the work will at once be proceeded with.*

Yours, truly, Edmund Creek. Steeple Aston, September 9th, 1876.

Almost 140 years later, we too have had to wait an inordinately long time while the powers that be decide what should be done. At last the machinery appears to be in place and soon we might expect to be able to complete the circular walk to Steeple Aston which is enjoyed by so many.

Upper Heyford Historical Society

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t: 01869 340917 m: 07846400200
e: bellasbeauty@btinternet.com

Warreners, Upper Heyford

We send our best wishes to Ann for a speedy recovery as we miss her, and for selfish reasons, because she is such an important member of the club.

At our September meeting we had a picture quiz which was won by Pearl Bowers table, but most of all enjoyed by everyone.

In October we had our usual Harvest Lunch in the village hall, provided by the committee, and sing-a-long entertainment by Angie & Steph. A very happy social occasion.

The November meeting is on 12th at 2pm and will include bingo

The Christmas Lunch will be held on 10th December in the village hall, provided by outside caterers (partly funded by the 200 Club)

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month in Upper Heyford Village Hall at 2pm. New members over 55 will be made most welcome, there is a joining fee of £4, and a meeting fee of £3 which includes the cost of refreshments.

LOWER HEYFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the Lower Heyford Parish Council held on
Thursday 18th September 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Church

Present: - Mr Macnamara (Chair), Mrs. Ball (Vice Chair), Mr Mortimore, Mr Dare, Mr. Eggeling, Cllr Mrs. Fulljames No members of the public were present In attendance: Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

Declarations of Interest : Mr. Macnamara declared an interest in the Planning Application for Heyford Manor

Public participation : Cllr Mrs Fulljames discussed the matter of the poor mobile phone reception in the area, particularly in Lower Heyford, Somerton and Middleton Stoney but felt that it was a government rather than council matter. Mr. Macnamara to write to Sir Tony Baldry to ask for his views and a possible resolution. **ACTION : JJM**

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mrs Turner

Minutes of the last meeting held on 17th July 2014 were read and it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

09.14.01 Clerk's Report: potholes around bins on B4030 layby reported. Re-siting of bins - various communications received - discussed under highways

Notice of conclusion of audit received - discussed under finance

Letter from Heyford Park Management Received re routing Agreement received - discussed under Highways

Clerk training

09.14.02 - Highways/Footpaths

Rife Plank Bridge - Notification has been received that the work to the Rifle Plank Bridge will begin soon and that equipment is already in place.

White gates - There was some discussion as to the state of the gates and their shabby appearance. Clerk to ask Ryan Kilby who maintains the playground at Steeple to quote for repainting them. **ACTION : CLERK**

Bus Shelter - Mr. Thompson to inspect the bus shelter to ascertain its condition and safety. **ACTION : LT**

Notice Boards - It had been commented that the notice boards are in a poor state because the Perspex has discoloured. Mr. Dare to inspect the noticeboards and possibly get new Perspex. **ACTION : DD**

Hedge on The Lane - A complaint had been received that the hedge on The Lane is overgrown. Mr. Dare to speak to the landowner and ask him to trim it. **ACTION : DD**

09.14.03 Routing Agreement

A letter had been received from Heyford Park Management Co Ltd informing that the new Routing Agreement is being circulated to their tenants and reminding them of their obligations. Clerk to reply asking for clarification in view of the fact that the existing agreement is legally binding and there is no knowledge of a new agreement. **ACTION : CLERK**

Mr. Dare had circulated an email regarding the Routing Agreement and it is clear that this is being broken. Clerk to forward email to Planning enforcement copying in Mr. Macnamara.

09.14.04 Recycling Facilities

The bins previously sited at Kingdom Hall have now been moved to the layby on the B4030 at Caulcott. There had been some comments/objections from residents but generally the outcome is favourable. CDC reported that the banks have now been emptied at the new site. They collected 0.75 tonnes of glass overall. The average amount collected from the old location from February to August was 1.36 tonnes per collection. The tonnage from the wharf site has increased slightly.

The average amount collected from February to August was 0.24 tonnes per collection. They have collected 0.45 tonnes in September. Roger Bowen had previously been monitoring the amounts for which he received approximately £47 per quarter which he donated to the Village Hall Trust, and it was unanimously agreed that as he is happy to do so, he should continue with this

09.14.05 Meetings -Mr. Dare and Mr. Thompson had attended the Middle Barton PC meeting at which speed of lorries through their village was discussed. Mr. Hudspeth (leader of OCC) is their Councillor and they are in discussions to get a 20mph restriction through the village which Mr. Hudspeth says is achievable. There are 7 villages in the area which already have a 20mph limit. Mr. Macnamara to contact the Chair of Middle Barton with a view to working together regarding speed limits and weight restrictions through villages. **ACTION : JJM**

09.14.06 Parish Plan

Me Eggeling has met with Diana Boxall who was instrumental in the creation of the Parish Plan. He feels that it needs revising and updating. The Welcome Pack was also discussed - Mr. Eggeling has an electronic version of the Pack and will circulate it and ensure it is on the website and that new residents are directed towards the full version which will be on the website. **ACTION : BE**

09.14.07 Standing Orders

The updated Standing Orders had been circulated and were approved and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt them

09.14.08 Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (Dorchester Living)

The revised District Plan was issued at the end of August proposing a further 1600 houses on Camp Road and around the old runway. Discussions ensued as to whether Lower Heyford would accept any additional houses and where any building sites might be identified. No sites for development are envisaged.

09.14.09 - LHRINC

A cheque for £1 being the rent for the Reading Room was passed to the Clerk. Mr. Thompson reported that grants had been made to 3 villagers for higher education.

09.14.10 Playground Mrs Turner reported via email to the clerk that it is nearly completed and a group of volunteers will meet on 28th September in order to remove the old fence and posts so that Nicholson's can put the new one up asap. The build has taken longer than anticipated due to extra landscaping and the discovery of an electric cable underneath the playground but all issues have been resolved (and at no extra cost).

09.14.11 - Clerk Training

The Clerk will undertake training to gain the CILCA qualification in order to better carry out her role and for her personal development. It was agreed that the cost of the course will be met by the Council. The cost will be £400 plus expenses and reimbursement of 7 x 1/2 days. The time spent outside of the training in order to work up a portfolio will be done at the Clerk's own expense. All costs will be split with Steeple Aston PC to whom the Clerk is also Clerk.

PC minutes continued

09.14.12 Planning

14/00250/TCA Notice of Intent of treework , The Rectory, Station Road

14/001119/F Heyford Manor APPROVED

14/01120/LB Heyford Manor APPROVED

14/00282/TCA Treework 86 Freehold Street

09.14.13 Finance - The following accounts were approved for payment :

Payee	Detail	Amount	Cheque No
BDO	Audit fee	120.00	500239
Valley News	Grant	350	500240
FoLHS	grant	150	500241
LH PCC	grant	400	500242
Cathy Fleet	clerk salary	226.82	500243
SAPC	reimbursement for stationery	19.70	500244
Cathy Fleet	Clerk expenses	31.80	500245

Date of next meetings : 16th October, 20th November, 15th January, 19th February, 12th March, 16th April, 14th May, 18th June, 16th July, 17th September, 15th October, 19th November

Signed Mr J J Macnamara

NEWS FROM LOWER HEYFORD RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY

The **August** edition of Valley News distributed in **Lower Heyford and Caulcott** included a leaflet from the Charity announcing the introduction of **Educational Grants for Young Persons**. They are aimed at young people aged **between 16 and 25 from Lower Heyford or Caulcott** who are planning to continue their education through College or University or through other forms of Training or an Apprenticeship. These awards of up to **£200** are intended to contribute towards the costs of books, study trips, tools and equipment (including computer equipment or software) or any other appropriate expense associated with moving into further education or training. Applications are welcome for full or part time study.

The response has been good and a number of awards have already been made. The Trustees would welcome any further applications for this year. Further details and application forms can be obtained from **Dr Tom Clayton, Tel 01869 347081**.

Lower Heyford Relief in Need Charity derives its income from the rent of property and agricultural land in the Parish. This income is intended to assist persons in times of **genuine need or financial hardship** as well as supporting projects which benefit people living in **Lower Heyford and Caulcott**.

One example is that we have for many years provided home alarm systems for elderly residents so that they may feel more secure in their homes.

Please get in touch with any of the Trustees below if you feel we could help in any way. All enquiries and assistance is given in complete confidentiality.

- Mrs Emma Read 01869 340430
- Dr Tom Clayton 01869 347081
- Leigh Thompson 01869 347042
- Dr Susan Mary Watson 01869 347251
- Mr Alan Albert Humberstone 01869 340596

RECYCLING FACILITIES IN LOWER HEYFORD



PLEASE NOTE THAT WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT THE RECYCLING BINS WHICH WERE SITUATED AT KINGDOM HALL HAVE NOW BEEN MOVED TO THE LAYBY AT CAULCOTT.

THE RECYCLING FACILITIES AT THE BOATYARD REMAIN IN THEIR CURRENT POSITION.

Lower Heyford Parish Council

UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

St Mary's Upper Heyford: Church News

"Through wisdom is an house builded: and by understanding is it established" Proverbs, 24.3

As many of you will be aware, your church is now watertight, refurbished and looking better than it has done in years! Many visitors during the annual sponsored Ride & Stride event in support of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust commented on how exceptionally beautiful and welcoming they found your church to be. As a truly peaceful place it has few equals.

Our thanks are due to the many people who have given so generously of their time, money and support to bring about changes that should protect St Mary's from the elements for a generation. So on **Sunday 19th October at 6pm** we are holding a combined **Harvest Festival and Thanksgiving Service** for the new work to the church. Our new Archdeacon, the Venerable Judy French, will be attending and she will be delighted to meet you all. So do come along; and whether you can come or not we encourage you to donate offerings of food generously, all of which will be passed to the Bicester Food Bank who do so much to help local families who struggle to provide sufficient food for themselves. You can drop off items of food at St Mary's at any time.

Now that the basic work repair has been done, your PCC is considering the next stage in the project of improvement: to make the church a more comfortable place for worship and social use for the whole community. We have benefited from a generous bequest from Mrs Joan Rhodes, which has the potential to help us apply for grant support for a substantial program of development. The PCC has had some ideas – heating, toilet and kitchen facilities, heating, redecoration – but we would like to know what you, the community that St Mary's serves, would like to see as well. To that end, on **Saturday 18th October** and **Sunday 19th October** there will be some information on what the options are for improving St Mary's. We encourage you to come along, see what the PCC's proposals are, give your comments and add any ideas you have for alternative or additional things that we might do. This is your chance to have a real effect on work that is being undertaken for the benefit of the whole of Upper Heyford – don't miss out on your opportunity to have your say!

But of course it is not all to do with new projects. St Mary's needs help to remain in its beautiful state and at the moment the job of cleaning and maintaining falls to a few loyal helpers. If you feel you could commit even a small amount of time to lending a hand with this never-ending work then give PCC Chairman Ian Lough Scott a call on 232788 and find out what real gratitude feels like!

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

Harvest Festival & Thanksgiving 19 October at 6pm

Remembrance Sunday

9 November, 10am and then at the War Memorial for 11am

Christmas Readings and Carols 19 December at 7pm

Midnight Communion 24 December at 11pm

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

St Mary's Church, Upper Heyford

Village consultation

The next stage of work to your church is being planned

Come and review the proposals

Give us your feedback

Saturday 18th October 2014

10am – 4pm

At St Mary's Church

All Welcome

Thanks

Susan, Melinda & John would like to thank those who provided prizes for the tombola at the village show, and the marvellous support on the day when £376 was raised. It was a most enjoyable afternoon. Well done everyone.

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

I have received a thank you card from Macmillan for the £300 raised in the Reading Room on 27 September. Many thanks to all who contributed, it was a most enjoyable afternoon on a glorious autumnal day. Veronica

Football

It is most regrettable that there is no adult football in the village this season, however, the pitch and facilities are being used by boys, of all ages, and perhaps later, girls too. It is open to local children of course, and it is run by a professional coach and conducted in a very disciplined manner.

200 Club

The 200 club raises about £1400 each year for village causes – the Church, Warreners, Over 75's parcels and various others as the need arises. Currently we have spare numbers (resulting in a loss of revenue too), so if you would like to join this long running and worthwhile village fund raiser please contact Veronica on 01869 232788.

There is a weekly draw of £10 & £5, plus three each year of £100 & £50 for just 25p per week.



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- Local friendly caring independent vets specialising in dogs, cats and small family pets
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SOMERTON NEWS

Somerton Parish Council - Update

As a first step to making ourselves more visible, here are a few pertinent notes of recent events, dates for meetings and also Minutes of the last meeting.

Your Councillors

Recently, a number of Members have left the Council - we thank the following for their contribution to the Parish and wish them well in the future:

- Jo Chow
- Tony Faint who was also Treasurer
- Tony Callow

We thank Tony Faint for enabling us to support the Village Hall Rebuild, the Blinds for the Village Hall and the Play Area all the time keeping us solvent and the Auditors at bay all the while maintaining a good humour - no mean balancing act!

Your councillors are currently:

- Neil Clare - Chairman
- Sue Muir
- Alan Mitchell
- Neil Good (me!) - Clerk as well as Councillor

And we also have a vacancy! We are now also looking for someone to do the Treasurer function as well - this can be combined with being a Councillor or they can be separate roles.

If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, you can contact any Councillor above or follow the procedure for the vacancy notice when it goes up. If you are interested in the Treasurer role only, please contact any Councillor above.

Dates for meetings

We normally meet six times a year on the last Monday of May, July, September, November, January and March. Since our last meeting, due to the speed and complexity of various initiatives at the Base currently being contemplated, we decided we need to meet more often as two months is too long between meetings really. So our next couple of meetings are Monday 1st and 29th September at the moment. We will confirm more when we meet on Monday. The venue is the Village Hall and we start after Keep Fit have finished which is generally 8:15pm

The Base

As stated above, there is a lot going on in this important area which affects us in a number of ways. We plan to hold a meeting about this for the Parish once we have a proposal for us to discuss. We also plan to invite CDC and Dorchester Group representative to be available to speak with Parishioners over the next month or two (now the summer holidays are fading away - sniff!)

Neil Good, Clerk to Somerton Parish Council, Oxfordshire
neilgood@gmail.com

Somerton Parish Church News for September

August has flown by with quite a lot happening in the Church. Tony Callow, aided by others, has worked so hard on the churchyard that it has never looked better. At the same time work has continued on the restoration of the monuments and the reredos with fascinating and impressive results.

The re-formed cleaning team and florist team are working well and comments in the Visitors Book reflect our many visitors' appreciation. A big thank you to all.

On the 27th July there were a good number in the congregation in Church to thank Anne Corner and Roger Thomason for their service as Church Wardens and present them each with a copy of "Oxfordshire's Best Churches", which features **St. James The Apostle**.

We were very pleased to reinstate the Matins with Holy Communion service complete with an organist, Peter Bourton, and as the problems we have had are now behind us it is expected that this service will again flourish. In August it was well attended with a congregation of around 18.

Children's Services

Sunday Club took a break during August but is back on the 14th September and our theme is Baptism. We will meet in the church as usual at 9.30am for stories and prayers before heading off to The Manor for a more practical look a Baptism (i.e swimming in Victoria's pool). Please bring along your swimming things, rubber rings, armbands etc

The exhibition on the impact of the Great War took place in the Fermor Chapel and other parts of the Church from Wednesday 10th September until Thursday 19th September opening 11.00 am – 5.00 pm. We hope everyone found time to visit this interesting exhibition which was organized by Rosemary Arnold

Forthcoming Events

5th Oct No service at Somerton
12th Oct 9.30 Benefice Sunday Club
19th Oct 9.30 Matins & H.C.
26th Oct 9.30 Family Communion

29th Nov A choir from Oxford will perform in the Church (organized by Minna Moller Thompson in aid of charity)

7th Dec Advent carols at 6.00 pm
24th Dec Our nativity with carols and animals

Victoria 345234 , Jill 345147.

SWIG HARVEST SUPPER
Tuesday 14th October 7.30 p.m.

Join us for a ploughman's supper and a glass of wine followed by apple pies or crumbles.
Good food, good company.
Members £3.00
Guests £8.00
Everyone (including husbands/partners) welcome.
We need to know nos. so please tel.
Jill 01869 345147 or Mary 01869 346826
Looking forward to seeing you



Valerie Newey.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Valerie Newey. The family lived in Somerton for many years and Valerie was well known for her work in the community. She worked tirelessly as a Parish Councillor, was on the Base Liaison Committee and was a great supporter of the, then, newly formed Social Club. She moved to Chipping Norton some years ago and became involved with the Theatre there. However she retained her love of the Cherwell Valley and frequently came here to walk the footpaths with her Somerton friends. She had been unwell for some time and passed away peacefully in hospital on the 19th September.

Somerton Village Produce Show 2014 Report

The show was a great success this year with over 50 competitors entering multiple classes to a very high standard. Congratulations to the winners of the following prizes; to Derrik Kingdom for both The Walter Smith Cup for the best exhibit of onions and for The Baldwin Cup and £10 gift voucher for the best horticultural exhibit, to Stephen Clare for The Emberlin Cup for the best display of vegetables, to Pauline Gattley for The Ivor Greenhouse Cup for the overall highest number of points, to Rosemary Arnold for The Ethel Smith Cup for the best Victoria sandwich, to Chris Ertl for the £10 gift voucher for the best domestic exhibit, to William Willets for The Children's Cup for the highest number of points in the children's section and to Edward Willets who was awarded a book token, courtesy of Mrs Rosemary Arnold for the best exhibit in the children's section.

The Village Produce Association Committee would like to thank the following judges who kindly gave up their time; Peter James, Veronica Lough-Scott, Lynne Humberstone, Jill Bower and Tony Ertl. Thank you also to Doreen Brookfield and Helen Standring who kindly served the refreshments on the day and Brian Parks for kindly printing enough schedules for the whole village. We must also thank all who helped leading up to and on the day, your efforts were much appreciated by all. After the show an auction of produce was held with thanks to Alan Mitchell to raise funds for the Village Show.

Finally thanks must go to the Village Produce Association chairman John Gattley, treasurer Mary Hall-Craggs and all of the committee whom without, the show would not be what it is.
Anne Corner

Somerton Hour

Friday 10th October: Philip Mould, art dealer and historian

Philip Mould OBE is one of the UK's foremost authorities on British art and Old Masters and a leading specialist in British portraiture. He has an art gallery in London's Mayfair and from 1988-2011 served as the official art adviser to both Houses of Parliament. Currently he advises the Heritage Lottery Fund. He also works as a broadcaster, reviewer and writer for the national press. He appears as an expert on "The Antiques Roadshow" and, with Fiona Bruce, has co-presented three series of "Fake or Fortune" on the BBC. Other television has included "Changing Faces" for Channel 4 and "Antiques Show" for BBC2. He has published two books: Sleepers: In Search of Lost Old Masters and, in 2009, Sleuth: The Amazing Quest for Lost Art Treasures.

Friday 14th November:

Richard O'Smith, writer and tour guide

Richard O'Smith says that his career as a comedy writer was born when he wrote a sketch for a friend at a Green Party conference. He has since gone on to write for comedy programs on BBC Radio 4, including "The News Quiz" and "The Now Show". He also writes for Dara O'Briain's "Science Club" on BBC2. He has published a number of books including As Thick as Thieves (true stories of careless criminals), The Man with his Head in the Clouds: James Sadler, the First Englishman to Fly and Oxford Student Pranks: a History of Mischief and Mayhem. He also runs the "Eccentric Oxford" walking tour, recounting the 'eccentric chaos associated with Oxford through the centuries'.



Ladies – time for Pampering!

Saturday 1st of November 7pm onwards.
Charity evening for British Heart
Foundation at Somerton Village Hall

Entry £5 includes nibbles and welcome
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It is possible to join some of our weekly classes throughout the term, if there is still availability – please ring to check. All our courses are competitively priced to give our students great value for money.

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We are running 5 Saturday workshop days again this year. 11 October, 29 November, 31 January, 14 March and 16 May.

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Stained Glass – this is already full / Sewing Machines for Beginners

Italian for Holidays

Optimise Your Health Naturally / Yoga workshop

Sugarcraft – Cupcake Decorations – simple flowers

On **Saturday 29 November** we are offering the following workshops: Christmas Gifts and Crafts with a sewing machine / Reflexology / Yoga workshops / Landscape Painting in Acrylic

EFT/Tapping / Handmade Christmas Gifts

Italian for your Holidays 2 / Stained Glass

Sugarcraft covering a fruit cake / Sugarcraft making

Christmas decorations / Digital Photography

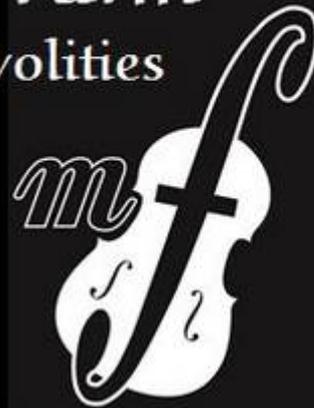
For more information about any of our courses or to book a space please contact me.

Jenny Bodinham

Mrs Jenny Bodinham, Coordinator, Marlborough C of E School, Community Education. Tel: 01993 813592

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Sorry it's late!

Valley News is late this month because of problems with the internet, with no line for over a week despite repeated promises from BT that it will be back 'tomorrow'!

Anyone trying to run a business from home has my sympathy. How did the world function without the internet?

Editor

My Satnav

I have a little satnav, it sits there in my car
A satnav is a drivers friend, it tells you where you are
I have a little satnav, I've had it all my life
It's better than the normal ones, my satnav is my wife
It gives me full instructions, especially how I drive
"It's sixty miles an hour" it says, "you're doing sixty five"
It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever, safe to overtake
It tells me when a light is red, or when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene
It lists the vehicles just in front, and all those to the rear

And taking this into account, it specifies my gear
I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice
It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught
So why don't I exchange it, or get a quieter sort
Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed
It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed!
Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff
I only wish that now and then, I could turn the blighter off!

Author unknown (feeling known too well!)

Recollections of Somerton Station

Earlier this year Valley News called for recollections of Somerton - or more correctly 'Fritwell and Somerton' station - which closed well over fifty years ago. Little did I realise before the second world war, when I was occasionally allowed to accompany my father with his taxi service from Fritwell, that Station House would so prominently feature in my later life. Earliest memories are that of the main booking office, waiting room and later a bicycle shed being reached from the rising footpath on the village side immediately before the railway bridge whilst an open shelter was situated on the opposite platform for those travelling in the Banbury direction. The remainder of the complex located on the opposite side of the road consisted of a signal box - which always seemed somewhat precariously perched on the embankment above the canal - and a small sidings opposite which was situated behind Station House. In GWR terminology the booking office was on the 'Up Side' (ie towards London) and by carefully crossing the tracks when the lines were clear one reached the 'Down Side' platform which could also be accessed from the road by a second footpath beyond the bridge. Villagers were however able to reach the station by way of a footpath across the old school playground with several steps leading up to the platform on the booking office side.

Certainly the first wartime passenger service of the day was the 'works' train at 6.10 in the morning running to Oxford and then onto the factories at Cowley requiring station staff to be on duty before its arrival. However an even earlier train would have already stopped to drop the morning papers into the downside shelter where Mr and Mrs Keeys from Fewcott would be found sorting the bundles for North Aston, Fritwell, Heyford and Ardley. Baby daughter Kate was also there but safely wrapped up in her carrycot. Stopping trains continued to call until after 10pm in the evening requiring staff to be on duty in two shifts usually with stationmaster Mr Giles (subsequently to become my father-in-law) in the mornings and porter Mr Mold from North Aston later in the day. Others I am sure will recall their memories of the station but for now I will conclude by relating a particular problem which occasionally occurred in the signalbox when a goods train had to be diverted into the Aynho loopline to allow an express to pass. The lever controlling the loopline points was the most difficult to pull over and neither signalman Mr Attwell from Somerton nor Mr Mold were able to do so. It is at this particular time relevant to recall the reason why - both, whilst continuing to work fulltime, suffered from their first world war injuries which they endured for the rest of their lives. The price which had to be paid by two dedicated and hardworking railway men.

L. Roy Cooper



The Harvest Moon

The harvest moon was a beautiful golden light shining over all the harvest fruits. The hay has been cut, the corn ripened, the pumpkins ripe orange and the potatoes lifted. You can feel the final warmth of summer giving everything a chance to bring forth its best. On the wilder side there are other things to harvest. There are the seeds of nettle that contain more vitamins and minerals than a one a day vitamin. I save them in a jar and sprinkle them over salads in the winter. They have a kind of nutty flavour. The leaves can be dried and used as a natural salt especially to flavour soups. There are the elderberries that can be made into a syrup for coughs and colds with the rose hips. They can also be dried or frozen and used in crumbles or just eaten. They have one of the highest contents of vitamin C. The hawthorn berries can be combined with all other fruits in jams and jellies to give more vitamins and minerals to the jam. It gives a lovely flavour. At this time of year I like gathering the wild salads and flowers. Mallow flowers and leaves make a welcome addition to leafy salad. Evening primrose leaves and flowers a beautiful over grated carrot and beetroot. Both rosemary and various sages have a second coming and I like the flowers with chicory. If you let chicory seed the wild blue flowers are rich in many vitamins and make a lovely salad with young spinach leaves. Then of course there is the blackberry, a good all around mixer with any fruit. So go and gather and let your imagination go.

Debra Kaatz



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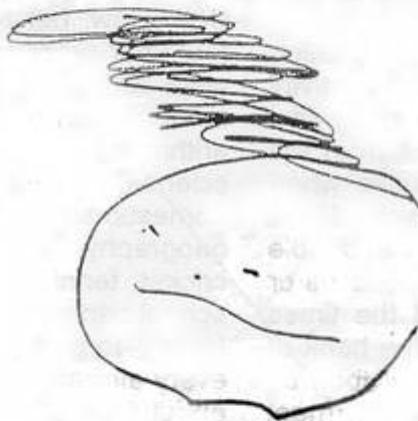
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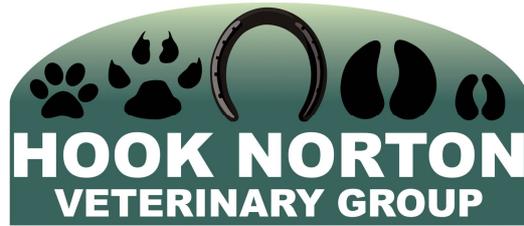


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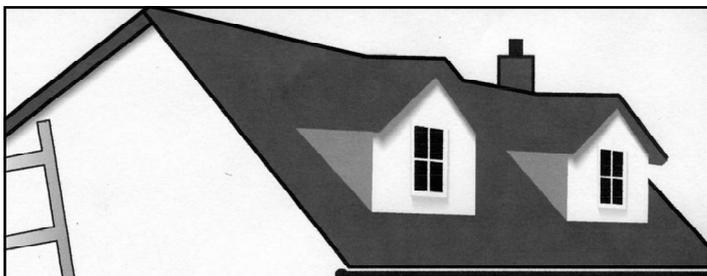
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Events Calendar - At a Glance

15th October	Heyfords WI Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
13—17th October	Make a Will Week' Katharine House event	
18th October	St Mary's Upper Heyford Village Consultation	10—4pm
18th October	Souldern Market Village Hall	9—12 noon
Sunday 19th Oct	Harvest Festival St Mary's UH Readings by Friends of St Mary's	6pm
22nd October	Talk: Bill King WW1 The early years Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
1st November	Ladies Pampering Night Somerton Village Hall	7pm
8th November	Lower Heyford Fireworks Display	
9th November	Remembrance Sunday St Mary's & War Memorial	Church 10am War Memorial for 11am
12th November	Warreners Upper Heyford Village Hall	2pm
14th November	Talk: Richard O'Smith Somerton Village Hall	
Saturday 15th Nov	Souldern Christmas Market	9.30—1pm
19th November	Heyfords WI Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
Sunday 23rd Nov	'Pack Up Your Troubles' WW1 Revue UH Reading Room	6pm
Saturday 29th Nov	Christmas Concert Somerton Church	6—7.30pm
Sunday 30th Nov	Tackley Christmas Craft Fayre Tackley Village Hall	10—4pm
6th December	Festival of Trees St Olave's Fritwell	
10th December	Warreners Christmas Lunch Upper Heyford Village Hall	