

Valley News

October 2012

No 203

News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



Photo: Oxford Mail

A very moving ceremony was held in Upper Heyford cemetery on 16th September to remember the sacrifice of the crew of the F-111 that tragically crashed on the edge of the village 20 years ago. Pilot Captain Jerry Lindh, 28, and navigator/weapons systems officer Major David 'Mike' McGuire, 37, were killed in the accident.

Lieutenant General Bob Menzies has received a hand-written note of appreciation from Brigadier General John T Quintas, the Air Attaché at the United States Embassy in London, the contents of which are shown below:

General Menzies,

Sir thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime. It was a privilege to be part of such a meaningful, important and professionally conducted Memorial Service. I am especially grateful for the private time you afforded me with Kathy McGuire in your home. I was deeply touched by her strength and her love for her husband.

On behalf of my Air Force, please express my sincere gratitude to the village of Upper Heyford for their support of this memorial service and their unwavering support of the young men and women of our two nations that defend our freedom daily.

Warmest regards, John

We thank Kathy McGuire, Brigadier General Quintas, and all USAF personnel present for making the occasion a fitting tribute to the brave officers lost in the service of their country and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and, in the call of duty, the protection of local parishioners.

Church Services in the Valley

	Ardley St Mary's	Fritwell St Olave's	Lower Hey- ford & Caul- cott St Mary's	SomertonSt James	Souldern Annum to the BVM	Upper Hey- ford St Mary's	Heyford Park Chapel
30- Sep	10:30 Family Worship Communion - (Paul's Last Sunday) - St James Somerton						
7- Oct	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Harvest	11:00 Harvest and Communion	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Harvest	9:30 Trad Lang Communion & Hymns	11:00 Contemporary Worship
14- Oct	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
21- Oct	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Morning Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Family Wor- ship	11:00 Contemporary Worship
28- Oct	9:30 Family Worship	18:00 Evensong	11:00 CW Family Communion	9:30 Family Worship Communion	10:30 Souldern Chapel Cof- fee & Christ	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship
4- Nov					6:00 All Souls	9:30 All Saints	11:00 Contemporary Worship Communion
11- Nov		10:45 Remembrance Service		9:30 Service of Remembrance	8:30 1662 Holy Communion	10:40 Ser- vice @ War Memorial	11:00 Contemporary Worship
18- Nov	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Morning Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship	11:00 Contemporary Worship
25- Nov	9:30 Family Worship	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Com- munion	9:30 Family Worship Communion	10:30 Souldern Chapel Cof- fee & Christ	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship

Valley News is delivered FREE to every household in:

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Dear Friends,

I have always been fond of the idea of the Celtic year, with the end of the year coming not in mid-winter, but rather at the end of Harvest in late October. With the storehouses full we look ahead with hope and anticipation despite the coming colder months.

It is certainly the end of a season in the benefice. After many years of service Paul and Chris Hunt are retiring. Over the last few years it has been a delight to work with Paul and Chris, to learn from them, to share joys and difficulties, to be colleagues, to be friends and to be part of the same Church family. They will be missed, even though friendships remain, when clergy move on there is inevitable pain and sadness as we let go.

In the Church of England when one minister leaves there is nearly always a space before the next Priest's appointment. There are practical reasons for this related to housing and job security, so the process of appointing Paul's successor is only just beginning. Over the last few years we have enjoyed an abundance of ordained ministry



across our communities, but for now we shall be reduced to one full time Priest.

It may seem then like our storehouses are empty. But I do not believe this to be so. The fruit of Paul's ministry can be seen in the huge number of people who are stepping up to maintain the smooth running of the benefice during this coming season. A bountiful harvest indeed!

John Hine our licensed lay minister will continue to lead Matins as well as taking on some more preaching duties. Meanwhile other lay leaders, preachers, Church Wardens and PCC members will also be expanding their responsibilities across the parishes. Paul's ministry has supported others in growing into these positions of responsibility and accountability and I feel privileged to be part of that too.

Practically there will be fewer clergy led services in the coming months, and we will be inviting visiting clergy to support us at festivals. Please do support those who will be leading lay worship. There will be slightly less flexibility with Baptisms too, so if you would like your child baptised please do get in contact sooner rather than later so we can make a date. If there are pastoral needs in your community please let myself or a Churchwarden know. Churchwardens especially are a point of contact when clergy are less available, as is our wonderful benefice administrator Barbara.

Most of all I appreciate your continued prayers and support over the coming months, for myself and our storehouse of gifted and committed lay workers.

God bless you all this harvest tide as we look to the future with hope and joyful anticipation of God's continued work among us.

Eddie



Don't miss the
**Cherwell Valley Christmas
Fayre**

Produce - Arts & Crafts - and much more!

Come and be surprised!

Solve your Christmas present worries!

1 December 2012

St Mary's Church, Upper Heyford

To book a table for only £7,
call Nuala Francis on 233838



**CHERWELL VALLEY WORLD
DAY OF PRAYER GROUP**

FRIDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

**1.30 - 3.30 Cedar House
Souldern. (345235)**

**TALKING HANDS
LED BY
KAREN SMITH**

TEACHER OF THE HEARING IMPAIRED

**Followed by discussion and refreshments
ALL WELCOME**

A tribute to Rear Admiral David Hepworth, C.B.



David Hepworth was born in Alkerton near Banbury in 1923, where his father, five years after returning from fighting in the First World War, farmed. The land was worked by horses, the farmhouse had no electricity, running water or sanitation. King George V was on the throne, King Emperor of the greatest Empire of all time. David first attended the village school at Shenington, and later won a scholarship to Banbury County School. He decided to join the Royal Navy as a Boy Telegraphist in 1939, aged 16, just before the outbreak of World War Two. After training at HMS Ganges, where he achieved the lofty honour of "button boy" at the top of the famous mast, he was plunged straight into the horrors of war aboard a battleship in the Eastern Mediterranean, and even during the invasion of Crete, sunk twice in one day. D-Day was his 21st birthday, spent shelling the Normandy coast.

David's potential was early recognised by being commissioned Sub-Lieutenant in 1944. Thence promotions and commands, first in submarines, then surface ships followed swiftly and steadily, culminating in promotion to Rear Admiral in 1974. That year he and Robin moved to Lower Heyford, a return to his Oxfordshire roots. During the 38 years David embraced village life with his usual energetic enthusiasm, and although still working in London and abroad until the age of 73, he was involved as a Church warden for 25 years, also a school governor, and President of the Royal British Legion Heyfords Branch, where his wisdom and wide experience were much appreciated. His great interest in, and enjoyment of people, the generosity of his friendship and hospitality were legendary. Allied to his incredible memory, courage in conquering disability, his skill at vegetable growing will be much missed and long remembered by all who had the privilege to know him.

Robin has asked that her very grateful thanks are passed to all their friends, who have given such very generous love and support at this time.

Christmas Bazaar

Somerton Village Hall
Saturday 1st December
2.15pm



Richard John (Dick) Makepeace (1936 - 2012)



Dick was a gentle giant who threw his whole being into every one of his many interests. As a lifelong rugby player and fan he played for London Wasps, Cambridge city, captained Bicester and was capped for Oxfordshire.

Having lived in Lower Heyford since 1968 he was clerk to the parish council, instrumental in restarting the village fetes, fireworks celebrations and duck races! He also served on the district council as a lib dem. A keen musician he played flute and violin, performing in church and at weekly folk nights at various local venues and loved camping at folk festivals all over the country.

He ran his own agricultural consultancy business, published many scientific papers in agricultural botany, organised conferences and authored the weed research handbook, the preeminent textbook in its field.

As a fun loving beer drinker he was one of the first members of CAMRA, serving as chairman of the north Oxfordshire branch. He organised numerous beer festivals and was the life and soul of every party he came across.

He was athletic and was often seen running around the valley training for the seven London marathons he completed. He, at one time, ran a canal boat business, at another baked his own bread. He loved music, sport and nature but most of all people. He had a passion for life and always wanted to help others.

Dick died in the presence of his family on Tuesday 18th September in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. The funeral and memorial service is to be held at St. Mary's Church Lower Heyford on Thursday October 4th. Dick was a loving husband to Patsy and an inspirational father to Ewan and Jacqui and will be missed by all those whose lives he touched. May he rest in peace.

Cecily's Fund is moving!

From Monday 10th September 2012 we will be at:

Ground Floor
6 Church Green
Witney
OX28 4AW

You are very welcome to visit us.

Our new telephone number is:

01993 358186 or 01993 358089

What's going on at Cherwell District Council?

Councillor Calling

The **Local Plan** and **Bicester Masterplan** have now been released for consultation and we all have until 10th October to get our comments in. This is a once in a generation chance to dictate how your District and your market town will develop over the next couple of decades – get it wrong now and we and our children will have to live with the consequences. So it's vital that everyone who has an interest takes a look and lets Cherwell know what needs changing. Often it's the tiny details that, if neglected, cause trouble for years ahead. Even more difficult to spot are the things that are *not* in but ought to be. There's 266 pages of the Local Plan but don't despair! A lot of it is about "faraway places of which we know little" (Banbury, Kidlington...) and it's all available on the website so you don't have to bankrupt yourself printing it or cripple yourself lugging it around (I do!). So do, please, give it a go – a thousand pairs of eyes must surely spot all the traps – and then tell Cherwell what you don't agree with (and what you do, if you feel strongly about something that might arouse opposition, so both sides get a fair hearing).

Meanwhile, back in the here and now, **Bicester Community Hospital**, after nearly twenty years of agonising, finally lurched past a major milestone in getting unanimous approval for its planning permission. Even so, this was not uncontroversial: it will only have 12 beds on site, not the 30 ideally wanted, it will be paid for by building fourteen houses on the site of the old hospital but, to make the finances stack up, none of these will be affordable, and it will displace a lot of well-used parking to where, nobody knows. However, councillors, including me, concluded that the old place was well past its sell-by date and we need a good replacement now more than a perfect one possibly, sometime. As it happens, it also looks rather an attractive design as well as being far better equipped, more flexible, etc, etc, as you'd expect.

By coincidence, wearing a totally different hat (the finely silver-braided one of St John Ambulance county commander, as it happens), I also attended the opening of the Orders of St John Care Trust's latest brand-new **Langford View Care Home**, which was most impressive on the part of staff and facilities alike. So Bicester's medical facilities are suddenly galloping ahead.

Slightly further south, the **Tesco/Bicester Village** scheme has been submitted to the planners. This will extend both the shops and carpark at Bicester Village on to the current Tesco site, while Tesco will build a far larger Tesco Extra store, with all sorts of non-food goods added to the current offering, on the south side of the road next to Wyevale/Bicester Avenue. As well as creating "up to 3,500" new jobs and, of course, giving us the choice of the new town centre Sainsbury, the new Lidl and Aldi, and this expanded Tesco, it is hoped that the separate entrance (£11million of roadworks...) will help solve the horrendous traffic jams at Christmas and Bank Holidays.

Talking about jams, the County Council have just approved a new **Bicester town centre traffic scheme** costed at one and a half million pounds. This involves changes to the roundabout where the Banbury and Buckingham Roads meet south of the station, to North Street, Roman Way and St John's Street and to Queen's Avenue. As always, expect plenty of disruption while the works are under way – I think I'll give up on the town centre and use the ring road to get to the station – but hope we shall see an end to those grinding rush-hour queues.

After all this Bicester stuff, I'd better mention developments at **Banbury Museum**, which is being formed into an independent trust so, freed of paying business rates, there's more money for exhibitions and education. This month saw the appointment as chairman of the preparatory "shadow" board of trustees of none other than Bob Langton, formerly of Lower Heyford (my predecessor as church warden, in fact), an inveterate and effective volunteer for good causes: if I ever had any worries, now I know the museum will be in safe hands.

And to end on a terribly sad note, I must record the passing of **Dick Makepeace**, who shared the representation of the Astons & Heyfords ward on Cherwell District Council with me until a few years ago. He set an example of tireless and devoted work which I struggle to emulate and, although we sailed under the flags of opposing parties (Dick was Liberal Democrat to the core), that was never the least bit relevant when it came to solving problems in the ward. The Council always formally remembers in silence those who have served the people of this District. I look forward to adding a personal note to the tributes which follow.

James Macnamara



**SWIG COFFEE MORNING
FOR KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE**

Saturday 6th October 2012

**Somerton Village Hall
10am to 12am**

Come and enjoy a nice cup of tea/coffee
and home made cakes
and help a worthwhile charity

Local History Talk
Somerton Village Hall
Friday 23rd November 7.30 for 7.45

Chris Day will give a talk with slides on
"Writing the History of Oxfordshire Places".
Now retired, he worked as a researcher for the
Victoria County History Oxfordshire.
Tickets £2 to include drinks and nibbles.

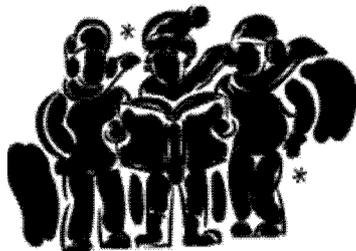
NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CHERWELL VALLEY

LOWER HEYFORD EVENTS
COMMITTEE
PRESENT
GRAND FIREWORK DISPLAY
SAT 3rd NOVEMBER
AT 7PM
IN HEYFORD MEADOWS
(GATES OPEN AT 6 30PM)



BONFIRE FIREWORKS
MULLED WINE DRINKS & BBQ
TICKETS £4 AND 50p FOR CHILDREN
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM
THE BELL P.H THE SSC
AND ROGER (01869 340406)

**PLEASE DON'T BRING
SPARKLERS TO THE DISPLAY!**



Lower Heyford Village Events Committee Proudly
Present
Christmas Carols in the Village Square
(In the Church if weathers bad)
Come along and sing with the
Bletchington Prize Band
Free Mince Pies and Mulled Wine
Friday 21st December 2012



Friday 7 December
7.30 p.m.

BRACKLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR

St. James Church Somerton

A selection of Christmas music and
Carols with wine & refreshments

Look for posters or ring Malcolm for details.
01869 345439



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
HEYFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH

WOMEN IN AIR FORCE BLUE

A TALK
By The Popular

Mr BILL KING

Upper Heyford Village Hall

Thursday 18 October
at
7:30pm

Entry Free

Light refreshments available for a small charge

The Poetry Corner

The season of “mists and mellow fruitfulness” is here again and with it comes the need to harvest the apples, something which many people in the village will probably know far more about than I do, as this area seems to have plenty of apple trees. If you look on-line, the advice these days for storing apples over Winter is to wrap each one in newspaper, place them in a wooden crate or cardboard box, with a layer of straw top and bottom, and put the box in a cool, dark place.

My maternal grandmother grew up on a farm on the edge of Dartmoor called “Orchard Lake”, so, as the name suggests, there were plenty of apples. I know they made a good deal of cider for the family and farm hands, but I wonder how they stored the rest. Probably in a dark shed or outhouse, in much the same way as is described in the poem below, laying them out carefully in rows, so that they didn't touch.

John Drinkwater describes the apples placed in this way in an attic which has a small skylight. At a certain time each night, the moonlight floods through onto them.

I love the stillness of the poem, with its sense of quiet suspense, as the apples wait patiently for their meeting with the moon. The house below is absolutely quiet, with everyone asleep, except for the occasional scratching of a mouse in the wood panelling. Ordinary, common apples are then suddenly transformed by the moonlight into magical fruits of beauty and wonder. We, the readers, are the only ones to know of their secret “tryst” each night.

John Drinkwater, who attended the City of Oxford School, was friends with Rupert Brooke, Edward Thomas and Robert Frost. He was a well-known poet and dramatist in the first part of the twentieth century, but his reputation as a poet has not matched that of his friends. Consequently, this is the only poem of his to be regularly anthologised. I never tire of it, though, and love the way he paints such a detailed scene, using his imagination to transform a rather ordinary sight into something quite extraordinary.

Heather Burt.

Moonlit Apples

At the top of the house the apples are laid in rows,
And the skylight lets the moonlight in, and those
Apples are deep-sea apples of green. There goes
A cloud on the moon in the autumn night.

A mouse in the wainscot scratches, and scratches, and then
There is no sound at the top of the house of men
Or mice; and the cloud is blown, and the moon again
Dapples the apples with deep-sea light.

They are lying in rows there, under the gloomy beams;
On the sagging floor; they gather the silver streams
Out of the moon, those moonlit apples of dreams,
And quiet is the steep stair under.

In the corridors under there is nothing but sleep.
And stiller than ever on orchard boughs they keep
Tryst with the moon, and deep is the silence, deep
On moon-washed apples of wonder.

by John Drinkwater (1882-1937)

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



Come and join us for our 3rd

Santa Fun Run

Sunday 9th December

11am Spiceball Park, Banbury

4Km (2.5 miles) or 1 Km (just over half a mile)

Help raise funds for nursing care

Entry form from www.khh.org.uk or phone: 01295 812161
or email: Valerie.carter@khh.org.uk



Save the Children Autumn Fair

Banbury Branch Charity No 213890

Rye Hill Golf Club

Milcombe, Nr Banbury OX15 4RU

Thursday October 11th - 10am to 4pm

For all your Christmas Shopping under one roof
Many New Stalls as well as the Old Favourites

Admission £2.50. All Welcome

The Heyfords WI

Our meeting on the 18th July where Pam Newall treated us to another fascinating evening with her Glimpses of Sicily started a very busy few weeks for us at The Heyfords WI.

We joined our friends at Duns Tew WI on 14th August for an evening walk and supper afterwards and had a perfect evening where we enjoyed a good walk, good food and good company. The evening after, Stephen Griffiths came to talk to us about The Mary Rose, a very interesting evening learning about the history and conservation of this historic ship.

Just a few days later on Sunday 19th August we provided Cream Teas at the Upper Heyford Reading Room. It was a really hot day, but perfect for sitting outside having tea and scones.

Last but not least on 1st September we were at the Upper Heyford Flower and Produce Show. Another wonderful afternoon where we sold homemade cakes, jams, chutneys and honey, we were so pleased that we didn't have to take anything home with us!

A big thank you to all who supported us at these events.

We can now have a short rest until October when we will have another busy 10 days. We will have our normal meeting on 17th October where Amanda Wood will talk about The Last Great Gold Rush. On Saturday 20th October we will be one of many tables at Charlton on Otmoor Village Hall for a Craft Fair, (open from 10am to 5pm if you'd like to join us) and then on 24th October we are the hosts for our Group Meeting.

It's all go at The Heyfords WI!!

If you'd like to come and join us we meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month in Upper Heyford Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm.



Letters

It is so sad when someone vandalizes.... For the past 4 - 5 years Heyford Station has been having a "face lift". Gone are all the brambles and nettles and weeds, and in their place are the scent and beauty of flowers, shrubs, grasses, some of which have been donated by local people, others have given as they saw the transformation taking place. The pampas grass stands so tall and regal, and children look up in awe at its height as they try to be "Olympians and balance on the retaining sleeper walls!

Down on the Station platform a long bed was cleared which took weeks to do, as the wall was full of ivy of many years and nettles and decades of bramble growth. This was all cleared by the volunteers of FRIENDS OF HEYFORD STATION, and a flower bed was created. In the centre of this long bed is a topiary is trimmed regularly with the word "HEYFORD" standing proud and glossy green. Many people walking there or waiting for a train, commented to the volunteers who were seeing to its upkeep, about the scents, colour, and beauty, young and old, disabled and able bodied, all love how it has been transformed, and for others it has brought a smile as the word "HEYFORD" welcome them home from work.

Over this Bank Holiday, perpetrator/s decided to pull up some of the topiary, so sad, so disheartening for all of us who worked so hard to make it nice and feel a sense of achievement, (my grand children(who at the time were 6 & 9) are included in this) now it has been marred. I hope the person /persons who did this feel shame, great shame for what they have ruined, and shame for hurting all those who try to make things better for all, Roger Bowen spends many hours there weeding and trimming and dead heading, and even carries water to the plants so they don't perish in the dry spells, there are others who help out too, how disappointed they are all feeling by this senseless act.

If the perpetrator/s are so strapped for cash that they need to steal from everyone so as to plant a mini hedge, they should have asked for donations (I am being very sarcastic in saying this!), as the perpetrator/s did not, I personally hope that every time they walk along the Station or the footway they feel great shame and remorse for what they have done. They have achieved nothing for themselves only hurt many others by their mindless actions.

Sharon Keen, (S.J. Plants)

Heyford Park, Supplier to Friends of Heyford Station

Lower Heyford Relief in Need Charity

The Trustees of the Charity would like to remind the parishioners of Lower Heyford and Caulcott of our existence, and the ways that we can be of use to individuals in times of illness or genuine need.

Our income is derived from the rent of the Poor's Land, along the Kirtlington Road at the Paish boundary, and also from the Old Reading Room, Freehold Street. In the past we have contributed to the provision of transport to and from Deddington Health Centre, which service is unfortunately no longer available. We have for many years provided alarm systems for elderly residents, so that they can feel more secure in their own homes.

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

Mrs Robin Hepworth, Chairman of Trustees

Dr Tom Clayton, Trustee and Clerk

Mrs Emma Read, Trustee

Mrs Alison Osbourne Mckay, Trustee

Reverend Edward Green, Trustee

SOULDERN COMMUNITY MARKET

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

Autumn/Winter Markets

20th October (Village Hall)

Christmas Market 17th November (Church)

Thames Valley Police - update from WPC Brown

We hope that those of you who managed to have a summer holiday had a lovely time away. We are grateful that the traditional summer burglary spree that can occur with windows left open in hot weather or unoccupied houses whilst the residents are away has not happened this year. Thank you for being keeping your homes and valuables secure and for being vigilant to suspicious incidents

Neighbourhood priorities - Metal thefts

Sadly, the lead from Fringford Village Hall roof has been stolen. Enquires are continuing.

Speeding

WPC Brown conducted a speed check in Middleton Stoney on 28th September with Roads Policing and 14 motorists were given tickets for excess speed. One of the offenders was a resident of Steeple Aston and one a resident of Upper Heyford.

Speeding checks were also carried out using the speed indicator device in Upper Heyford. 8 out of 40 of the vehicles monitored were exceeding the legal limit. Please watch your speed, and thank you to all those of you who were driving safely.

Offenders brought to justice

Following the theft of a trailer from Heyford Park, a male has been arrested and is currently on police bail whilst enquires continue. The trailer was recovered at an address in Banbury and has been returned to its owner.

Good news stories

You may be aware that 2 vehicles were stolen from a farm in Steeple Aston. Following some good work from officers on the team, one of these, an orange Lancia that was in the process of being restored to its former glory, has now been recovered and returned to its rightful owner. The investigation continues and we are working towards a successful prosecution.

NAG Appeal

The Neighbourhood Action Group is a committee that is formed of police officers from the neighbourhood team and volunteer members of the local community. The community members have an active influence in the policing of the rural area and offer any expertise that they may have to help resolve issues. We meet every 6 to 8 weeks to discuss any current issues. We are actively looking for new recruits so if you would like to know more and think you may be able to help, please contact us without obligation on the below email address or ring 101.

Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the new police non emergency number of 101 which has been in use since November last year, but if your call is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email: BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk - please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. If you have information about crime or Anti Social Behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555111.

To view information on your neighbourhood team you can visit the force website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk. We can also be followed on Twitter on @tvp_bicester. We will tweet messages to help prevent crime, make appeals or issue warnings and we urge people to follow us on the Twitter service as we can tell you instantaneously about incidents in and around Bicester.

Lighting St Mary's, Upper Heyford

7 th June	In memory of the late Kathleen Smith, who died in 1975. 'With love from Jim.'
16 th June	In celebration of the birthday of the late Grace Smith. 'With love from Jim.'
18 th June	In celebration of the birthday of the late Gilbert (Jack) Brain. 'With love from your daughter, Ann'.
22 nd June	In memory of Sandra Jayne Brain who died in 2007. 'All our love, Sally, Rob and Lilly Jayne.'
30 th June	'Happy birthday Sue. All my love, Stew XX.'
11 th July	In celebration of the birthday of Isla Rivers. 'Happy 11th birthday, Isla. Love Mum, Dad and Mac'
13 th July	In celebration of the birthday of the late Ben Brain. 'With love from his daughter, Karen and her partner, Sean
14 th July	In loving memory of Clifford Jones who passed away a year ago today. 'All our love, Anita & Roy
17 th July	In celebration of the birthday of the late Kathleen Smith's 91st birthday With love from Jim. To celebrate the second wedding a anniversary of Zoe & Adam Berry. ' With love from Grandpa' (Jim)
20 th July	In celebration of the 16th wedding anniversary of Sue and Stewart Prattley 'Happy anniversary Stew. All my love forever, Sue'
27 th July	In celebration of the birthday of the late Mary Jones. 'All our love, Anita & Roy' In loving memory of the late Pat Fowler who died on 11th July. 'Lighting your way to heaven to join John' From Maureen, Rita, Joan, Jean & Ray
10 th August	To celebrate the 99th birthday of Edith Murray. 'Happy birthday Mum, from Sheila and Bernard'
11 th August	In celebration of the wedding of Marilyn and Timothy

Healthy Heyford Walks - 2 hours at leisurely pace

Monday mornings at 10am, meet at Upper Heyford Village Hall—ring Jo for more details 07734562028

Fridays: 5 Oct & 2 Nov at 7.30pm

Upper Heyford Village Hall

All money prizes & good raffle

Proceeds in aid of the church



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

Telephone: 01869 233707

List of committee members

Jennifer Luff Chair Person

Richard Henderson Vice Chair

Paul Fortman Vice Chair

Sharon Keen Secretary

Carole Gother Treasurer

Kate Henderson; Sarah Fortman; Alf Gother; Stephen Luff

Denise Clough; James Henderson; Bee Henderson

All of the committee member can be contacted via our email address heyfordpark@btinternet.com

Or if you know them you can always stop and speak to them in the street etc.

Karate

Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm in community centre.
Please contact Phil Patrick information on 07764182687
or email; 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

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

Marlborough School, Woodstock Saturday Workshops (Tel: 01993 813592)

October 13th

Digital Photography
Stained Glass
Sewing Machines for Beginners
Your Garden in Autumn
Intro to Reflexology
Hand Massage
Yoga
Intro to Art
Painting using special effects
Anyone Can Dance
The Sonnet

December 1st.

Photoshop
Stained Glass
Sewing Christmas gifts and crafts
Christmas Floral Decorations
Indian Head Massage
Aromatherapy Facial
Yoga
Know your body know yourself
'Everyday Miracles: Writing through the Ordinary'
or email comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk or
download a brochure on www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk



Nose Bag

The **new** over 50s Lunch Club

Last Thursday of each month

Delicious 2-course meal only £2.75!

Conversation – Entertainment

Meet friends and enjoy yourself!

Contact **Nuala Francis** on 232838

or

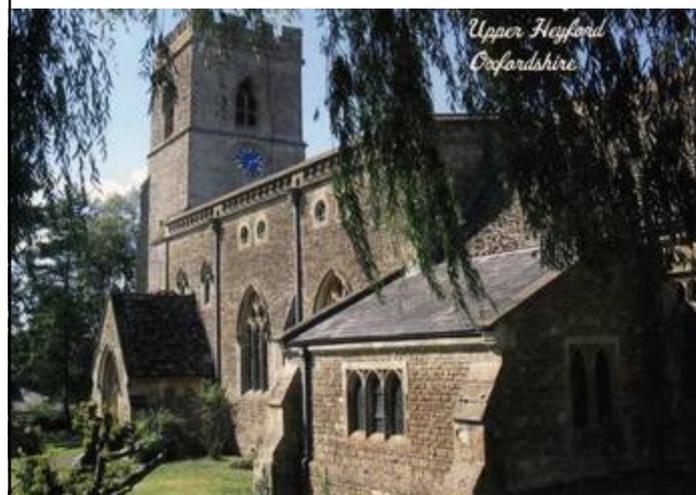
just come along to the Community Centre.

We're waiting to welcome you!



Upper Heyford Village Postcards

Rebecca & Sara Truisi (Anne Thomson's daughters) have kindly donated specially printed cards of the village. The one shown here of the church and a multi-picture card of various views. These are available in the church with a suggested minimum donation of 50p - all funds raised will go towards the renovation of the church.
With grateful thanks to Rebecca & Sara



Craig Lord Productions
UPPER HEYFORD READING ROOM
7.45 pm with drinks, snacks & ice creams

Friday 12th October

Casablanca
12 certificate rating



Friday 16th November

O Brother, Where Art Thou?
12 certificate rating



October

The Anglo Saxon name Wintirfylth means the month of the winter moon. The Gaelic name An Damhair means the month of deer rutting. The Welsh name Hydref means the month of autumn. If the October full moon comes without frost expect no frost until the full moon of November. If birds are fat in October we should expect a hard winter. If the onion skins are thin then we will have a mild winter but if the onion skins are thick and tough the winter will be cold and rough. It is when the swallow and swifts migrate. The wasps, lady bird beetles and slugs all go into hibernation.

October is a time for felling trees, cutting back of the dead wood and clearing the grounds of what is left from the harvest. We harvest the apples, pears and sloes and make preserves, brandies and conserves for the winter. The last of the michaelmas daisies are out and mushroom hunting is often successful. It is a good time to make potions of elderberries, rosehips and sage for colds and flu and lotions of yarrow, mugwort and calendula for cuts and bruises. One old tradition is to gather one of the last herb stalks from the garden. This is said to contain the spirit of the garden. It should be tied with a ribbon and hung in the kitchen to bring health and wealth to the house.

The second of October is Saint. Sylvester's day who is the protector of the forests. The 4th of October is St. Francis's Day who was the gentle gardener and lover of animals. To bless a garden he was said to have planted myrtle, angelica, nepeta and a fig tree. The 6th of October is St. Faith's day who gives dreams of husbands to be. October 25th is Saint Crispin's day who is the saint of shoemakers. On October 31st we have All Hallows Eve which is also called Samhain, Winter's Eve and is the last day of the Celtic year. It is a time when candles are lit and harvest grains left out to welcome our ancestors and to ask them to protect the house for the New Year. Soul cakes are made and bonfires lit to bless the fruits and crop and to honour the dead.

November

The Welsh called November, Tachwedd which means the month of bonfires and the killing of animals. In Gaelic, An t-Samhuirn means the month of the Samhain festival. The Anglo Saxon called the month Blotmonath or the month of blood. It was the time of the year to kill the pig and preserve the meat for the winter. It is said that if ducks do slide at Hallowentide, at Christmas they will swim but if ducks do swim at Hallowentide then at Christmas they will slide. It is a time to thrash the corn and gather wood for the Guy Fawkes bonfire. Traditionally people made gingerbread and toffee. There were often fairs for the workers who would have their harvest wages. November is also said to be the month of suicidal dullness and mental despondency. But with its fogs and frosts the land is sweetened of all illness. It is a time for digging and putting on winter mulch. It is also a time for bulb planting and one filled with the brilliant colours of chrysanthemums.

November 11 is Martimass which is the beginning of winter. The 20th of November is the feast of St. Edmunds the saint of sailors. November 23rd is St. Clements day who looked after blacksmiths and iron workers. November 25th is the lace maker's day and also a day for getting a good husband or of making the one you have better. It was also the day of the Roman goddess Nemesis who was in charge of the wheel of fate.

As Vita Sackville-West says, 'It is a time to look at the next year. There is nothing like gardening to keep one young. It is the most rejuvenating of all occupations. One is always looking forward to next year or five years hence.' November is a time to reflect on the year before and plan for the spring to come.

Debra Kaatz

No. 23 School Lane, Upper Heyford

So, where were we? Ah yes, the creepy bits.

Everyone in the family had a view about the strange 'happenings' and certainly there were some odd and unnerving experiences. Gran said she would never leave unless she saw something that spooked her but she did say that when she passed on that it would be a good idea if whoever was left didn't stay too long.

My aunt Gwen was the last Hawkins to live there and in a Banbury Cake article of July 4th. 1985 she remarked 'I was glad to get out of that house' further commenting that the new people might not stay too long. And they didn't. She also said 'there is something wrong with that house. I've not seen anything but I've heard it knocking.' Another elderly villager, Bill Edmunds, commented that the house used to be the talk of the village. Gwen has previously told how she was woken one night by her elder sister screaming but her mother would never tell her what Lucy had seen.

James Allen, the local miller, was murdered by farmer Noah Austin, who lived at No. 23 at the time, on the way back from Bicester market. The murder spot was in the first gateway on the left as you go towards Kirtlington from the top of Camp Road. The actual spot was marked somehow and it was Grandad's job to keep it tidy and in good condition. Noah was very soon afterwards hung on the mound at Oxford Jail, the only thing of note probably being that he was the last person in Oxford to be hung in public view. I have read a report recently that the roads around Oxford mound were packed so tightly with people that there was serious concern for public safety. Well, I suppose any excuse for a day out in Victorian Oxford was worth a go even if it was a bit ghoulish. Today of course, a trip to the pub afterwards would be essential to 'get closure'. Noah continued to protest his innocence almost to the last but finally agreed to confess all to, as Noah put it, ease his fathers troubled soul. Well done Noah, even if it was a bit late.

It has been suggested that the ghost of Mr. Allen haunts the house. Yes, he did die a violent death but never lived there whereas Noah did. So, I wonder if the ghost is really Noah who also died a violent death?

Clearly, what Noah did was wrong but if what he said in his confession to P Wynter J.P. on the 18th of March 1863 was true, then he might be considered a 'used' victim of the whole sorry episode. Apparently, Mr Allen disapproved of his daughters association with Noah and turned her out of the house. She then told Noah several times that her father needed to be 'got rid of'. And, as the saying goes 'the rest is history'.

I have seen some evidence of the negotiations that took place with New College before the Hawkins' moved into No 23 and it wasn't quite as straight forward as it might have been as Noah's sister, Sarah, was still there in the Farmhouse. In fact, Calebs Farmhouse and Calebs Cottage as it is now is pretty much how it was when Frank and Rose moved in until Sarah died in 1914 and the whole row became the Hawkins' family home.

There was a door between the two parts of the property that was in use at the time but it was either left open or removed when I lived there as I don't recall seeing it.

Apparently, Sarah used to resort to moaning around the house each Springtime about the time Noah was despatched. Trouble is, it continued after she died in 1914. Now for some hard facts.

I was in my cot one evening and both my dad and mum saw 'this light' come into the room, travel all the way

around the top of my cot and then disappear. Soon after they moved in, Grandad thought he ought to have a look through the ceiling trapdoor in the single storey part (Calebs Cottage), came back down, nailed it closed and said he wouldn't be going up there again. Why I wonder?

It was normal for a candle to be used up that long passage at night but why did it often blow out exactly as you passed from the now Calebs Cottage to Calebs Farm House? Weird and almost as if someone was waiting for you.

So, there you are, some actual facts about the house which I believe takes a bit of explaining. Answers on a postcard please.

It seems the type of haunting mum and dad witnessed is far from unique (and there's me thinking I had been singled out for attention) as others have encountered a similar experience with the closest I have heard of being at Bethony Manor near Tackley in the middle 1800's. Sadly, the house has long been demolished so no chance of seeing where the haunting occurred.

Just another word about Grandad's last job of work. He used to be the local maintenance roadman (Lou Collins of allotment shed fame was a later one) and he probably was working for the then Ploughley Council in Bicester. I'm not sure how far he went towards Somerton but his patch definitely was all around our village, as far as Kirtlington, down Lower Heyford road and as far as Three Post Corner on the Middleton Stoney road. His job was to keep all the road edges and gutters in good condition and to cut from the road edge to the hedge taking out all saplings towards the end of the year after birds nesting was over. And all this with only a sythe and a sickle. I have also learned recently that he used to undertake traffic census duties on the Lower Heyford to Middleton Stoney road. That must have been a pretty boring job unless he was counting horses as well. Even in the 1940's long after Grandad had retired (he died in 1952 aged 90years) traffic was still pretty sparse. My summer holiday then was a week in Kidlington at my uncles house and much of my time was spent outside Truby's transport cafe opposite taking car numbers. Sometimes I had a real rush on my hands if two cars came along close together.

One other memory I have of Grandad, he always on the left of the fireplace and Gran on the right, was him sitting in his chair preparing his smoking pipe. From one pocket would come his black shag tobacco, which to me looked like a lump of tar, and a penknife out of another pocket. He would then carve slices so thin you could nearly see through them, pack them carefully into the pipe bowl and spend the next few minutes lighting and packing the tobacco down hard with a finger or thumb which had suitably hardened skin on the ends from years of compressing burning baccy. With Gran, it was making a sandwich which seems to stick in my mind. The bread was cut, quite a lot of butter put on and then most of it was scraped off again the result being that your slice of bread had a slight tinge of yellow to it with whatever else you put on it.

Back up to that attic which was always exciting. It has roof windows now and looks to have been made into a proper room but in my day it was dusty, musty and definitely the place to be. It was in the end window that I used to sit and watch the funerals of airmen who had crashed locally. In those days there were no trees at all in the cemetery, gardens or around The Green to obstruct my view but I was unprepared for what happened with the first funeral I saw and nearly 'jumped out of my skin' when the airmen escort let off their rounds for the over grave gun salute, six or eight rifles in total I believe.

There was another time I 'jumped' and according to my dad he nearly dropped me. I don't know where he was stood (probably in Rectory Farm over next to Mill Lane) but he was with a crowd of people watching a burning bomber that had crashed on take off from the camp and I guess the explosion was the fuel tanks igniting. It is highly unlikely that it was munitions as the camp was a training camp at the time. In the early 1940's, the camp, (it was only a Base when the Yanks were here) was a 'heavy conversion unit' where pilots came to learn to fly bomber aircraft and an awful lot of crashes occurred around the area. Considering the amount of crashes, we have had a fairly charmed life in the village as there have been crashes in every direction but none actually in the confines of the village. As well as those to the east and north, there was an American bomber crash down by the railway line and just a few years before the Americans left in 1994, an F111 just to the side of The Brambles house along Somerton road.

While still an RAF camp there was one to the south west of the village when a light aircraft took off, turned left over the church and Manor Farm and crashed into the bank at the start of the concrete road that leads down past the sewer farm towards Lower Heyford. The pilot was a young New Zealand airman on his last test flight before returning home. He survived the impact but died soon after. It was effectively just over our back garden wall of No 26 and I can remember the smell of fuel and a Mr Pickering, who lived on The Green and was first on the scene, shouting at people coming to help to put out their cigarettes. A fag and aviation fuel is definitely not a good mix.

Because of the looming trouble in Europe, householders were encouraged to build air raid shelters and my dad and uncle Bert did just that at No. 23. I'm not sure but I've heard you got the materials free if you were prepared to do the work yourself. They built our one right up the top of the garden by the privy and my dad told me that when they were digging out the foundations Bert struck with a pickaxe and buried the point inside a cigarette tin dad had got in his back trouser pocket. Dad said to him 'there is only room for one of us in here and I'm getting out'. Wise decision. I can't ever remember being in the shelter but if the family were in there and things got a bit tense with a raid going on, I think it was an inspired decision to build it right next to the privy for when you could finally get out. No jumping the queue please!

And raids there were. My Grans sister was bombed out of her house in a row of cottages that were on the grassed area opposite the cemetery gates and I remember playing in the ruins when I was a lad. There have been rumours that there are some unexploded bombs under the grassed area but the Parish Council have had the appropriate people out a few times but nothing has ever been detected. Nevertheless, I'd step carefully on there if I were you, just in case!

I remember some evenings if you could hear a heavy plane droning overhead, one of the adults nearly always said 'I hope that's one of ours'.

There is another shelter still here that you may not be aware of. When you enter the Tchure footpath from Orchard Lane, about fifty feet in on the right hand side is a mound of dark green ivy with a still intact shelter underneath it. It is quite large and was built for a row of four cottages that used to be where Backacre is now.

Mary England, who lived in Walnut Tree cottage told us the day before she left that they used it as a wine cellar. Not very neighbourly to keep that quiet for so long was it?

Ron Hawkins

Somerton Parish Council

Following the Parish Council meeting held in the Barns Memorial Hall on Monday 17th September, the council discussed a variety of issues. This included local planning applications, and the Local Development Framework (LDF) plan, which is open to the public to comment on until the 10th October. This replaces the old local plan, which identifies areas for development in the Cherwell District area, and identifies what planning restrictions there are for Somerton.

To help keep the village clean and tidy, the Parish Council asked for the road verges to be mowed to the village name signs, which was carried out this year, though we will be asking to extend it further out along the Heyford Road. We also brought to the attention of Highways the potholes in the villages, which have since been repaired. In June, the council supported the Jubilee celebrations, which was very successful, despite the weather conditions.

The next project which we have been supporting for some years, is the play area, which a sub-committee have been set up to manage, and we have just heard that Viridor have granted us £35,000 for play equipment - good news indeed!

The sad news that in the early hours of Saturday 16th September, the telephone kiosk and notice board were vandalised. The repairs for the notice board will be paid for out of your council tax. If you know, or saw who carried out the damage to the notice board and telephone kiosk, please can you either let us know, or the police.

All members on the council are volunteers, and make time to support the village community.

If you are interested in joining us at the next meeting, it will be held on Monday 26th November at 8.15pm in the Barns Memorial Hall.

Neil Clare, Chairman

New Churchwarden

When Anne Corner goes back to South Africa again next month there will obviously be a limit to what she can do by telephone and email. Fortunately David Reed has agreed to stand as churchwarden. The PCC elected him as Deputy Warden with immediate effect and at a Vestry meeting on Sunday 23 September he was formally elected as Churchwarden.

Concerts in Church. There will be three concerts in church over the winter: one by Craig Ogden (who teaches guitar at the Royal College of Music) on 9 November for the Somerton Hour; one by the Brackley Male Voice Choir in early December; and one by the Wheatsheaf Consort on 17 January.

Floodlighting the Church. As soon as the clocks go back we will again be offering the possibility of sponsoring an evening's floodlighting of the church to mark some special occasion. Book your slot now by emailing Alison Eastwood ([HYPERLINK "mailto:stablingalison@aol.com"](mailto:stablingalison@aol.com) stablingalison@aol.com or 345792)

Dates for your diary

7 October 9.30 Morning Prayer

14 October 9.30 Sunday Club

21 October 9.30 Matins with Holy Communion

9 November Somerton Hour Concert in church

11 November Remembrance Sunday

23 November History Project talk by Chris Day of the Victoria County History

1st half December Concert by Brackley Male Voice Choir

UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

St Mary's Church, Upper Heyford

This report of Church news marks a watershed. Our Rector, the Reverend Paul Hunt, retires on 30 September 2012 after 14 years of devoted ministry in the Cherwell Valley Benefice. By the time you read this, Paul will already have taken his last service at St Mary's. It was very fitting that his final service in this Parish was ornamented by a beautiful new 'all seasons' altar front, which, generously funded by local business Agrivert, is a symbol of the project of repair and renewal of St Mary's Church that has begun under his leadership.

Paul will be much missed, not just for his spiritual commitment and compassion from which so many in the Parish have benefitted, but for his wise yet firm leadership of the PCC. We all send our best wishes and love to him and to his wife Chris as they start a new phase of their lives in Northampton – and in their wider travels with their new camper van!

There is now what is known as an 'interregnum' while a new Rector is sought to lead the Cherwell Valley Benefice, and if anyone needs an update on how that's going, please contact Andrew Gotch, PCC Secretary, on 232778 or on amsq@hotmail.co.uk. Updates will appear in the Valley News. In the meantime the Reverend Eddie Green is shouldering all the many responsibilities of running the Benefice along with the Church Wardens and lay preachers. We wish him luck and shall I'm sure all do our best to support him through what will be a demanding time.

We enjoyed a lovely (although rather early!) Harvest Festival this year and we were especially grateful for the generosity of many of you in contributing your flowers and produce from the Upper Heyford Flower & Produce Show the day before. It was really good to be able to provide so much wholesome food for the Bicester Food Bank, which helps local families who are unable to buy sufficient food to feed themselves. Many thanks, as ever, to our stalwart flower arrangers, who transformed the Church yet again into a beautiful place of worship.

Our restoration and renewal project for St Mary's is going well. To nobody's surprise whatsoever, there are no bats living in St Mary's and so work on replacing the Chancel roof will commence shortly once the Cherwell District Council's planning process has ground to its conclusion. A full structural survey of the Church has been commissioned which will form the basis of specifications for tender and a further application for funding to Viridor. The PCC and the Friends of St Mary's continue to work together to raise awareness and funds for the work – you can read below of our latest fund-raising event, a concert which raised a record amount for our fabric fund!

Choros at St Mary's Church, Upper Heyford

On 16th September St Mary's was privileged to host Janet Lincé and her renowned choir Choros. Following a successful advertising campaign, a record audience of over 90 lucky people from as far afield as Witney and Charlbury packed St Mary's to hear a carefully chosen programme of small-scale sacred and secular choral works from the 16th century to modern times.

Janet had entitled the concert 'My Spirit Sang All Day', after a piece by Gerald Finzi that Choros performed, but the spirits of many in the audience will no doubt still be singing at the memory of such a delightful evening. It was deeply affecting to hear such moving and virtuosic performances, and we will be slow to forget feeling the restorative and redemptive power of music roll across the pews as Choros gave us

beautiful songs like Samuel Wesley's *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace* and the spiritual *There is a balm in Gilead*, the latter with a touching solo from Janet herself.

Hearing sacred music in a Church is always a special experience that gives a unique perspective onto composers' feelings about the words they are setting; and St Mary's showed just what an attractive ambience and setting it could provide to that end. Our Church showed itself in splendid colours, aided again by some superb floral arrangements organised by the Friends of St Mary's, who also hosted and provided free refreshments to make sure that the evening went with a swing.

This free concert was in aid of the project to restore and improve St Mary's, so that it can take its rightful place in the centre of our community as a religious centre and a place where the whole village can come together in fellowship. That fellowship was exemplified by the welcome presence in the audience of Mrs Kathy McGuire, the guest of honour at Upper Heyford's Act of Commemoration that had taken place earlier that day, and who was moved to write "Thank you for remembering" in St Mary's Visitors Book.

It was thus particularly heartening to find that the audience expressed its appreciation of what Janet and Choros had done and its support for everyone's aspirations for St Mary's by generously donating just over £1,000.

Heartfelt thanks to Janet, Choros, the Friends of St Mary's, the Church Wardens & PCC and all who came along to support St Mary's.

Would you be interested in a Daytime Watercolour Painting Class with local artist David Meeks?



Call Jo on 07734562028 to register your interest.

Wednesday 31st October - Halloween



As this is an increasingly popular night for village children, we thought a little update on pumpkin etiquette is in order. Seasonally dressed children will be out with their parents and carers on this night! If you are at home to "trick or treat" visitors, please let us know by lighting up the front of your house, and if you feel so inclined decorate it with a pumpkin. If you would rather not be involved, please leave your house in darkness and we won't disturb you.

**Thank you in advance
Upper Heyford trick or treaters.**



UPPER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL ANNOUNCEMENT

Hire Charges now include electricity!

Thanks to the tireless work of those refurbishing our Village Hall, the work is moving on a pace and all the new facilities are expected to be in place by the end of the year. The entire building has been redecorated; it has a new extension which boasts a large disabled toilet & baby changing facilities; the small kitchen & main toilets have been completely refurbished, the large kitchen area is now twice the size and will be kitted out for full scale catering; the wooden floor has been reconditioned, new lino is everywhere else & the wiring has been updated, including the removal of the old "spaghetti" wiring & paper card system for payment of electricity. In light of these changes and improvement, the Village Hall Hire Charges have been reviewed & although they have changed little from those that have been in place for in excess of four years, they now include an estimated electricity cost...

UPPER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL UPDATED HIRE CHARGES

Parish Residents

Group, Fund Raising & Church Events	£8/hr
Private Parties/Events (less than 1 day / hourly rate)	£10/hr
Private Parties/Events (1 day + / daily rate)	£140/day
Commercial/Corporate Events	£12/hr

Non-Parish Residents

Group, Fund Raising & Church Events	£10/hr
Private Parties/Events (less than 1 day / hourly rate)	£12/hr
Private Parties/Events (1 day + / daily rate)	£170/day
Commercial/Corporate Events	£14/hr

To enquire about booking the Village Hall please contact:

Emma Measures by email vhire@upperheyford.com or call on 07563 170262 (outside office hours only please). Or you can check when the Hall is available or view the Hire Agreement (including Terms & Conditions of Hire) by going to the "Amenities" section of our Village website at www.upperheyford.com

Flower Show, Upper Heyford, 2012

Once again the weather was kind, and young and old came and enjoyed themselves at the Flower Show in the Recreation Ground, opened this year by our very dear Mrs Mary Page.

One of the judges commented that he was pleasantly surprised with not only the quantity of produce, but that the quality far exceeded his expectations, considering the size of our community, and the weather experienced by gardeners this past growing season: A view shared by many of us. So, many congratulations to all the winners, and to all other exhibitors *better luck next year*. The cup winners this year are: Abby Mead: Under 8's Trophy and Derek Buxey Trophy; Sue Prattley: Kathleen Smith Memorial Bowl, Heyfordian Cup and U.S.A. Trophy; Stephen Jeffries: Jack Brain Memorial Shield, Commander's Cup, Grant International Trophy for Fuchsia, Cherwell Valley Open for marrow and the Patrick and Iris Quinn Memorial Trophy for geranium; Andrew Draper: Heyfordian Tankard for roses and Heyfordian Cup for roses; Ken Draper: Eric Hudson Memorial Shield for shallots; Stewart Prattley: Cup for the best chocolate cake made by a man. It was a pity not to have had a scarecrow class as a great effigy appeared, which served to enhance the entrance.

This year the organisers endeavoured to expand the show by including a ploughing competition (to be held in an adjacent field), and offering village groups the opportunity to sell produce and other items to boost their funds. Although the ploughing completion did not go ahead due to harvesting conditions, the various stalls along with the Vintage Tractor display greatly enhanced the ambience of the Show. The day was wound up magnificently by the eclectic musical mix of jazz created in the marquee by the Titanic House Band. Those who attended the evening were refuelled by the feasts and the liquid refreshments they brought along – a wonderful end to a lovely, busy day spent with friends.

Total monies realised was over £1,000. After adjustments for expenses, approximately £300 will go towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall. If you wish to see a breakdown of the figures please get in touch with any of the organisers who will happily share this information with you.

As Mrs Page pointed out in her opening speech: Village halls, marquees and the like do not magically present themselves fully equipped and ready for our pleasure on Flower Show day. Nor do items, to both exhibit and sell, make their own way into place. Mary recognised that many people spend many hours preparing for the Show, which is only how Upper Heyford's Flower and Produce show continues to take place. The organisers of this year's Show wish to convey to all who helped in any way a heartfelt **Thank You**. Thanks also to those who participated in the games and to those who came and parted with their money. We must not forget those who gave their produce, and donated dried and canned goods to the church for Harvest Festival the following day. Finally, warm thanks to Heyfordian Travel and to one who wishes to remain anonymous, for their generous donations, towards the cost of the band in the evening, which were very gratefully received.

The Chair of the Organising Committee would like – on behalf of all the Village – to add a special Thank You to Mary Goodman for her immense efforts to ensure that this highly worthwhile event again took place. She probably even arranged the weather!

See you next year, Saturday 31st August, 2013.

BONFIRE NIGHT with fireworks

Sat 3rd November

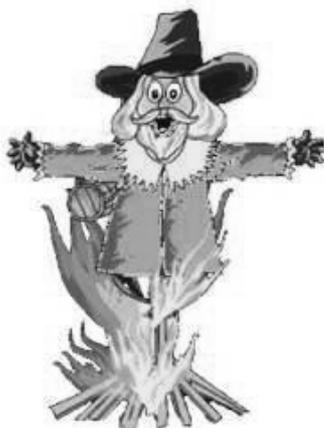
Upper Heyford Recreation Field

7pm light the bonfire

7.20 Fireworks

8pm Hot dogs

& hot chocolate



£5 per family all inclusive

Coarse Gardening.

When I was a small boy, if I had been good, my father used to take me to Norwich Castle Museum, a place of wonders and delights, where there was a vast collection of amazing teapots, old oil paintings of ships in full sailing rig, and two Medieval dragons, one red, one green, suspended from the ceiling. Men used to 'wear' the dragons, it seems, when the Guilds paraded through the city in bygone times. They had wooden jaws which snapped and at least one of them was once designed to breathe fire, which, as you might expect, resulted in a slightly barbecued dragon-man and a serious bill to the City Fathers for a new dragon. Fifteen shillings! Wow.

However, fascinating though the dragons were, the bit I really loved was in a side gallery, where there were *dioramas*. These were like shop windows looking out on scenes of Nature. My favourites were the one showing sand dunes and a strip of beach, with stuffed shore birds among the marram grass, clumps of sea-lavender, seaweed washed up among the shells and crabs, and a view of the distant sea. This was number two. The number one favourite had a hedgerow in autumn with red berries on the bushes, toadstools in the leaf-litter and, if you looked very closely, little birds and animals hidden away everywhere. There were dormice, a robin, chaffinches, a lizard sunbathing on a fallen branch, and a beautiful harvest mouse nest woven between tall grasses, but best of all - a curled-up hedgehog asleep under a tree stump. Beside each 'shop window' was a panel of little switches, each with a name, such as *stag beetle* or *scarlet fly agaric*, which sometimes worked so that you could light up the specimen of your choice. Small boy heaven...



Dierama pulcherrimum

All this is by way of introducing a plant called *Dierama*, which in my mispronunciation sounds much the same. This is a delightful thing, a reedy bunch of leaves producing yard-long, grass-like flowering stems which bear elegantly suspended bells of a pearly pink. It is the Wand Flower in English (though some are guilty of calling it - though not in my hearing - Angels' Fishing Rods: *horribile dictu*) and is a South African immigrant related to the gladiolus, though more refined by far. The best ones I have seen were growing in Cornwall near the sea, so I didn't expect any success with it here. All the same, I liberated some ripe seed and put it in, without much hope. Like its relations, it grows from a corm, so seedlings take their time to reach

flowering size. They have done it, though, and there were several beautiful flowering stems in the garden this summer. Which, considering the nature of *this summer*, and the preceding couple of winters, is astonishing. Things which I would expect to be much tougher have been killed here, yet this little treasure seems to be perfectly hardy.

I have felt ashamed of my garden this year. So much has failed or grown in a ridiculously uncontrolled manner or has simply gotten away from me. There hasn't been enough fair weather to do the necessary work, even if I didn't feel disheartened. Some cosmos plants have grown to five feet tall without a sign of a flower, dwarf sunflowers have towered over everything until blown down, and nettles are flourishing everywhere. Thank goodness I didn't plan on having an Open Garden for village funds. I would have had to pay people to stay away. Despite everything, there have been some successes, like the beautiful *Dieramas*. Most of the trees and shrubs have enjoyed the cool, wet conditions and have put on tremendous growth, especially, I am delighted to note, the red-stemmed dogwoods which are such a joy throughout the winter whenever the sun shines. I had been afraid that they were not going to do at all well, as they didn't like the dry winter or the unusually warm April plus late frosts and they showed signs of packing it in altogether. Squashes and ornamental gourds have gone crazy, too, some of them clambering high into the hedge beside Allens Lane and one is busy going up a willow tree on the edge of the canal. A clump of golden bamboo, which we bought when we first moved in here, has never really done anything much and has been an expensive disappointment really, just trading water as it were until this 'summer', when it produced half a dozen stout new haulms each well over twelve feet tall, which is what it is supposed to do. Obviously, it had been kept too dry and in the future I must give it a really good soaking every few weeks. You live and learn... I always associated bamboo with dry, dusty places. Wrong again.

I expect I am not the only one who can look forward to a busy autumn and winter trying to sort out the muddle and get back on top of things. The exercise keeps you warm and saves on heating oil. It's bulb planting season, too, which always heartens flagging spirits, as the days get darker and colder, with the prospect of future glory. When the March sun shines and the crocuses open up to attract the earliest, fattest bumble bees, all that scraping about in the mud and mists of autumn seems really worthwhile. Then you are so glad you did it.

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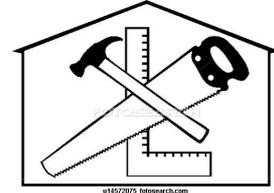
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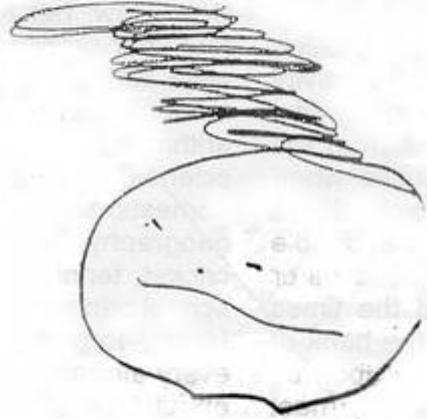
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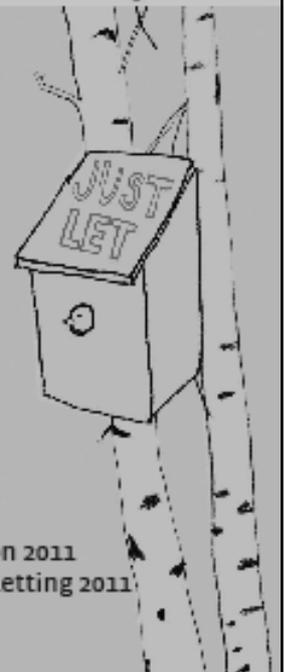
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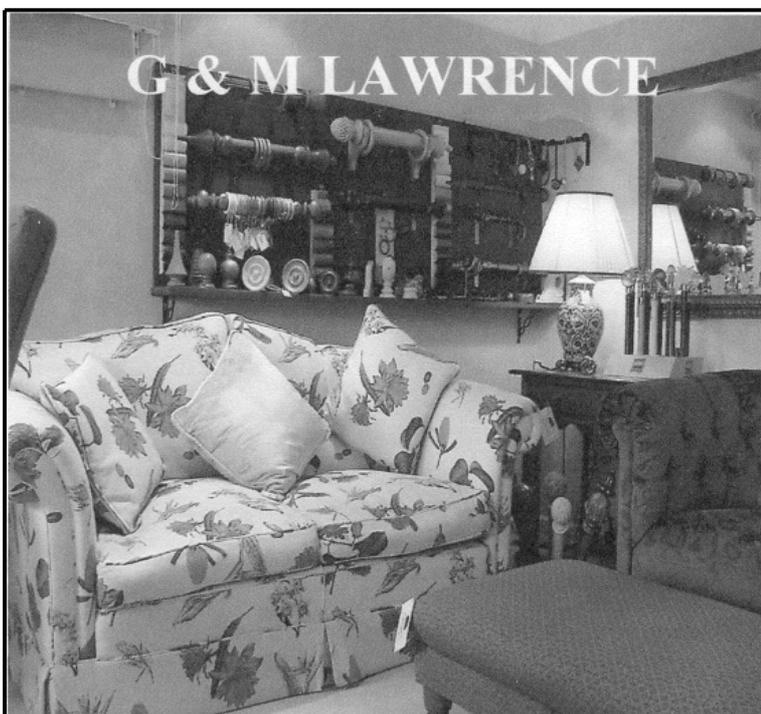
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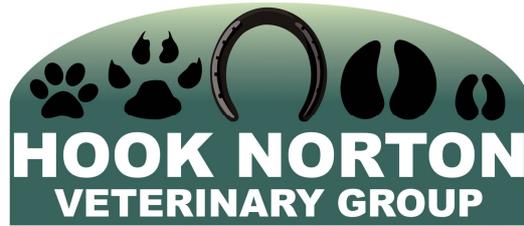
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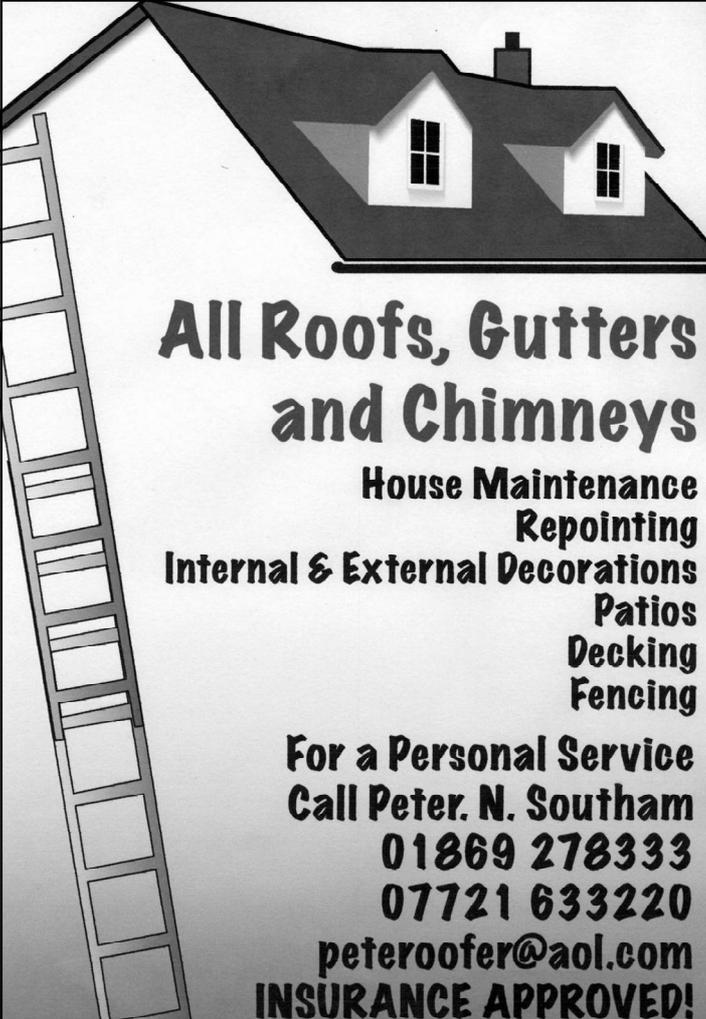
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