

Valley News

October 2011

No 197 News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



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History Talk Upper Heyford 18 Nov

Somerton Christmas Bazaar 3 Dec

Community Learning at Marlborough School

New Year's Eve Party, Upper Heyford

Sadly we report the passing of Ed Latimer

Valley News is delivered FREE to every household in:

**Caulcott – Heyford Park – Lower Heyford
Somerton – Upper Heyford**

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STOP PRESS

The Somerton Hour returns!

October 21st

Anna Allott, Senior Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies University of London. Anna will be talking about Aung San Suu Kyi and Burma. She last met Suu Kyi in Burma in February 2003 in Rangoon, shortly before her convoy was attacked when up country; she was arrested and began her last 7 years under house arrest. She was only finally freed from house arrest in November 2010

The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford
SERVICES IN THE CHERWELL VALLEY

	Ardley St Mary	Fritwell St Olave	Lower Heyford & Caulcott St Mary	Somerton St James	Souldern ABVM	Upper Heyford St Mary's	The Chapel
2- Oct	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 HC	9:30 Harvest	11:00 Matins	9:30 Trad Lang Communion & Hymns	11:00 Contemporary Worship
9- Oct	9:30 CW Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	9:30 Sunday Club & Bears & Prayers	11:00 Harvest	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contemporary Worship
16- Oct	9:30 CW Sung Communion	11:00 Family Worship Communion & Harvest	08:30 1662 HC	09:30 Matins & HC	8:30 1662 HC	12:00 Harvest and Harvest Lunch	11:00 Contemporary Worship
23- Oct	9:30 Family Worship	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Communion	9:30 Traditional Language Communion	10:30 Souldern Chapel Coffee & Christ	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship
30- Oct	6:00 All Souls - Somerton			9:30 All Saints Benefice Celebration Group - Ardley			11:00 Contemporary Worship
6- Nov	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Matins	9:30 Trad Lang Communion & Hymns	11:00 Contemporary Worship
13- Nov		8:30 1662 Holy Communion	9:30 Service of Remembrance		10:45 Service of Remembrance	10:40 Remembrance War Memorial	
20- Nov	9:30 Family Worship Communion ~ Benefice Celebration Group - Fritwell						11:00 Contemporary Worship

Services described as 1662, Matins or Evensong follow the traditional form as laid out in The Book of Common Prayer. Services described as 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 children.

For further details about services or requests concerning baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact a member of the Ministry Team



**CHERWELL VALLEY
WORLD DAY OF
PRAYER GROUP**



**FRIDAY 4TH NOVEMBER
1.30 – 3.30 Cedar House
Souldern. (345235)**

**JILL KNIGHT
THE GOLD
MINER'S
DAUGHTER**

Followed by discussion and
refreshments

ALL WELCOME

Would you like to be confirmed?

Confirmation classes have started

Please contact Rev Ian Biscoe
Heyford Park Chapel
Tel: 232439

Confirmations will take place on

17th November 2011

The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford

Rev Paul Hunt, 346739 paul@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk;

Rev Edward Green, 340562 edward@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk;

Rev Ian Biscoe, 232439 ian@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk

Mr John Hine (LLM) 350272;

Scott Goosen (YW) 233087 flockofgeese4@yahoo.com

Benefice Office 233687 Barbara@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Dear Friends

In the Cherwell Valley Benefice we enjoy a range of worship styles, formal and informal, ancient and modern. The 28 Sunday services every month can be subdivided into contemporary worship, informal modern language, formal modern language and traditional language. The most common of these categories is, surprisingly for some, traditional language. Half of the worship in the villages is rooted directly in the heritage of the Book of Common Prayer.

These services include the popular 8.30 am Communion, Communion with hymns, Sung Matins – a service originally intended to be said before Communion, Sung Matins and Holy Communion – re-establishing that intended link, and Traditional Language Communion – inspired by Cranmer's original intentions in the 1549 Common Prayer Book before the Puritan revisions.

Without being too contentious I will say that from time to time people complain to me that "you don't do traditional services anymore." Nothing could be further from the truth. Whilst some parishes have left behind the richness, rhythm and beauty of the language of the Prayer Book in the Cherwell Valley we intentionally celebrate it. Visitors to services from further afield have commented on the clear devotion of the worshipers at Prayer Book services and been deeply moved by them. Personally it is probably enough to say that my first celebration of Holy Communion as a priest was according to the Book of Common Prayer. Not that we use the Prayer Book strictly as intended by Cranmer. In the Communion the Prayer Book suggests that the Holy Table should be set up lengthways in the body of the church or in the chancel and the priest stand on the long north side of the table. Popular hymn singing is another innovation, as is the relaxation of the requirement for communicants to give a week's notice to the priest before making their Communion! How we use the Prayer Book is part of a living tradition of worship in the Church of England that has grown and changed over the last 400 years. Within the benefice you will notice slight variations that are common across the church – there is no one right way of doing things.

We are also blessed that most of us understand the language of the Prayer Book. Cranmer intended it to be *common* prayer, which all people could access and worship together with. It is a mistake to think however that Cranmer wrote in the vernacular or everyday language of the people. Instead he built upon the Christian tradition of using special language in worship, just as we may use special language to discuss our hobbies, our interests, or to communicate love to our spouse. The prose is poetic to modern ears, but would have been equally so to its first hearers.

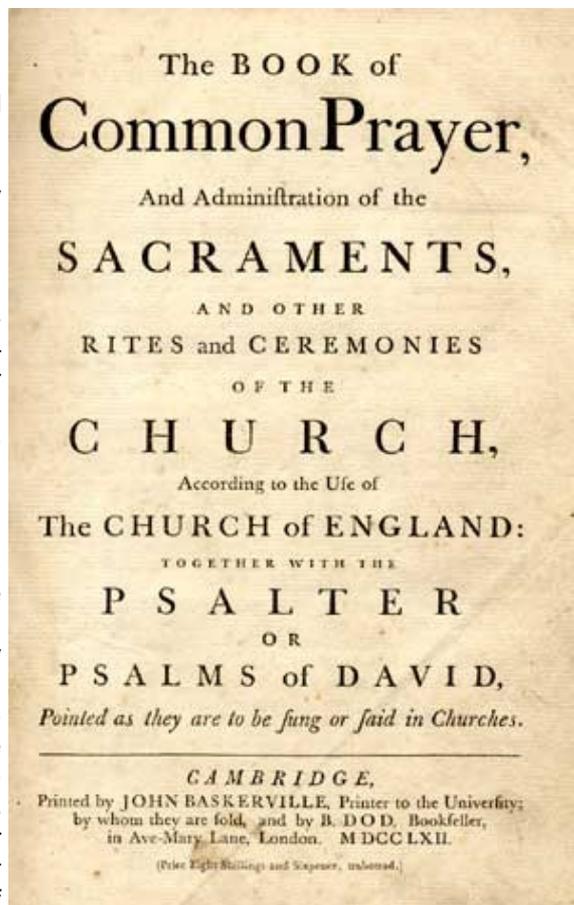
It is right that with our many Prayer Book services we also worship God in more modern language. But it would be another mistake to assume that special language wasn't used here also - even the most contemporary of worship songs, the most recent of hymns, the most child friendly of liturgies uses phrases, terms and poetry that we wouldn't use in everyday speech. This practice is ancient, special language for worshiping God is found in the New Testament, especially in Revelation which describes the liturgy of the early church, and is found in the Old Testament especially in the Psalms.

The Prayer Book is not so much an immovable point fixed in time and space, but part of the living tradition of Christian worship. Even services which do not directly use it rest in the same tradition of using meaningful, beautiful, holy language to worship God.

I would encourage all Christians to explore the diversity of worship within this tradition with humility and openness. If like me you find the Prayer Book a particularly special way of worshiping God then please do consider making that 10 minute trip to a nearby village on those Sundays where there is no Prayer Book service in your village. If you are unable to get to church at all I am more than happy to visit for home Communion, anointing of the sick, or the sacrament of reconciliation using forms drawn from the Book of Common Prayer. Finally if you wish to learn more I commend to you Dr Judith Maltby's upcoming talk at Deddington Parish Church on the 28th of November as part of their History of Christianity series of lectures. <http://www.historyofchristianity.org.uk>

However we worship, with hands held high or heads bowed low, with waves of noise or moments of silence, in modern or traditional language, let us do so in the beauty of holiness, giving worth to the One who is Holy, Father, Son and Spirit.

God bless, Eddie



What's on in the Cherwell Valley

3rd Annual Upper Heyford Quiz Night

Preparations are well underway for the Quiz Night scheduled for Saturday, 15 October at the Upper Heyford Village Hall. Cost is £10 per person which includes a baked potato meal with salad. A pay as you go bar and excellent raffle will also be available.

As always the prizes will be exceptional. We are asking that teams be a minimum of four people. However, if you can't raise a team of four, let us know and we will try and fit you in to tables that are not full.

Tickets are selling well and only a limited number are still available. Please contact Jack Goodman at 01869-232722 if you would like tickets or have any queries.



VALENTINE CLUB

GRAND JUMBLE SALE

STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 22 October

DOORS OPEN 2pm

New Years Eve Black Tie & Posh Frocks Dinner Dance

Upper Heyford Village Hall



Buffet supper

Doors open at 7pm

Tickets only £15

Not to be missed, book early, contact:

Jacqui 232272
Deborah 232986
Win 232793

Where do you think you live??



If you want to know more
The Historical Society
promises you an evening of discovery
of your Upper Heyford

**The Reading Room
Upper Heyford
Friday 18th November
7pm**

Illustrated talk with photos & maps
Voluntary donations
Please contact
Mary 232272
Ian 232788 ianloughscott@btinternet.com
if you would like to attend

What's going on at Cherwell District Council?

Councillor Calling

Bicester development has received its final green light with Ministerial approval for the Compulsory Purchase Order needed to acquire the complicated jigsaw of interests behind Sheep Street. You won't see major works immediately so as to give shops a clear run at Christmas before disruption starts. After that, it's up to us to make the effort to support our local traders through the works, so the services we need are there at the end of the process.

And more: the new high street, Sainsbury and cinema are just the first phase: Cherwell will then build a Civic Building on what is now the Franklin's Yard car park to accommodate a local presence for the District and County Councils, and also the Town Council, if they want, possibly a much expanded county library and an hotel to provide income to pay for the development (and provide a boost to local trade and employment). The awakening interest of hoteliers in our market town gives a completely unbiased endorsement of our plans.

Revised parking charges have jumped through the legal hoops and been agreed, so you should find it cheaper from mid-November – in time for Christmas shopping – but do, please, check the notices on the new timings so as not to get caught out.

Dial-a-Ride bus services have been scrutinised to come up with a consistent and equitable approach in place of each District in the County doing something different, while we were paying a huge amount per journey. It now looks like we'll have a county-wide "base line" scheme, which Cherwell can top up to fill in any gaps. Similarly, advice services and other volunteer-run schemes are being looked at to get the most out of them for what we put in.

Power generation is not what you usually think of your council doing. But we've approved six major schemes – one on each of the leisure centres, one at our offices and another at the vehicle depot – for photovoltaic panels to generate free electricity and benefit from the "feed-in tariff" subsidy. This is estimated to save 200 tons of carbon dioxide a year but, in hard cash, a 9% return on investment should justify the scheme to every council tax payer.

That vehicle depot, meanwhile, was judged "top performing and high quality" for vehicle maintenance. While this should, of course, reassure tax payers, it's bad news if you are looking to squeeze big savings out of it! So a recent study only found £20k per year from smarter purchasing (in consortium with other councils) and extending the working life of our heavy vehicles – but at least it shows there was no waste to eliminate in the first place.

Recycling rates fell below target, which seemed disappointing until I heard the explanation: that the exceptionally dry spring reduced the amount of (recyclable) garden waste, lowering the percentage without, of course, affecting what matters, the tonnage sent to landfill – relief!

Fly tipping puts the lie to those in the national Press predicting disaster from fortnightly rubbish collections. Incidents, which fell 30% two years ago and another 5% last year, are on track to drop another 5% this year. Robustly pursuing offenders in the courts clearly helps and, following presentations to magistrates on the cost of clearly up illegally dumped rubbish, awards of compensation have been rising so the polluter pays rather than the tax payer.

Satisfaction with fortnightly collections of garden and food waste showed directly how wrong the Press have got this, actually rising from a very respectable 75% to 80% in 2011.

Back to money, realising savings from joining up with South Northants is moving at a cracking pace on several fronts. Interviews are reaching a crescendo for the top two layers of management, who will be shared by the two councils. Meanwhile, services which can readily be spread across both areas are starting to amalgamate and, in parallel, shared purchasing and common computer systems are steadily yielding savings. All of which takes the pressure off services which matter to residents and reinforces our aim to freeze the rate of Council Tax for yet another year, despite the massive reductions in our grant.

Planning provides a new threat, with the ill-judged proposals to give developers carte blanche to build anywhere to stimulate economic growth. Our current powers to prevent ugly sprawl and to coordinate housing with jobs and facilities are weak enough – but, if these ideas aren't reversed, I might as well hand over my seat on the Planning Committee to the builders. If you are too busy to protest about nothing else, please make your feelings heard on this one!

Locally, though, you might also feel that, with a third hard winter forecast, the ludicrous proposal to give each Parish Clerk a one ton bag of salt and to leave them to fill their own parish's grit bins is also such a recipe for chaos as to generate a bit of protest too.

So, a lot going on and some gritty issues (if you'll forgive the pun) to get stuck in to!

James Macnamara

AUTUMN PRICE FALL!

The leafs are falling and so are the prices

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NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CHERWELL VALLEY

Heyfords WI

As I write this report I note that there are a mere 13 weeks to Christmas Eve, and with this in mind The Heyfords WI are holding a Bazaar on Saturday 26 November in the Reading Room from 10.00 to 12.30 pm We will be selling hand made items ranging from Christmas cards to shortbread and table decorations and more besides, there will be a raffle of course, the main prize being a homemade Christmas cake, so make a note on your calendar and we will look forward to seeing you. In August we decided to take an evening guided tour of Burford which has quite a history. 13 of us went and enjoyed a most interesting tour, taking in the Church and the Priory on the way. It was dark by the time we finished half way up the High St. Our September meeting was back in the Reading Room again, with a talk by Mr Lee Butler about Chinese medicine and techniques, including acupuncture. This was very interesting and gave us food for thought. Our next meeting will be on 19 October in the Reading Room from 7.30pm and will be a talk given by Andrew Hall and Mark Creed entitled Philosophy Hairdressing. We welcome all newcomers, don't wait to be asked just turn up at about 7.30pm and we will be delighted to see you. *Janet Lawrance*



Royal British Legion 90th Anniversary Party

The RBL 90th Anniversary Party held after the Flower Show on 3rd September was a great success and, from all accounts, everyone who came along thoroughly enjoyed it. The refreshments were delicious and the musicians, who matched the mood of the evening, delighted and entertained us throughout. It was never intended to make the event an aggressive fund raising occasion; but nevertheless, over £1,000 was raised for the Poppy Appeal - all due to those who attended, the kind people who helped put it together some very generous donations. To all of you, a very big thank you from the Royal British Legion.

Mike Lawrance, Chairman, Heyford and District RBL

DEDDINGTON HEALTH CENTRE

The surgery bus service is under threat!



The dial-a-ride bus service to the surgery may have to end in March 2012 because Cherwell District Council is withdrawing the funding from the charity which runs it.

The health centre is concerned about patients without cars that currently use the service and has suggested that a 'car scheme' similar to the one in place at Tackley might be the answer. The Tackley scheme is based on volunteers with a car providing transport for those without a car and with an agreed fee of 45p per mile for the car owner. Obviously the scheme requires a number of volunteers to provide flexibility and someone to take responsibility for coordinating the scheme.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the valley parishes please contact the practice manager, Sue Johnson on 338611 or visit the website; www.deddingtonsurgery.co.uk and go the 'Questions and Comments' page.

Flu Vaccination Clinics

Don't forget to have your flu jab.

If you are any of the following you are eligible: over 65, pregnant, a carer, health or social care worker, with a chronic disease. Book an appointment now!

Valley News is now on the Web

You can now find Valley News on the Web—look for **upperheyford.com** and click on Valley News. This should enable fewer copies to have to be sent by post. In future hard copies will only be posted to those without a computer. Copies in the villages and Heyford Park will be circulated as usual, however, in the interests of saving paper and reducing costs please let your contact know if you are content to look on your PC (or perhaps not even interested in the magazine).

Healthy Heyford

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

All welcome. Please ring to check our starting point if you are a new walker.

Yoga

Thursday evenings 7.15—8.45 pm

Upper Heyford Village Hall

Landscape Watercolour Painting Classes

Tuesday evening classes are held weekly in Upper Heyford Village Hall

For either walks yoga or painting please ring Jo 07734562028 for more details.

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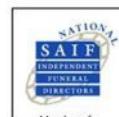
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Letters

To the residents of the Upper Heyford allotments,
Greetings!



Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Chris Ford and I am a resident of Upper Heyford. Last year I enrolled on a university programme and now I'm in my final year. It is a Masters degree in Photography and I've started working on my major thesis.

I've highlighted as my topic of reference and study a working title of *Personal Space*. I've already been photographing people inside their homes, the interior decor often reflecting the character of the occupant(s). Recently I've started working on *outside* space; in particular the local allotment. I'm photographically interested in two areas here. The first is the shape and design of the allotment shed. Although they may be similar, they all have unique and photogenic qualities. The second is how humankind interacts with the land, particular the allotment plot, how it is altered by both the person and by time. I've shot a few test images at the Upper Heyford allotment but I need more. As well, I need to do this as an on-going process, photographing how both time and seasons alter the allotment landscape. *Basically, I'm asking for your permission and understanding to allow me to continue this photographic imagery.*

I'm not your typical student – I'm a mature student and over 50 years of age. On any visits there, I've always kept to the grass areas and make a point to not trespass on anyone's plot of land. I'm not interested in making judgements on what is grown, nor do I pilfer anything there – I'm merely interested in shooting black & white film based photos on a medium format camera. These are then processed and printed quite large by me. I am an art based photographer and also work as a photo lecturer for an Oxford college. I've also been successfully CRB checked by the police, so my intentions are sincere. If you see me there, please feel free to ask me for my student identification card, I always carry it with me.

Finally, as an art photographer, the images will be used for my final degree presentation as well as for public exhibition. I'm booked into the Said Business School (Oxford) gallery for November 2012, where you are all invited to view the images hanging.

Sincerely, *Chris Ford*

A number of the images that Chris has taken are shown on the front cover of this issue. It is an interesting project that should receive our full support. Best of luck with your thesis Chris.

Agnes Thomson



Agnes will be remembered with great affection by all who knew her especially the patrons of the Barley Mow in the 70s & 80s. A most unlikely landlady, Agnes was quiet and reserved, however she adapted quickly to the rigour of running a village pub with its long working hours and the need to be companionable at all times. She was in fact a necessary foil for her husband Eddie, who could be prickly and bad tempered on occasions, whereas Agnes was always serene and good natured. Many Americans will have fond memories of the Barley Mow, which they will no doubt recall as a quaint English pub with a lovely landlady. Agnes was born in 1922 in Whitehaven in Cumbria, the youngest in a family of three sisters and two brothers. After school she went, as was usual at that time, in service but soon war broke out and she was posted to RAF Upper Heyford. Her job on the airfield was in a team responsible for the accumulators (batteries) a vital requirement for emergency power. Eddie was a sergeant in the fire section when they met and they were married in 1943, living firstly in New College Square and later at No 2 Rising Hill. On retirement from the Barley Mow Eddie and Agnes moved into their cottage No 20 High Street (Bunny Row), where later Agnes cared for Eddie during a long period of illness. Eddie died in 1997 and Agnes lived alone in her cottage for several years after Eddie had passed away, she regularly used the Dial-a-Ride bus to go shopping, and every fortnight took a pile of books out of the mobile library. Agnes was blessed with good neighbours who were very kind and supportive, and her former home has been named 'Agnes Cottage' in her memory, a lovely touch. Agnes moved into sheltered housing in Bicester and later into nursing homes where she was cared for wonderfully well.

Eddie & Agnes had two children, Anne and Ian.

Anne lives in Paris with husband Giuseppe, as do their two children Rebecca & Sara.

Ian lives in Launton with his two children Joshua and Naomi, sadly Ian's wife Pam died in May at a tragically young age.

Anne, Giuseppe, Rebecca and Sara look on Upper Heyford as their second home and we are delighted that they are able to return regularly to the village.

Agnes was a lovely lady who will be sadly missed

The Poetry Corner

One of the nice things about hosting a meeting of the Poetry Group is that one gets to choose both the poet and the poems and in June, Hansa and I hosted an evening featuring my favourite poet - Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

Alfred Tennyson was born in 1809, the fourth of twelve children, into what we would probably call today a “dysfunctional family”. His father, George, had been disinherited by his own wealthy father and had been forced to earn a living as a clergyman, a calling he did not like at all! Towards the end of his life, George became a violent and paranoid alcoholic. Although the family seems to have lived quite comfortably in material terms, these strains certainly affected Tennyson throughout his life.

At the age of 18, he managed to “escape” to Trinity College Cambridge, where he appears to have been happy, to have made some close and enduring friendships and to have begun his eminently successful career as a poet. One of his closest friends was a brilliant young man called Arthur Henry Hallam. Hallam became engaged to Tennyson’s sister, Emily, but at the ridiculously early age of 22, Hallam died suddenly of a stroke. Tennyson’s enduring grief over Hallam’s death led to some of his best poetry - *In Memoriam AHH*, *The Passing of Arthur* and *Ulysses*.

Tennyson died in 1882 at the age of 83. He lies buried in Westminster Abby where his memorial can be seen in Poets’ Corner.

It is instructive to consider the changes that Tennyson would have experienced in his long life. When he was born, George III (famous for the loss of the American Colonies and his own madness) was on the throne and two more kings, George IV and William IV, were to reign and die before Victoria came to the throne when he was 28 years old.

He was 5 when Wellington defeated Napoleon Bonaparte at the Battle of Waterloo, 24 when slavery was officially abolished in the British Empire, 44 when the Crimean War started and 49 when Queen Victoria was created Empress of India after the Indian Mutiny. In the year that he died, patents were issued for the diesel engine and the Edison two way telegraph, the General Electric Company was formed and viruses were discovered by a Russian botanist. Few men can have lived through such turbulent, changing and exciting times.

During the course of the evening, the Group looked at several of his poems. These included *Morte d’Arthur*, Tennyson’s imagined account of the death of the legendary King Arthur where he considers issues such as aging, change, loss, loyalty, faith and uncertainty. We also examined *Ulysses* (my own favourite poem) which is a speculative account of Ulysses’ disillusionment after his return to Ithaca after the Trojan War. The underlying theme is the human need to *carry on whatever the odds* and the poem may well have been influenced by Tennyson’s own despondency following Hallam’s untimely death.

No evening of Tennyson’s work would be complete without a reading of *The Charge of the Light Brigade*. This was written in 1854 to commemorate the famous charge at the Battle of Balaclava in the Crimea on the 25th of October that year. The structure of the poem has a wonderful rhythm where the reader can almost hear the horses’ hooves, but the words are bitter, contrasting sharply the discipline and bravery of the soldiers with the futility and stupidity of the order they were given.

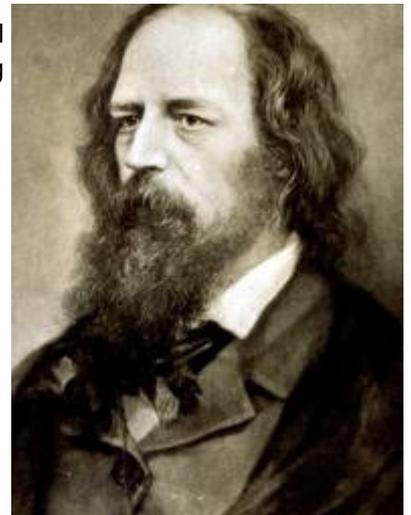
We ended with the poem which, at Tennyson’s own request, is published last in all collections of his work - *Crossing the Bar*. Written three years before he died, Tennyson takes as his metaphor for death the departure of a ship for an unknown destination. Having cast off, the ship must negotiate the harbour bar, a potentially hazardous manoeuvre possibly representing the mechanism of death, before finally setting sail and the poet prays that this might be achieved successfully and without difficulty.

Perhaps unusually for an Establishment figure of his time, Tennyson’s own spiritual views appear to have been somewhat uncertain but the poem ends with the uplifting words:

“I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar.”

Bob Menzies

If you are tempted to come and discover half-forgotten or new poems, we meet fortnightly in Upper Heyford during term time (on a Monday or a Thursday at 8.00) - but 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 – but there is no obligation. You can just sit and listen. If you want to find out more feel free to email Heather and Roger Burt (handr.burt@virgin.net).



SOMERTON NEWS

Somerton Bell Ringers

A group of bell ringers from Leicestershire will be ringing at 10.45am on Saturday 22nd October. They plan to also ring at North Aston and Lower Heyford as well. This will be the first group of visiting bell ringers this year.

You may have heard the bells ring some Friday evenings between 8-9.00pm. This is small group of us practising. If you hear us, you are most welcome to come along.

Neil Clare, Tower Captain

SOMERTON HISTORY PROJECT

This year we joined the Heritage Open Day scheme and put on an exhibition in St. James' Church.

On display was the V.P.A. film from 1943, a satellite map with photos of then and now, the 17th century clock mechanism which is shortly to be removed for restoration, several of the articles that have been completed along with lots more photographs. We had a good number of visitors, helped by the fact that it was the same day as the Ride and Stride, and all were very complimentary. We also gained more information and offers of old photos. The display will be up for a few more weeks until the restoration work begins but most of the information is on our website somertonoxon.co.uk including the film. If you have any memories, photos or tales to tell of Somerton we should love to hear from you.

Our next event will be on

Sunday 16 October at 6.30 p.m. in Somerton Village Hall entitled Oxfordshire in the Civil War

A Talk by John Fox

John is not merely a noted local historian; he is also a very gifted teacher and has some wonderful stories to tell. His latest book "The King's Smuggler" tells the remarkable story of Jane Whorwood, a dynamic Scottish woman who lived at Holton and who repeatedly risked her life in order to assist and protect Charles I. One of her feats was to arrange the smuggling out of London to the King's headquarters in Oxford, £85,000 of gold, weighing approximately three-quarters of a ton. It was hidden in barrels of soap carried by the royal laundresses, one of the few groups of people allowed to pass freely between London and Oxford. John himself lives at Wheatley which was on the frontline between the Royalist and Parliamentary forces and will give us a graphic picture of the impact of the Civil War on the county.

A suggested minimum donation of £3 will entitle you to a glass of wine on arrival. All welcome.

The talk will start at 7.00p.m.



SOMERTON VILLAGE PRODUCE SHOW

Again the village show was a great success, although the number of entries were a little down this year. The quality of the exhibits was good and the winners of the special awards were as follows:

The Emberlin Cup	Derrick Kingdom
The Ivor Greenhouse Cup	Neil Clare
The Baldwin Cup	Sebastian Prentice
The Walter Smith Cup	Derrick Kingdom
The Ethel Smith Cup	Chris Gresham-Smith
The Children's Cup	*Joint Katie & Amy Reeves
Best Children's exhibit	Ellen Beaufoy
Best Horticultural exhibit	Sebastian Prentice
Best Domestic exhibit	Alice Bowmaker

The judges for the different categories were:

Peter James - vegetables, fruit & plants

Jules Thomas - cookery

Lynn Humberstone - crafts

Chris Hunt - flower arranging

Tony Ertl - photographs

Children's classes combined judges

The committee appreciates the time the judges gave to the show. Thanks to Lucy Reeves and her daughter Sam for running the raffle. Surplus produce was auctioned at the end by our chairman John Gattley in aid of funds.

This year we changed the method of taking entries as last year we had such a rush at the last minute which was very difficult to officiate, but due to our committee member Brian Parkes a new method was introduced and as well as doing this Brian did all the printing - thank you Brian from the committee. We thank everyone for entering the show and will be back next year.

Anne Corner (Hon. Sec)

Fireworks in church

Last Saturday's concert in church by the Wendlebury Winds was a great success. An audience of over 50 had a very enjoyable evening. The encore, Scott Joplin's The Entertainer, had us all tapping our feet. We raised over £500. Many thanks to all concerned.

On the afternoon of Sunday 25th September, Neil Clare, a member of the PCC, did an interesting tour of parts of the village and land around. and raised money for the History Project. Many thanks to Neil.

SOMERTON TABLE TOP SALE SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER BARNES

MEMORIAL HALL

10.00 - 12.30

Tables £6

Setting up from 9.00 am

Refreshments, Raffle

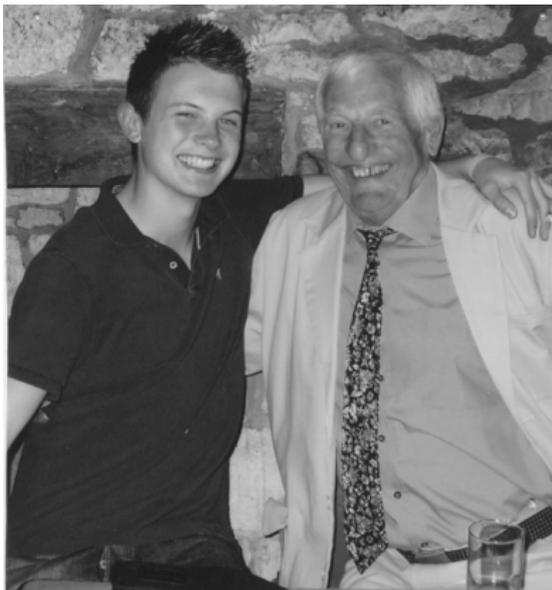
FINAL CHURCHYARD CLEAN-UP!

Date: Saturday, 15th October

Time: 10am - 12noon

Please bring: Secateurs, trowels, forks, rakes etc but especially implements for cutting the grass for the last time before the Winter.

John Henry Fowler 2/12/1935—3/09/2011



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of John after a long illness. John had a marvellous personality, quick-witted and always friendly and with a positive attitude to life in general. He was a very knowledgeable man and liked nothing more than delving into reference books, this made him an important member of any quiz team and the first port of call for the grandchildren's homework. John was a brilliant family man, taking his children on holiday on the river or sea, and later his grandchildren on caravan holidays to Weymouth and Dawlish and London shows. His family meant everything to John and he passed on to them the important advice to enjoy your work and always do your best.

John had a very inventive mind and made all sorts of gadgets including a wood burning stove. He was always active, he had two allotments and grew all the vegetables the family needed.

John played football for Middle Barton and Banbury Buildings, where he worked for 30 years. He was born in Middle Barton and lived there until 12 years ago when he moved to Upper Heyford, where he soon settled in and became a well respected and much loved member of the community, especially at the Warreners.

John's committal service at the Crematorium was warm and informal, when Pat, his sons and grandchildren spoke so movingly of the happiness John had engendered throughout their time together and how important it is to continue John's philosophy on life— be happy and content.

His smiling face and friendly banter will be sadly missed

Message of thanks from Pat

Pat and family would like to thank all their dear friends who sent messages of sympathy at their recent very sad loss of a beloved husband, father and grandfather. A special mention of Jackie and Tony Bass of 'The Fox' at Middle Barton for the lovely spread they laid on, and to the friends at the Middle Barton Social Club who made a very welcome cup of tea. Also love and thanks to the friends who arranged the lighting up of St Mary's Church, Upper Heyford on Friday 16th for John

Community Learning at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

School's Out Holiday Activity Programme

School's Out is a children's activity programme running every school holiday (except bank holidays) at The Marlborough School: 24-28 October, 19-22 December, 13-17 February. Activities will include:

- Art, craft and cookery (6+)
- Sports activities (6+)
- Street dance (8+)
- Sewing Magic (8+)
- Be a DJ (8+)
- Survival (8+)
- Forest Adventure (8+)

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

Costs are £17.25 per day/£80.50 per week, or for a family ticket (up to four children from the same family) £36.50 per day. There is an additional charge of £3.75 per child per session for the morning chill out and £5.75 for the afternoon Chill Out (8+).

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

Courses fill up very quickly so please book early to avoid disappointment - Mrs Jenny Bodinham, Administrator

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LOWER HEYFORD NEWS

Lower Heyford – New Playground Initiative



An exhibition of play equipment for consideration

The Friends of Lower Heyford Playground Committee will be displaying proposed designs for a new playground from a variety of different companies during the weekend of 8/9 October in The Bell Pub, Lower Heyford. We will be inviting comment about the designs in order to make a decision about which company to use. The display will be accompanied by a cake sale. This will run from 1200 to 1500 hrs each day.

Why not join the 200 Club!

Monthly prizes £30 / £15 / £5

Annual fee £20

Please contact Emma Mortimore for further information at emma.mortimore@tesco.net.

Proceeds in aid of new play equipment

LOWER HEYFORD BOWLS CLUB

Our short season is now over and here are the results of the concluding matches:

30th July- Lower Heyford **75** shots Chipping Norton 62
4th Aug -Adderbury **65** shots Lower Heyford 61shots
6th Aug-Lower Heyford **64** shots Oxon Fire Service 51
13th Aug-Lower Heyford **67** shots Middle Barton 56 shots
20th Aug-Lower Heyford **73** shots Deddington 55 shots
27th Aug-Wychwood 58 shots Lower Heyford **65** shots
30th Aug-Lower Heyford 58 shot s Woodstock **64** shots
3rd Sep-Begbroke 45 shots Lower Heyford **61** shots
10th Sep-Lower Heyford 44 shots Chadlington **78** shots

WEST OXFORDSHIRE MIXED BOWLS LEAGUE

Lower Heyford finished runners-up to champions Woodstock. This is the Club's best performance in this competition since winning in 2003, our first season in the league

Would those interested please notify me, so that I can keep them in touch with news of the start of next season around mid to late April

Roger Bowen (rogerbowen@btinternet.com or 01869-3404060)

Souldern Clocks!

Joseph Gibbs - The Souldern Clock & Watch Maker

Research has established that Joseph Gibbs was working for the Fardon family at Deddington in 1805. The Fardons were a well established Quaker family of clock and watch makers who had commenced trading at Deddington in 1726. Three generations of the family continued to trade there until John Fardon finally moved to Woodstock in 1845. Fardon



clocks and watches are held in high regard and there are several examples in the Museum of History of Science at Broad Street Oxford.

When Joseph felt that he was ready to set up his own clock and watch making business, he left the Fardons and decided to move to Souldern. It is understood that he lived and worked at The Cottage in High Street next to the pump. Following the move to Souldern he chose to sign his clocks and watches either with "Gibbs Souldern" or "Joshua Gibbs Souldern". Although now quite rare, there are fortunately a few examples of his work which are still in good working order and photographs showing a pocket watch and a long case clock are shown here.

The long case 30 hour clock movement is housed in a mahogany and oak case, and the eleven inch square, hand painted dial is decorated with a rustic cottage. Sea shells adorn each of the corner margins. The day of the month can be read through a calendar aperture and just below this is the maker's signature "Gibbs Souldern".

The pocket watch has a chain fusee verge movement, which is housed in a two inch diameter solid silver hunting case to give it full protection. "Joshua Gibbs Souldern 1833" is finely engraved on the gilded back plate of the movement.

During the early 1840s Joseph was invited to return to Fardons at Deddington as a partner to John Fardon and when John moved to Woodstock, Joseph took over the business and he continued to trade under his own name until 1855.

Henry Westbury



UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

From the Friends of St. Mary's.

We have various announcements to make. First of all, permission has been granted by the church authorities for the repairs to the chancel roof to go ahead. This is very good news and we all hope that the work can be put in hand soon, before the winter weather begins.



Next, a big thank you is due to all the people who came to clean the church on Saturday 20th August. There were about fifteen of us during the course of the day, carrying on from where Vaughn, the professional cleaner, had left off. Vaughn had come a couple of days earlier, bringing powerful machines, including an air compressor which he used to blast the dirt out of the intricate carvings on the pillars. He said that much of the dust that came out had been left there by the stone mason a century and a half ago! The carvings are now wonderfully sharp and well worth a look. He also cleaned the porch from roof level on down. We now need some clever person to put mesh up there to keep the birds from roosting on the beams.

The wooden floors had already been given a rejuvenating treatment by Bob Beere. Others had previously cleaned and repainted the carved wooden screen between the nave and the tower room at the back of the church. After Vaughn, the rest of us did the following: flaky paint was scraped off the walls and the bare areas recoated with the correct formula; every nook and cranny in the main body of the church was dusted or washed, including ledges and lintels; the organ was wiped down all over and polished, and the tin pipes wiped with baby oil - which is good treatment for stainless steel, too, if you're interested; a small gang of men, appropriately on their knees, scraped some of the floor tiles which are disfigured by limey deposits and treated them with brick cleaner, which was arduous work, but worth the effort (we must try to get them all done); all the pews were wiped down and wax polished and, finally, vacuum cleaners were humming away well into the afternoon. The church ended up looking altogether cleaner, brighter and more cared for and smelled of beeswax rather than damp.

The churchyard is looking better, too, thanks to the efforts of Bob Beere and Pete James, who, between them, have got the place much tidier than it has been for some time. Big areas of nettles have been cut down or sprayed, piles of dead branches removed, ivy pulled from walls, some old gravestones neatly exposed and the grass meticulously cut. It does make a huge difference. Visitors to the church - and there are quite a number of them these days - must notice that standards are being kept up.

Edward (Ed) Latimer

We are saddened to report the passing Ed Latimer who was laid to rest in Upper Heyford cemetery on 30 September. Ed had lived on Heyford Leys for many years and was a former member of Warreners. He was quiet and well respected, and a man with strongly held religious views. He will be sadly missed by the community.

St Mary's Church



The Harvest Festival.

Next on the agenda is going to be decorating and cleaning again before the Harvest Service on Sunday, 16th October. This, you may recall from a previous note in the Valley News, will be a *half-hour service of traditional harvest hymns, prayers and readings, starting at 12:00 noon, before a Ploughman's Lunch served in the church.* We would like to make this a memorable occasion by lavishly decorating the church with flowers and garden produce, as it used to be done years ago. Any tinned or preserved food which is brought along will go to the Bicester Food Bank afterwards and fresh produce to Katharine House Hospice.

We would like help from anyone who is free on the morning of Friday 14th October and again on Saturday 15th to arrange flowers and produce and to help clean the church. The main tasks will be vacuuming and polishing, but anyone willing to apply brick cleaner (dilute hydrochloric acid solution!) to the floor tiles would also be very welcome.

After that, do please come to the service!

We are sorry to lose you

Neil, Eileen & Lauren Protheroe are moving to New Zealand and leaving the village after 14 years. It is always sad to lose good friends but we wish them well in their new venture on the other side of the world. We also thank Neil & Eileen for the contributions they have made to our community, in respect of the church and in particular the Reading Room, where Neil has carried out many hours of electrical work completely free of charge. Our very best wishes & bon voyage Andrew & Lorraine Spooner have also moved on, in the relatively short period with us Andrew contributed an enormous amount of time on the design work for the Reading Room project and the fine building we now enjoy is in no small part down to his professional skills, again all free of charge. Thank you, Andrew

Flower Show report

Once again the weather was kind to us and we enjoyed a lovely day together at the Upper Heyford Flower Show. Congratulations to all the winners. The event realised just over £600 clear profit to go towards refurbishing the Village Hall. If anyone would like to see the breakdown of this please get in touch with one of the organisers.

Happily the Show this year had that special sparkle with the presence of Mr. Jimmy Hatwell. He brought an enthusiasm and warmth that could be felt by those who know him and by many who do not. His opening speech was punctuated by the mentioning of Upper Heyford family names that he and his family have known through their long association with the Flower Show. We appreciate his taking the time to be with us and we thank him.

As all of us know Village Halls, Marquees and the like do not magically present themselves fully equipped and ready for our enjoyment on Flower Show day. Nor do items to both exhibit and sell get themselves into these places. Many people spend many hours preparing for the Show, so to all who helped in any way heartfelt thanks. Thanks also to those who came and parted with their money.

Overall exhibits were down by a small percentage but profit was raised also by a small percentage on last year. However, that is the nature of these events. See you next year on 1st September.

Warreners

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of John Fowler. John was a member who always brought a smile or joke to the proceedings, we shall miss him tremendously, and we know Pat and his family will too.

At our September meeting Clive Jones gave a slide show entitled 'Wonders of Oxford', places that most of us had never visited or seen, really spectacular views and to think just 15 miles from the village!

On 12th October we will be holding our harvest lunch, starting at **1 pm**

The meeting on 9th November will be a social occasion with bingo, and on 30th November our Christmas lunch will be at Fringford Village Hall, a repeat of last year's which was enjoyed by everyone.

STOP PRESS

The Macmillan Coffee Morning held on 30 September in the Reading Room raised £350 for this most important charity. Many thanks to everyone who contributed especially the visitors from outside the village. It was a gloriously warm and sunny day with the Green & Reading Room looking resplendent.

Floodlighting St. Mary's Church August & September.

10 th August	In celebration of Edith Murray's 98 th birthday. 'Love from Sheila and Bernard' (Medlin).
20 th August	In celebration of the Sapphire wedding anniversary (45 th) of Veronica and Ian Lough – Scott. 'Congratulations and all our love, Ismay, Jim and family in California, U.S.A.'
11 th September	In celebration of the Ruby wedding anniversary of Maureen and Peter James. 'Congratulations and love from Ann & Mary'
12 th September	In celebration of the birthday of Glenys Brain. 'Always Remembered.' Dump, Clare, Donna and families.
15 th September	To the memory of Elizabeth Allen, one time mistress of Upper Heyford mill, who died in 1870, aged 82. By her 3xG grandson and wife, Jane and Paul Henderson Canada.
16 th September	In celebration of the birthday of the late Jan Woski. 'All my love, Ann
16 th September	In memory of our dear friend, John Fowler, who passed away 3 rd September, 2011. 'Lighting your way to Heaven.' From Ray, Jean, Joan, Maureen and Trish.
29 th September	In celebration of the wedding anniversary of Donna and Trevor Husband. 'Trevor, happy 10 th wedding anniversary. All my love, Donna.'

A Church treasurer is needed

Nick Alcraft is standing down as the treasurer of St Mary's Upper Heyford after over 3 years in the job, so a replacement is required.

Would you be prepared to keep the books for our local church? The main work entails:

- Recording income and expenses;
- Recording and claiming gift aid;
- Producing annual financial statements.

You may need to spend an average of 2 hours a month, plus a bit more to produce the year end financial statements in January each year. You don't need to be a regular churchgoer, however you need to be interested in the Church and its wellbeing.

Nick would be happy to help with any handover if necessary. Please contact Barbara on 233687 or barbara@cherwellvalley.org.uk

Our thanks to Nick for kindly doing the job for 3 years

BINGO IS BACK?

Friday 7th October
7.30 pm

Upper Heyford Village Hall

And the first Friday of the month
thereafter

Proceeds in aid of the church
fabric fund



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Coarse Gardening.

On our side of the canal at The Willows, there is a fringe of reeds and other water plants, such as the wild yellow flag iris, which are tough enough to withstand the pollution (mainly oil) from the boats. Other plants, put in expensively by me, took one look and died, of course. At one point, the burr-reeds form a quite decent bed, where ducks roost and Maureen the Moorhen has her nest in spring. I am pleased to note that a bulrush plant has established itself in the middle of this and is growing healthily, though it has not yet produced its truncheon-like mace. Strictly speaking, I should refer to it as a reedmace, *Typha latifolia*, because the bulrush is - or was - another plant altogether. But nobody really uses the name reedmace any more. It is all the fault of an artist, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, whose famous painting of Moses in the Bulrushes shows the basketful of baby being discovered by Pharaoh's daughter after his little solo boating trip down the Nile. The artist, of course, chose the wrong plant and so the name bulrush has evermore been attached to the reedmace. This is, perhaps, an example of Artistic Licence, though, to quote the famously irascible Harold Ross, some time editor of the *New Yorker*, why should artists have a licence to Get Things Wrong? There's another painting, by Paul Delaroche this time, that shows wee Moses afloat in a bed of what appears to be Norfolk Reed. Very useful for thatching.

I like this small reedbed of ours because it is a mini-habitat which is unlike anything else in the garden. As well as the bulrush, it harbours a colony of a wild balsam - not the big, fleshy, pink flowered, rather stinky Himalayan balsam so beloved of bumble bees, which fumble its flowers, and small children, who pop its seedpods, but a much more reticent orange flowered one. It is an annual with the characteristic exploding seedpods (hence its Latin name of *Impatiens*, the impatient or 'touchy' plant), quite small and elegant compared with the giant invader from India which is becoming such a pest along riversides in the UK. I have noticed it here and there by the canal, with its feet in the water, ever since we arrived here, and had assumed that it was a British native species, possibly quite rare because I had never seen it before anywhere else, but I never got around to identifying it until the other day. It turns out to be *Impatiens capensis*, from North America, so I suppose it is quite at home here, just below the ex-US airbase. I like it. It is a quiet, unassuming, modest little thing, just like most Americans, and is never going to make a takeover bid for British Waterways.

This summer, I have spent some time killing off the nettles and bindweed which were beginning to colonise the drier patch in the middle of the reeds, because I have plans for it. The story is this: many years ago, my brother-in-law bought his first house and was delighted to see many clumps of daffodils coming up in the garden. As they developed, it could be seen that their leaves were a much greener green than you might expect, glossy, like young privet, not the usual bluey-grey. And the flower buds, when they came up, were lumpy. To his great disappointment they were not daffodils at all, but Summer Snowflakes, *Leucojum aestivum*, a bulb which looks a lot like a giant, multiheaded snowdrop, two feet tall. The individual flowers are the size of an acorn cup and have a charm all of their own, but none of the impact you would get from a garden full of big, fat, yellow daffodils, which is what he wanted. Then, last year, I received a small parcel of its bulbs as a freebie in with an order. Some of you perhaps noticed them when the garden was opened in tulip time.

They didn't look like much. Since then, though, I have read the excellent *Flora Britannica* by Richard Mabey, in which there is a whole section about this plant, and I have learned a lot.

I had got it in the wrong place for a start, in the wrong conditions, with the wrong companions, and had eclipsed it with noisy tulips, poor thing. It turns out that another common name for this leucojum is the Loddon Lily and it is one of those plants, like the snake's head fritillary and the snowdrop, which may or may not be a true wild native of this country. I never knew it could be seen in the wild here at all, yet it can, in large numbers in some places, especially in the Loddon Valley, and was named as the county flower of Berkshire in 2002.

Mabey describes the Loddon Lily as growing in wooded swamps which flood in winter, (what we Norfolkmen would call alder or willow carr), the sort of place where you would expect to find kingcups growing in black mud among the weedy trees. Great stands of it can occur. It has puffed-up fleshy seed pods which float away at flood times to colonise other swampy spots. South of Sandford Mill, near Twyford, there are wet places beside the river, very hard to get at, he says, where, in April it grows in great swathes hundreds of yards across. A photograph in the book shows it in the gloom beneath the trees looking like a fabulous sweep of white bluebells. An amazing sight! Well, we have the willows, reeds, gloom and mud already in place, so you may take a well-informed guess at what I have been ordering from the Dutchmen this autumn. Really coarse gardening will certainly involve squelching about in the deep, smelly black stuff. I very much hope the results will be visible next year from the towpath opposite, before the reeds really get going in the spring.

Topical tip: *Doing the church flowers.* Very relevant with the Harvest Service coming up. The best time to gather the flowers is early in the morning, while the dew is still on them. Take a bucket of water with you, to plunge the flowers in the second they are cut, so they won't get airlocks in their vessels. Choose your best blooms, of course. Fill the bucket with flowers - be generous; it's all in a good cause. Then, remember that you have left your breakfast bacon in a frying pan on the heat, panic, and leap backwards, overturning the bucket. Trample on all the cut flowers. Be sure to mash them thoroughly. Race to the kitchen before the neighbours/your spouse/fire brigade. Go out and buy cheap chrysanthus from the garage.

All the best. If your garden looks a mess, don't despair, winter is coming - it'll all die.
Roger Burt.

Reference: *Flora Britannica* - The Concise Edition. Richard Mabey. Chatto & Windus 1998. ISBN 0-7011-6731-9 RRP £15-99. Cheaper on Amazon.



Caulcott in the 40s

Back in the 1940s it looked quite a lot different from today.

Arriving in the village from Lower Heyford the first house was where the postman and his wife lived. Next to that house on the B4030 road was an old pit, probably dug out as a quarry. There were barns down in there. We always knew it as 'Butlers pit'. That was the name of the family who used it.

Then on the corner of the village street now known as South Street was and still is the Horse and Groom public house. Jack Smith was the landlord then. We could go and buy a bag of crisps with a blue twist of salt in it for 2d. Further along that road which leads to Middleton Stoney was a small meeting house. It may have been originally a Quakers House. The Horse and Groom was one of the lucky places to have electricity, albeit home generated.

Just along the street was a row of small cottages. They had no front gardens. There was either three or four of them in a row. Then followed the low garden wall before the next cottage which belonged to a Mr and Mrs Butler. Adjoining their cottage was an old school room that was converted to a home for their daughter and her husband and children to live in. There were fields on the other side of the road and no houses then. Next to the school conversion was a barn and next to that another little cottage facing sideways onto the road. These properties all belonged to George and Bessie Butler. They were brother and sister, neither ever married. I remember them as very kind hearted people.

There was a small field then before the next farm. This one laid back from the road, there was a little pond at the bottom of the yard that was lined with pig sties and stables. With a wall separating the yard from the long front garden. Opposite this farm was a field with a very deep well in the corner next to a footpath. This footpath led to Lower Heyford. There had been no houses on that side of the street until then.

Next to the well was two little cottages with iron railing in front of them enclosing tiny gardens. Opposite these cottages and next the long front garden was a large house with stone and brick buildings. There was a Captain and Mrs. Wilson there. They had a generator in one of the buildings to make their own electricity. Their garden was large and went almost to the corner of the road that is now called 'Greenways'.

I remember being taken there once when their gardener was mowing the large lawn. He had a little donkey with leather shoes on to use the mower. At the end of that garden were more barns, but no farmhouse. From the two little cottages by the well on the other side of the street was an orchard with a farmhouse back behind it. They also generated their own electricity. The farm buildings for that farm were along the side of the street.

Next to the farm yard and the barns was another row of small cottages. These were occupied by families who probably worked on the farms. There was also another little school room that I remember being cleaned out sometime in the late 40's. I remember having a slate and a 'pen' that children had used for many years before. That school was then used for parties by families who rented it for birthdays etc.

Where the corner of the road came was always known as Blenheim in those days. There weren't many houses along that part of the village back then. The little cottages on the corner had little brick lavatories just along the garden path.

Next to the gardens belonging to those cottages was a large house up steps. The family that I recall living there were by the name of Coleman. There were not many more cottages along that road then. Just one on its own and a row of small cottages that were being knocked into larger ones by joining them together.

Around that corner there were no house right up to the Kirtlington road on the other side. At the end of that road was and still is Firtree Farm, the original farm house has since been replaced.

The road that is now called 'Greenways' had wide grass verges. Romany caravans used to park there for weeks at a time. Some of the men were quite good workers and willing to help, especially at busy times on the farm. They knew that they wouldn't get a large wage but were happy with the vegetables or anything that farmers could spare. I can't remember my parents complaining that they had caused any trouble, although they did sometimes help themselves.

Those were the days, more next time, June Messenger

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