

Valley News

April 2014

No 212

News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



Photo: Clifford Reeves

The first two new homes at Heyford Park

The first two of many, but how many?

Valley News is delivered FREE to every household in:

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

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Church Services in the Valley

The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford		www.cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk
For further details about services or requests concerning baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact the benefice office		
Rev Stephen Griffiths	01869 233249	stephen@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk
Rev Peter Bernhard	07970855354	peter@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk
Mr. John Hine (LLM)	01869 278565	john@hineandco.com
Benefice Office	01869 233687	administrator@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk

	Ardley St Marys	Fritwell St Olave's	Lower Hey- ford & Caulcott St Mary's	Somerton St James	Souldern ABVM	Upper Heyford St Mary's	Heyford Park The Chapel
6-Apr	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship +APCM	11:00 1662 Communion	No service	11:00 Matins	9:30 Traditional Language Communion	11:00 Con- temporary Worship Communion
13-Apr	9:30 Benefice Communion Service - Somerton						
14-Apr	10:00am Holy Communion - Ardley			7:00pm Night Prayer & Reflection – Upper Heyford			
15-Apr	10:00am Holy Communion - Lower Heyford			7:00pm Night Prayer & Reflection - Fritwell			
16-Apr	10:00am Holy Communion - Souldern			7:00pm Night Prayer & Reflection - Somerton			
17-Apr	8:00 pm Maundy Thursday (Foot Washing) - Heyford Park Chapel						
18-Apr	10:00 - 12:00 Easter Workshop & Family Service Heyford Park Chapel			4:00 PM Liturgy of the Cross Souldern			
20-Apr	6:00 am Sunrise Ser- vice & Easter Communion	11:00 Easter Communion	11:00 Easter Communion	9:30 Easter Com- munion	8:30 Easter Commun- ion	9:30 Easter Com- munion	11:00 Con- temporary Worship
27-Apr	9:30 Benefice Communion Service – Upper Heyford						
4-May	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 Communion	No Service	11:00 Matins	9:30 Traditional Language Communion	11:00 Con- temporary Worship
11-May	9:30 Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	9:30 Sunday Club	11:00 Sung Eucharist	9:30 Matins	11:00 Con- temporary Worship Communion
18-May	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Morning Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	No service	11:00 Con- temporary Worship
25-May	9:30 Family Worship	6:00 Even- song	11:00 Fam- ily Commun- ion	9:30 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Morning Prayer	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 All Age Ser- vice
29-May	Ascension Day Benefice Service - 7:30 HC at Fritwell Chapel						

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

CHERWELL VALLEY BENEFICE

Dear friends,

In our Lent meetings this year have been following a study series called 'Pilgrim'. It is a newly written resource produced by the Church of England. It begins by introducing us to some of the most basic but profound truths of the Christian faith, exploring God's nature as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and looking what the right response to God is. Even for the most mature churchgoer it's good to get back from time to time to the heart of the Christian message and rediscover the hope and joy that are to be found in our relationship with God.

The title 'Pilgrim' is a helpful one. It reminds us that life is a journey, often filled with twists and turns and unexpected joys and sorrows. The course helps us to consider how God is present alongside us on our journey. Pilgrims often walk together and during the course there have been many useful opportunities to discuss ideas and share our stories. Using material from the wealth of spiritual writers throughout church history we have been reminded of those who have gone before us in the faith of Christ and who have now passed the baton on to our generation. One early Christian writer, Ambrose (c.340-397), theologian and Bishop of Milan, wrote:

Let your door stand open to receive Christ, unlock your soul to him, offer him a welcome in your mind, and then you will see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, and the joy of grace. Throw wide the gate of your heart, stand before the sun of the everlasting light that shines on everyone. This true light shines on all, but if any close their windows they will deprive themselves of eternal light. If you shut the door of your mind, you shut out Christ. Though he can enter, he does not want to force his way in rudely, or compel us to admit him against our will.

This is very much the spirit of the 'Pilgrim' course. It is about an invitation, an opportunity to consider the claims of Christ, a safe place to ask questions and engage in discussion. This is a central part of the ministry of the Church of England, although perhaps it has been a little overlooked in recent years. In his introduction to the Pilgrim course the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, writes:

[Pilgrim] is offered to the parishes and communities of the Church of England that we might take more seriously the Great Commission to make disciples, and build in each of our parishes a place where people can come to know Christ and follow in the way of faith.

We plan to make 'Pilgrim' a permanent feature of our ministry in the Cherwell Valley Benefice. Please check the Benefice website and the weekly pew sheets for news of forthcoming groups. If you are interested in attending the course, or hosting a course for your community, please let me know.

Two final updates:

We hope to appoint a Team Vicar, to replace Rev'd Eddie Green, for our Benefice in May. The Team Vicar will live in Fritwell.

There is a wide variety of events and services leading up to Easter and over the Easter weekend. Please join us if you can.

May I wish you, in advance, a Happy Easter and thank you for your support for the churches in our Benefice. Yours in the service of Jesus Christ, Stephen

Friends of St. Mary's Upper Heyford - Open Garden.

Our gamble with the weather paid off and, in fact, Sunday 16th March turned out to be better than the forecasts had predicted, with blue skies all day - not a cloud in sight - warm and sunny enough to bring out more flowers, bumble bees, at least three kinds of butterflies, and Chris Coe's knees (he wore shorts, the first of the season). At least eighty people came to The Willows, possibly more - we took £202-00 at the door, which, at £2-00 a head, seems to suggest a hundred and one visitors, but apparently some gave more than the asking price so we don't have an exact count.

We had only managed, at the last minute, as it were, to mail-shot leaflets around Upper Heyford, but several people had kindly spread the word one way and another and quite a lot of visitors came from further afield. It was a delight to see the benches around the garden all occupied, groups picnicking on the lawn and children playing in the sunshine.

As well as the takings at the door, a further £69-20 was given as donations and the Home Produce stall took £94-00, thus giving a grand total on the day of £365-20, all of which will go to St. Mary's Restoration Fund.

Huge thanks to all who worked so hard on the day, helping in invaluable ways without much prior warning, and to those who brought home-made produce to sell.

Heather and Roger Burt.

RIDE+STRIDE

13 September 2014

It is time to start the preparations for this year's Ride and Stride event which this year is to be held on Saturday 13th September. It is Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust's 50th anniversary this year and a new website has been launched in the last few days; please take the time to visit it at www.ohct.org.uk.

Please support your local church by walking, cycling or welcoming visitors at the church

WHAT'S ON IN THE CHERWELL VALLEY

Upper Heyford Artweeks



Join us for an exhibition of art work by villagers and UH art class members.

As part of Oxfordshire Artweeks, we are filling the Village Hall with a variety of art and crafts - a large selection of paintings, ceramics, sculptures, textiles, glass, woodwork (and more!) will be on display and for sale.

Tea and cakes will also be served during the exhibition (in support of village hall).



The exhibition will take place over two weekends in UH Village Hall; Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th May, 12 - 6 and Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th May, 12 - 6

Come and enjoy our art and tea and cakes!

EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA

**Barnes Memorial Hall
Somerton**

Sunday 6th April 2-4

Childrens Craft Table, Games

Books, Gifts, Bric a Brac,

Puzzles, Pictures.

Tea & Home Made Cakes

SOULDERN COMMUNITY MARKET

Dates for 2014

Apr 19th ~ May 17th ~ Jun 21st

9:00-12:00

**In the Village Hall
(3rd Saturday of the month)**

Locally produced, grown, baked or created
Provisions, Plants, Gifts & Cards
(subject to availability)

Bacon/Sausage Baps, Tea & Coffee
(to eat in or take out)

Contact: Barbara McGarry

Tel: 01869 345931

barbara.a.mcgarry@gmail.com



® We do have a local post office!

(albeit for just 3/4 hour each week)

Cathy from Fritwell Post Office visits
Upper Heyford Village Hall
each week on a
Thursday 11.30am—12.15pm

Avoid the long wait at Bicester Post Office, Cathy can help with stamps, home shopping returns, personal banking (including most of the High Street banks) card cash, pensions & postal orders.

HEALTHY HEYFORD WALKS

The Heyford Walking Group meets at 10am at Upper Heyford Village (occasionally starting elsewhere) for a leisurely walk of about 4 miles, usually finishing at noon. It's an easygoing friendly group, newcomers will be made most welcome. Contact: Jo 07734562028

Fridays: 4 April & 2 May

Upper Heyford Village Hall

All money prizes & good raffle

In aid of the church Restoration Fund





Upper Heyford Autumn Flower and Produce Show

Saturday 20th September 2014, 2pm – 4pm

ENTER INTO THE FUN

The Flower Show has a new name, a new committee and a new date; there are a lot of new developments planned and many exciting activities, but we are not forgetting the past. The core of the show will be the same and we will pay homage to the history of the show and the community that support it. The Flower and Produce show has been opened up and made more accessible to villagers allowing for last minute entries comprised of generic categories. There will be a fun Dog Show and many new and exciting activities for kids, including a fancy dress competition. We have a local Morris Group to provide dancing and entertainment during the day and we have invited Rico's pizzas to provide some of the onsite catering. There will be an Aunt Sally competition, with the final hosted by the Barley Mow.

We asked the village for their opinions during two public consultation events. Many suggestions were forthcoming and there was a genuine desire to ensure the flower show continued this year and for many years to come. Seven volunteers have joined the committee and many others have pledged their support to help organise the event.

Amongst the suggestions there were offers to demonstrate Bee keeping and Cider making as well as a Dog show and the usual Tombola, BBQ, Teas and Coffees, Plant sales, and activities for children.

While many have already come forward, this show is about you. We would welcome anybody that wishes to contribute on the day so please get in touch if you would like to volunteer or have suggestions for events you'd like to see run. We would be particularly interested if you have a skill or hobby that you would like to show. Or if you have ideas that you'd like to see incorporated.

Please feel free to get in contact with the committee to pledge your support. Enter into the fun and make it happen!

Your committee members are:

Mike Hardcastle, Chair
Alison Graham, Secretary
Hansa Menzies, Finance
Kym Yorke, Creative
Stephen Yorke, Creative
Danielle Tolson
Anna Alcraft
Or email:

mike@mikehardcastle.com
alison_a_graham@hotmail.com
hansatm@btinternet.com
kym_yorke@yahoo.com
stephenyorkeartist@gmail.com
danielle.tolson@hotmail.co.uk
anna_cuss@yahoo.co.uk
villageshow@upperheyford.com

What's going on at Cherwell District Council?

Councillor Calling

Planning Policy remains a hot topic that just won't cool down. The **Local Plan** was submitted for examination by an Inspector at the end of January and the CDC website now details many days of public hearings. The general principle is that, if you like what's in it you sit on your hands but if you want changes – more homes or less, somewhere else, or changes to specific policies – then you should have your say. This seems a bit one-sided as most of the running will therefore be made by developers whose sites have not been chosen and the defence is left to the council's team so, if you feel strongly, register to have your say in person or simply write to the Inspector.

The **SHMA**, meanwhile, has been published to make things more difficult! This Strategic Housing Market Assessment for the whole county, which we had to have done in a hurry when an Inspector struck down a Warwickshire Local Plan whose assessment, a year younger than ours, was judged out of date, says we need another 100,000 houses in the county by 2031. This would give Cherwell 22,800, about another 500 a year but there's still a number of moving parts – firstly assessing the SHMA itself, then negotiating any overspill from Oxford, which is itself complicated by possible boundary reviews and, of course, the Green Belt, and then, as this has been anticipated, seeing what can be fitted into the Local Plan. So, watch this (green) space...

Graven Hill will now be part of the answer as Cherwell are in the process of buying large tracts of land east of Bicester that the MoD no longer need. This has outline planning permission for 1,900 homes and 2,000 jobs. Clearly, the council is not a developer, so there's considerable risk involved but the upside is that the pace of development will be more controllable. A major reason we are in trouble for not having a five year housing supply is that developers have not built hundreds of the homes they have planning permission for and cannot be made to do so. CDC can also focus on real housing need, with many units being self build or affordable homes.

Heyford Park is where its owners, the Dorchester Group, would like to see some of these extra houses. They are inviting a wide swathe of parishes between Deddington and Kidlington to come together in a Neighbourhood Forum to agree a **Neighbourhood Plan**, which would set out where homes and related infrastructure – schools, surgeries, shops, etc – should go, with the thought that most villages would choose to restrict their own growth and be happy to direct it to Upper Heyford. Obviously, each parish will make up its own mind about this and, before any such Plan can be finalised, everyone in the affected area would get a vote on it in a local referendum which, as you'd imagine, means it will be a long, hard road before any such thing emerges.

NPPG: at the other end of the policy spectrum, the government have just issued more than 1,000 pages of **National Planning Policy Guidance**. You may remember that it was only a couple of years ago that thousands of pages of Planning Policy Statements, in which planning rules had evolved in the finest detail, were swept away and replaced by the 52-page **National Planning Policy Framework** to make everything clear and simple. Of course, it did no such thing as bland general statements like a "presumption of sustainability" can mean everything or nothing until interpreted by Planning Inspectors and Judges, making planning as clear as mud. So now, only two years into the new regime, we are heading round in a full circle back to detail: as this will make things much

easier for all concerned and give certainty in place of guesswork, I shall refrain from the temptation to sarcasm!

Jobs are as much a part of Planning as houses but tend to create less furore (not always, witness the recent court case over the Banbury Gateway shopping centre on ProDrive's old factory site, but that's unusual) so it's good to report that more jobs were created in the second half of 2013 in Cherwell than the whole year's target, giving us one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. A lot of this was due to the opening of Pioneer Square in Bicester, where new businesses continue to come on stream even now. Next up is the new community centre/council office/library/hotel complex on the carpark next to Sainsbury.

Council tax gives some good news to end on. For the fifth year running, we've managed with no increase – Cherwell District's Band D stays at £123.50, now overtaken by the Kidlington village precept! – which, compared to inflation over the period of some 10%, is a real triumph while services have been maintained or improved and residents' satisfaction has risen year on year.

Thanks: the next thing you'll be hearing from me is when my **election leaflet** drops through your letter box – it's that time again! If you're kind enough to choose me again, I'll do my best to keep up the good work. If not, it's been a privilege to serve you for twelve years – thank you.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



HEYFORD and DISTRICT

"We Will Remember Them"

MEET and GREET

Tuesday 13 May 2014

Barley Mow

Upper Heyford

From 7:45pm

The committee would be delighted to see and chat to members of the branch and past and present members of the Armed Forces.

We would also make very welcome anyone from the Valley who is interested in joining the Legion*.

*To become a member of the Royal British Legion, it is *not* necessary to have been in the Armed Forces. All are welcome.

POETRY CORNER

The Upper Heyford Poetry Group continues to thrive and this year we are looking forward to a visit from someone I consider to be a very fine contemporary poet - Lawrence Sail. He happened to come into my Oxford shop last year and bought a bunch of anemones and after a brief conversation he told me he was a poet and loved all things natural. Intrigued, I bought a couple of his books and found I liked his style very much. Here's one from a collection called 'Songs of the Darkness: Poems for Christmas', published by Enitharmon

Allotments in Winter

The plots shrink in their drenched sorrows to a scrawl
of husks and hanks, the blackened heads of sunflowers,
with a small flourish of ice-plant here or there,
some bushes dotted with a few berries:
like the sketchy outlines of a story which could in time
acquire the status of a minor classic, whose ending
might be uncertain, but would still give some credence
to delight and the word fleshed in detail-
the ribbing of the wheelbarrow's tyre printed onto mud,
the clang of the spade striking a spark from stone,
the poplars' last highlights that wave all day
from a sky scoured to brightness for tomorrow.



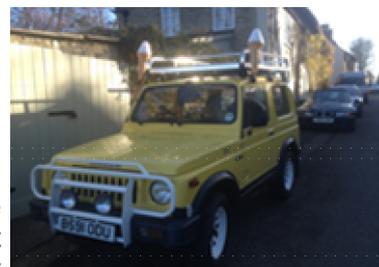
Laurence Sail poet

I chose this for its relevance to village life and appropriateness for this season (it's very much winter today). It has both vivid detail and a hint at a bigger theme. Those who know their Bible (not many these days!) will spot "the word fleshed in detail" refers to John's Gospel, and Lawrence Sail typically relates the cycle of the seasons and the natural world to what he feels is the constant divine presence: the light in the darkness. This gives his poetry a sense of mystery and optimism which appeals very much to me. He's a good man too: all royalties from sales of this collection will go to Trusts for African Schools, a registered charity sponsored by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Richard Bailey

MONGOL RALLY NEWS UPDATE

What is new – well, the old decal (stripes) on the doors and wings have been stripped to make way for Rally Stickers, our charity logos and sponsors. A T-cut and polish to the paintwork to bring it back to its former glory. A nudge bar has been fitted to keep away those camels, goats and any other unwanted invaders! Also we fitted our ice cream cones including lights and must have tunes. Yes tunes! Marc has installed an external loudspeaker to play ice cream Jingles!



Going on from our last update we needed to apply for 10 Visa's ,but because forms and more forms and letters of Invitation were required all proving to be a bit of a nightmare, we have employed The Visa Machine to arrange it all, this came at a price, but so worth it to us.

Travel Insurance- single trip done , includes body repatriation, hope we do not need the use of that ,our girls won't be pleased !

Then Vaccinations -we went to see the nurse, but should have gone to the Bank Manager first, why do you have to pay SO much for PAIN in this day and age, I ask myself.

ALL THIS IS FOR A REASON "OUR CHARITIES"

CRAFT AID UK

www.justgiving.com/Raymond-Funnell1

COOL EARTH

www.justgiving.com/Raymond-Funnell

DONATE NOW

visit our website- www.marctopbanana.wix.com/genhis-cone

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CHERWELL VALLEY

Heyford Park Community Shop

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

**Open Mon-Fri 7am to 7pm
Sat 8am-6pm Sun 9am-1pm**

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

Barley Mow Fund Raising

Sonia, Mike and Michelle of the Barley Mow have raised almost £3,000 to date from quizzes and raffles run on a monthly basis since late 2012, and from the collection boxes for Katherine House Hospice.



The quiz evenings are truly enjoyable occasions and the Barley Mow team thank all who support their efforts, particularly the quiz master, Terry Hawkins, and his assistant Carol Walton.

Well done, a superb effort

LOWER HEYFORD & CAULCOTT MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

**Saturday 3rd May
2—5pm**

Lower Heyford Sports Field

BBQ * Teas * Ice Cream * Fun Dog Show

Fast Lane * Raffle * Stalls

Roundabouts * Bouncy Castle

Children's Races * Fire Engine

**Police Car and many other exciting and
mind blowing attractions**

Don't miss out, come and enjoy the fun



CAR BOOT



Robin Hepworth

Robin sadly passed away recently, she had been a stalwart in Lower Heyford for many years, including chairman of the parish council. I hope to be able to include a tribute in the next edition

Editor

Cream teas in Upper Heyford Reading Room Diary dates:

**Sundays 13 & 27 July
Sunday 10 August**





HEYFORD PARK HOUSING



On the cover you will have observed a photograph of the first two houses to be built—with the caption: ***The first two of many—but how many!***



After over ten years of debate, two planning enquiries, the expenditure of huge sums of public money, you would I imagine, have thought like me that the matter was settled, and we could all sit back and watch, perhaps with some trepidation, the agreed plans (**1000 homes + 1500 jobs**) come into fruition.



Unfortunately apparently not so!



Under the **2011 Localism Act** we are told that Neighbourhood planning will allow communities, both residents, employees and business, to come together through a local parish council or neighbourhood forum and say where they think new houses, businesses and shops should go – and what they should look like.



Well doesn't that sound all very democratic and reasonable! But wait a moment, it's too late for us to use the Localism Act to REDUCE the number of houses on the site, as many would have preferred, but we face the very considerable threat of a substantial increase in housing numbers.



I attended a meeting in Upper Heyford village hall at which the Dorchester Group (developers of the site) made a presentation making the case for a Neighbourhood Development Plan involving **local** parish councils (it then said 18 parishes, not mentioned by name, but clearly spread far and wide—I would suggest that there are only 7 local communities: Caulcott, the Heyfords, Somerton, Fritwell, Ardley, Middleton Stoney). I found the presentation one-sided and a most unsuitable forum for an important public debate, with a very disappointing contribution from our district councillors.



The Dorchester case was blatant self promotion/opportunism with the added fear factor of villages being swamped with mini housing estates, and how lucky we are that the Dorchester 'White Knight' has arrived to save us **by building more houses on the site!**



Many will recall that the Ministry of Defence / North Oxfordshire Consortium promoted the site as a suitable location for a huge development (up to 7500 homes), and despite several attempts through the planning process their case was lost. It was lost because of unanimity on the part on Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Campaign to Protect Rural England, the Highways Authority and Cherwell Valley Parishes that the site is unsuitable on the grounds of sustainability, and research by Oxford Brookes University supported that view in relation to travel considerations.



The Report of the Panel of the Examination in Public regarding Oxfordshire Structure Plan 2011 stated: **"our preference is for a continuation of the 'country towns' strategy. That involves Bicester and we do not believe that both further growth there and a new large growth point at Upper Heyford should be contemplated."**



Since that report was published major additional growth points have been added at Bicester namely the eco-town of 6000 homes on the west side of the town and 1900 self-build homes on MOD land on the east side. In addition there has been a substantial investment in retail and community facilities, plus planned rail and road upgrading.



Because of its two country towns Cherwell district is already making more than its fair share of the housing needs of the county, so there is no case for more houses at Upper Heyford. Clearly there will not be a moratorium on house building at Heyford Park when the 1100th house is completed (please note already 100 more than the original figure) but any future growth should be organic and meet local needs.



Here is a chilling statistic to consider! The population of the villages surrounding the former airfield (Caulcott, the Heyfords, Somerton, Fritwell, Ardley & Fewcott and Middleton Stoney) is about 3300. The population of Heyford Park with its 1100 homes will be about 3300, so be prepared for a doubling of the population over the next ten years.



I respectfully suggest that Dorchester should do the honourable thing and build the homes it has planning permission for and not try to influence future planning decisions.



Ian Lough-Scott, former secretary/treasurer of Cherwell Valley Parishes



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



Easter Knitted Novelties.

Our Easter knitted novelties are now on sale in all our charity shops and many other local venues, priced at £1.50. This year, we have mini rabbits, baskets and chicks available and each one is filled with a Cadbury Crème egg. We'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to sell our fluffy friends, whether at a sale or a shop, pub etc!

We'd also like to thank all those who've sent in these wonderful knits! Last year this raised over £5,000 towards hospice care, an outstanding sum and a great example of a truly community-based fundraiser!

Easter Fun Day

1pm, Sunday 20th April, the Musketeer Pub, Ruscote Avenue, Banbury

Fun for all the family at this great fundraiser. Events will include; Easter egg hunt, bouncy castle, face painting, tug-of-war, raffle, cake sale; pool, darts and Aunt Sally competitions; Karaoke and apple bobbing! All welcome.

Supermarket Collection Days

Do you have 1.5 hours spare to hold a tin at our spring supermarket collection days? If so, Wendy in Fundraising would love to hear from you - (01295) 812161. Locations and dates: Tesco Brackley - Friday 4th April; Sainsburys Bicester - Friday 4th April; Sainsburys Banbury - Thursday 24th & Friday 25th April; Tesco Banbury - Wednesday 30th April; Tesco Bicester - Friday 9th May.

Zumbathon!

2pm-5pm, Saturday 26 April,

Supporters can now register online at www.khh.org.uk/event/zumbathon-2014/ or call fundraising on (01295) 812161 to take part in our fab new Zumbathon challenge! Why not get a group together or take part as a family.

2014 May Ball 7pm – Midnight, Sunday 4th May, Bloxham School, Bloxham.

Once again our wonderful May Ball committee is organising a fabulous “do” in aid of KHH, held in the beautiful grounds at Bloxham School. Tickets are £50 each and include a delicious three-course meal and live entertainment from the Candy Stripes. Tickets are available from 01295 720623 or 01295 262429.

Bring a Pound to Work Day!

This year's 'Bring a Pound to Work Day!' will be on Friday, 9 May. Just collect £1 from everyone in your workplace. Any profession. Anyone. Anywhere. This is a really simple way to support the hospice so we'd love to see lots of businesses and schools taking part. Help us to beat last year's total of £3,931! Call Sheila on 01295 812161 or email sheila.norton@khh.org.uk for more details or to register your workplace or school to take part.

Midnight Walk

Saturday 14th June, Banbury Cricket Club, Bodicote

This year's 10 mile Midnight Walk has a carnival theme to tie in with the World Cup in Brazil. Get into the spirit by donning bright accessories or fancy dress! Application forms are in our shops and within our spring newsletter despatched to supporters in early April - or you can register online at www.khh.org.uk. Last year this fantastic event raised around £75,000, bringing the total since 2007 to over £600,000.

Midnight Walk 2014 volunteers needed!

Plans for this year's Midnight Walk on 14 June are going well but we still need more marshal volunteers. The Walk follows a well-lit route around Banbury and you can be involved all night, i.e. from around 10pm on 14 June to 5am on 15 June, or for a shorter period during that time. Anyone who would be interested in helping us should contact Sheila Norton on 01295 812161 or sheila.norton@khh.org.uk.

Thank you, **Sarah Brennan** Community Fundraiser

'Care for a Cuppa' Upper Heyford Reading Room March 2nd

On behalf of Katharine House Hospice I would like to thank all who donated cakes, raffle prizes or made a donation on the day.

We made a total of £200 which is much appreciated by the hospice. Many thanks to all who supported us on the day despite the weather!

A special thank you to Ann, Jill & Helen for their help.

Brenda Cooper

LOWER HEYFORD BOWLS CLUB

There has been a bowls club at Lower Heyford for over 90 years, but the game dates back to 5000 BC when it was played by the Egyptians. More recently on the 18th July 1588, Sir Francis Drake



was heard to say whilst playing bowls on Plymouth Hoe that there was plenty of time to finish the game before going on to thrash the Spaniards!

These days the game is still played in towns and villages all over the country but the number actively playing is declining and Lower Heyford is no exception.

If the membership does not increase then we will have to think very seriously about closing the club for good.

A group of members is helping the chairman to carry out a marketing campaign aimed at local residents, inviting them to come and try.

The days of the week will be allocated to differing groups with the weekends available for bookings.

It should look something like this:

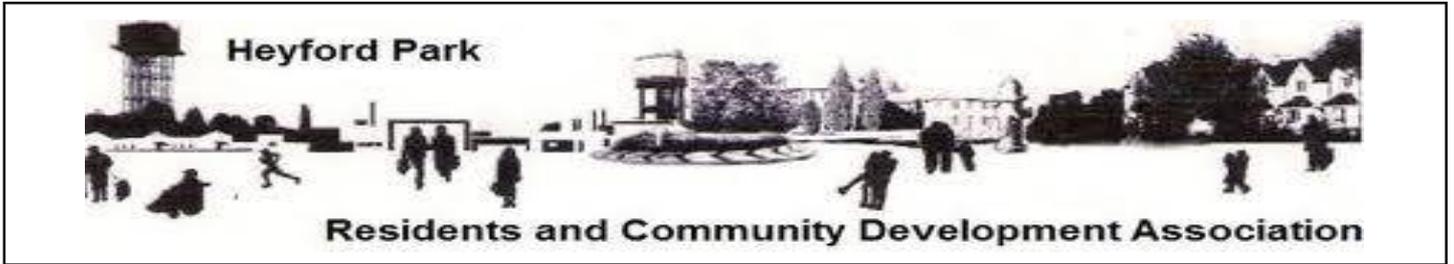
Monday	Beginners/family
Tuesday	Family
Wednesday	Competition players
Thursday	Club competition players
Friday	Company/social/family
Saturday mornings	Beginners

Saturday afternoon/evening Open House

For the first year there will be no charge, so if you fancy a game come along and give it a go.

We hope to start the first Monday in June

For more information please contact Keith Watson 01869 232457 or email: keith.watson2@hotmail.co.uk



The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in February 2014. The outgoing Chairperson Tim Bigelow outlined what had been done during his year in office.

There have been problems with cleanliness of the bus shelter but this will now be resolved when the shelter is demolished as part of the ongoing development work.

There had been no response from the Dorchester Group on the need for uniform speed signs on the estate.

The Association has been dealing, as a matter of routine, with the problem of dog mess and provides bags at various sites around the estate for the use of dog owners;

There has been no action from the Dorchester Group on road drain cleaning to prevent flooding.

The Dorchester Group has indicated that the charges for renewing tenancies will be waived now that renewals are to be on a six-monthly basis.

The Association has supported the tenants of Trenchard Circle, who have been warned that they will shortly be receiving two months' notice to quit.

There has been important correspondence with Sue Smith, CEO of Cherwell District Council, regarding the future of residents on the estate, the type of accommodation to be made available and the status of "unprotected" tenants as opposed to "protected" tenants who were living on the estate at the time of the Housing Needs Survey - apparently only 260 households are "protected" - 66 families are at risk due to being "unprotected". Further clarification from Cherwell and Dorchester is needed.

Mr James McNamara, our Cherwell District Councillor, attended the meeting and told members that he is trying to get agreement for the date of qualification for "protected" status to be changed from the date of the Housing Needs Survey in March 2012 to a later date, which would give protection to many more families.

There was discussion about the implications of the proposal to split Upper Heyford into two - with a new Parish Council for Heyford Park. This is currently on track for implementation in 2016 and both the current Parish Council and the Residents Association are in favour of the change.

Tim Bigelow (who had to resign due to pressure of work) was thanked for his sterling work as Chairperson during 2013.

The new office bearers and committee - a mixture of new members and former members were elected. These are as follows:

Chris Mullineux - Chairman

Tim Bigelow - Vice Chairman

Angela Ford - Treasurer

Marilyn Brown - Secretary

Marilyn Bigelow; Edward Fraser; Ernie Freeland;

Carole Gother; Alan Harris; Paul Nash; and Earic Nixon

Since the AGM the new Chairperson has been getting up-to-speed and having introductory meetings with Parish and District Councillors and has arranged to meet representatives of the Dorchester Group.

The first meeting of the new Committee was held on 19th March and the minutes will be issued as quickly as reasonably practicable after the meeting.

The Association communicates with residents mainly by posting on its facebook page - search for "Heyford Park Residents & Community Development Association" and by posting notices on the board in the Community Centre corridor, roughly opposite the Community Shop. We will be seeking additional methods of communicating as well. Residents can get in touch with the Association by speaking to any of the Committee Members or by e-mailing us at heyfordpark@btinternet.com (please note that this e-mail address may change in about mid-April).

Committee meeting dates for 2014 are Wed 16 April, Wed 14 May, Thur 19 June, Thur 24 July, Wed 20 Aug, Sept date to be decided, Wed 15 October, Thur 20 November, and Wed 17 December. Residents are welcome to attend committee meetings which are held in the Community Centre and commence at 7pm.

2014 will be a year of great change at Heyford Park with demolition and construction work gaining pace. It will not be easy to cope with all that is going on and there will no doubt be things happening which may be disturbing to some. There will be difficulties for some residents whose houses and bungalows are coming up in the early phases of refurbishment. The Residents Association will do all that it is able to help all residents to cope with the changes and it will also welcome the first batch of new residents to the community as new houses are occupied. We hope we will be up to dealing with the challenges!



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MAY DAY

May Day or the Celtic festival of Beltane is said to create the summer. In ancient times fires were lit to bring back the sun and set off the summer. The 'May' is a branch of flowering leaves as from the hawthorn, birch, rowan, sweet woodruff or pennyroyal. To leave a branch of hawthorn decked in ribbon is said to bring good luck to the receiver. Flowers gathered on May Day honour the Roman Goddess Flora who brings to life all the summer's flowers. The may pole and its dances bring the celebration of universal joy at the world's greening. May was the milk month of the Saxons. In that time the milk maids would rise early to milk the cows and then decide who was the most beautiful of their companions who was then made 'The Queen of the Mays'. 'It is said that a fair maid who on the first of May goes to the fields at break of day and washes in dew from the hawthorn tree, will ever after be beautiful.'

To celebrate the freshness of summer decorate an orange honey cake with flowers and fresh strawberries. The recipe is 220g flour, 110g honey, 110g butter, 80g brown sugar, 1 teaspoons baking powder, grated peel of one orange and its juice, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon ginger, 1 teaspoon all spice and 50g candied peel finely chopped. Cream together the butter, honey, sugar and orange peel. Beat in the eggs and then add the rest of the ingredients. Bake at 170C for 30-40 minutes. Drizzle a bit of honey over the top of the still warm cake or ice it with orange butter icing.

Debra Kaatz

Thames Valley Police—Neighbourhood policing

This month the team have been busy out and about on the area, completing a number of Speedwatch Operations.

PCSO Kidd and PCSO Cooper completed a Speedwatch on Camp Road in Upper Heyford during which 73 vehicles passed through and 5 of them were speeding, they have been added to our Speedwatch database and have been sent warning letters.

PC Brown completed two Speedwatch Operations this month, one at Station Road, Blackthorn where 6 persons were found to be speeding and one on Heyford Road, Middleton Stoney where 4 persons were found to be speeding and all were issued with speeding tickets. Speeding continues to be a Neighbourhood Action Group priority and we complete Speedwatch Operations to ensure the roads in our villages and being used safely and responsibly.

The end of the month sees the clocks go forward and the evenings becoming lighter. The team are looking forward to seeing more and more people about in the villages later in the evenings, if you see us, stop and say hello we are always keen to meet as many of you as possible. We have received invitations to a number of upcoming village events which we are looking forward to attending. If you are holding an event in your village and would like us to come along then please let us know by contacting your local neighbourhood team on BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Please consider joining your local Neighbourhood Watch. Neighbourhood Watch is all about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to cut crime.

How does Neighbourhood Watch work?

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are community initiatives owned and run by their members. They work by developing close liaison between neighbourhood households and the local police. It is an active partnership.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- Cut crime and the opportunities for crime.
- Help and reassure those who live in the area.

Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities.

For more information on how these schemes work, their benefits, and running a scheme in your local area, please contact your local Watch Administrator Deb Hextall at Banbury Police Station, deborah.hextall@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

You can also follow us on Twitter [@_ThamesVP](https://twitter.com/ThamesVP) alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

You can contact the team by emailing:

BicesterRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or

you can call us on 101 our non-emergency number.

Please dial 999 in an emergency.

LOWER HEYFORD NEWS

St Mary Lower Heyford Project 1000

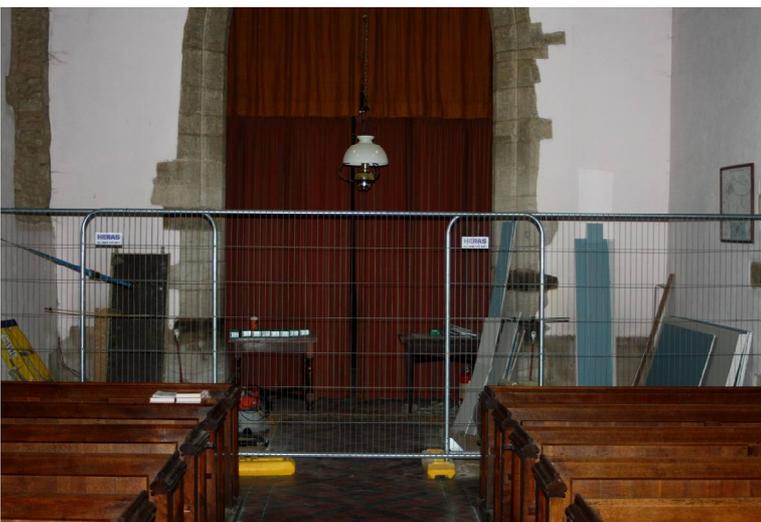
Two months in, there is plenty of progress to report. Drainage and mains pipework has been laid alongside the path from the porch and awaits connection. The pews have been removed from the west end (and all found good homes in the village) and the space is now ready for the installation of underfloor heating and reflooring. The curtains at the west end will be replaced by double doors and screening to match the woodwork already in place by the south door. The font has been moved from the south-west to the north-east where it will be much better positioned for baptisms, which are generally now made part of Sunday services. This cleared the way for the construction of the kitchen area and WC and we are very pleased with the way this is shaping up, and indeed with the overall workmanship of our contractors, WDS, and with the vision of our architect, Robert Montgomery, as it takes solid form.

Unfortunately we may be required by the Diocese to move the font one (1!) foot forward with the purpose of making it and the baptism ceremony more visible from the body of the church. From the south door, as can be seen from the photograph below, about half of the font is already visible and the proposed repositioning would reveal less than a quarter more of it. For this modest gain about a ton of stone would have to be taken apart, shifted and reassembled at almost the same, four-figure cost as the initial operation. We are trying very hard to get the message across that this would not be a good use of church funds!



Screen for kitchen area

Speaking of funds, at the time of writing in January we were still awaiting confirmation of one of the grants we had applied for. They are now all in place and we would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Viridor, the trustees of the Lower Heyford Village Hall Fund and Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust for their generosity. And we also and especially thank the parishioners of Lower Heyford & Caulcott and other private donors for their support and generous contributions to the church Maintenance & Development Fund over recent years. The work may not quite be completed for Easter, as originally hoped, but the new facilities will certainly be open for business in May.



West-end space



Font in new position

LOWER HEYFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
will be held in the church on
Thursday 24 April at 7pm

LOWER HEYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 20th February 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Church

Present: - Mr Macnamara (Chair), Mrs. Ball (Vice Chair), Mr Mortimore, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Eggeling,
Members of the public : Mr. Humberstone, Mr. Watson. In attendance: Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

Apologies: Apologies had been received from Mr. Dare and Mrs. Turner

Declarations of Interest : There were no declarations of interest

Minutes of the last meeting held on 16th January 2014 were read and it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

02.14.01 Clerk's Report: letter sent regarding Caulcott drainage; letter sent regarding Station Road; letter sent regarding Network Rail

02.14.02 Matters Arising

Work has commenced on the drainage in Caulcott, although the tanker still remains in situ

Mr. Dare had drafted a letter in reply to that sent by Mr. Kemp of OCC and with some minor amendments and additions it was decided that this should be sent immediately with copies to Cllr Fulljames, Cllr Nimmo-Smith and the Barton HGV Action Group.

ACTION : CLERK

A letter had been sent to Network Rail, and it was reported that the generator has now been moved, although fencing and landscaping is still required. parking has become a problem in the Station car park as contractors are using a large number of spaces which is restricting those available for commuters and resident boaters.

A tree on land in Station Road owned by Corpus Christie and managed by Savilles had fallen during recent storms causing some concern amongst residents. Clerk to write to Savilles requesting that the remaining trees be felled as a precaution.

ACTION : CLERK

There was some discussion regarding lighting on Station Road and the danger posed by lack of street lighting, particularly when the tree had fallen across the road and it was necessary to stop the traffic in the dark. There has previously been opposition to the installation of further street lighting, and it was agreed that Clerk should place an article in Valley News requesting opinions from residents.

ACTION : CLERK

Notification has been received that work on the Station Road/Longbridge footpath will commence in March. The notice has been put in notice boards and on the website and distributed by email.

02.14.03 Risk Assessment, Standing Order and Financial Regulations - It was decided to defer this item to the March meeting.

02.14.04 Meetings - No meetings had been attended since the last PC meeting.

02.14.05 SID - It had been suggested that two further SIDs be purchased, however after some discussion it was decided that it would be better to investigate availability and price of a device which would not necessitate the downloading of data.

02.14.06 - Upper Heyford Neighbourhood Plan/Dorchester Living - Mr. Macnamara had attended a presentation given by Dorchester Living to Upper Heyford PC regarding plans for the development of the former RAF site at Upper Heyford which would involve the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Upper Heyford and all surrounding villages. It was decided to invite Dorchester Living to make a presentation at the parish council's annual meeting on 24th April. Clerk to contact Dorchester Living and print flyers advertising the event to be given to Mr. Humberstone for distribution with Valley News. **ACTION:CLERK**

02.14.07 - LRHINC - Clerk had received clarification of the invoice from Howard Meakin of Trumans Solicitors and it was decided that all is in order. Also received was documentation regarding the Land Registration which required attendance at another solicitors office which the Clerk is unable to do as she has not lived in the village for 12 years as required. Mr. Macnamara to attend

ACTION : JJM

02.14.08 - Parish Plan - This requires updating. Clerk to circulate via Dropbox if possible and all to consider updates to be agreed at the next meeting. **ACTION : CLERK**

02.14.09 Bus Shelter & Millennium Seat - Mr. Mortimore agreed to inspect both these fixtures to ascertain if any maintenance is required. **ACTION : CM**

02.14.10 - Playground - In Mrs Turner's absence there was nothing to report.

02.14.11 - Planning - 14/00062/F - 2 storey side extension 9 Bromsewell Close - no objections.

02.14.12 - Finance - The following accounts were approved for payment :

Payee	Detail	Amount	Cheque No
Petra Turner	Reimbursement (Santa'sGrotto)	12.00	500217
Cathy Fleet	Clerk salary	226.82	500218
Cathy Fleet	Clerk expenses	15.40	500219

02.14.13 - Correspondence - Correspondence lists were circulated and discussed. A letter had been received from CDC regarding Councillors' remuneration and it was decided that no remuneration should be claimed by Councillors, however it should be recorded that if reimbursement for mileage is claimed it should be at the recommended rate of £0.45p per mile.

02.14.14 - AOB Clerk to write to WPC Caroline Brown advising her of next meeting dates and inviting her to attend

ACTION : CLERK

The hedges around the garages on Cherwell Bank are overgrown and require attention. Clerk to contact Sanctuary Housing **ACTION : CLERK**

Date of next meeting 27th March 2014 Signed Mr J J Macnamara

UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

Church News – St Mary's, Upper Heyford

“THE BRICKS ARE FALLEN DOWN, BUT WE WILL BUILD WITH HEWN STONES” Isaiah Ch. 9, v.10

This time we raise our glasses to some very exciting and positive news for St Mary's. We have finally got permission from the Diocese for work to start on the long-awaited and essential repair work needed to make our church waterproof and sound. Once that initial step is accomplished, the road is clear to further development to ensure that St Mary's continues to be there for the benefit of our whole community – and the whole of our expanding community at Heyford Park – as a centre of worship and a centre of wider community activities that will enrich the life of the whole Cherwell valley.

As I write, work is due to start on 31 March and, with good weather, should be over well before the end of May. During the works, Sunday services will continue as planned, and we look forward to seeing you there as before. However, because of the hazards presented by any building work, St Mary's will be locked Monday-Saturday. But that does not mean that those of you who wish to visit the church to worship or pray at other times cannot do so – on the contrary, anyone can gain access either by arrangement with our Rector Stephen Griffiths (01869 233249) or with our Church Warden Sally Anne Mildenhall (07778 431165), or by asking the site foreman John Ayres at the church, who has a key and will be happy to admit you if it is safe to do so.

Starting this work also allows us to reflect on the tremendous support which St Mary's has received from so many of you – it really is hundreds of people – since we started our project of restoration and improvement. It is wonderful to sense how important St Mary's is to our village. It also gives us an opportunity to thank you all again for your outstanding generosity in money, time, friendly emails and cards. Driving projects like this forward is a long, hard road and will remain so; and you have no idea how much your kindness and support have meant to us along the way – very often giving us the incentive to carry on when the way forward seemed impassably tedious and obstacle-strewn. Thank you for everything, however small, that you have done or contributed.

For me personally, the time past and the year ahead was summed up beautifully by Heather and Roger Burt's wonderful open garden day on 16 March which, with typical generosity, they offered in aid of St Mary's. So early in March, and after such a dreary and inclement winter and spring, Heather's and Roger's sensational garden was a perfect metaphor for exactly the kind of exciting and refreshing renewal that St Mary's has needed, has deserved and is now to receive. It was remarkable to enjoy such beautiful weather that people were dusting down their sun dresses and Panama hats; and moving to see such great support for St Mary's from all over the Cherwell Valley, with many visitors donating far more than they were asked to contribute for the privilege of seeing more than 10,000 über-Wordsworthian daffodils alongside the cornucopia of spring flowers that was on view.

Finally, Upper Heyford's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (our public AGM, basically) is on **12 May 2014 at 7pm**. Everyone is welcome and we know there is lots of support for St Mary's in Upper Heyford. So why not get more involved? This is your opportunity to make a difference about what happens to St Mary's. So whether you just

want to know more about what is planned for St Mary's in the future, or whether you want to help a bit more with what goes on, or whether you think you might like to serve on the Parochial Church Council (the PCC) – or even if you just want to have your say – please come along.

Andrew Gotch PCC Secretary

Upper Heyford Cemetery

Although there is spare capacity for a further 10 years or so, at sometime in the future we will face the prospect of finding a new burial ground. The solution may well be to re-use the churchyard.

The Government is concerned about the shortage of space for burials, and has been encouraging re-use of burial space for several years.

The legal situation is that if the churchyard has not been closed by Order in Council (and you can check by contacting The Ministry of Justice, Coroners and Burials Division), then it is perfectly lawful to re-use a churchyard that has already been used previously. **Our churchyard has not been officially closed so it could be re-used.**

There has been burials in St Mary's churchyard since the 16th century and the last burial was in 1920. We also know that the churchyard was extended on the north side by 25 poles (760 square yards) in 1881. The memorials (apart from two) were removed in the 1950s.

The Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council are content to investigate further the legal and practical issues associated with the re-use of the burial ground.

It will appeal to many, for religious reasons, for burials to take place in the churchyard and it will also add to the general support available for the upkeep of the church.

A presentation on this matter will be made at the annual parish meeting. *Ian Lough-Scott, on behalf of the PCC*

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 15th May 2014

The Reading Room

The agenda and minutes of the 2013 APM will be circulated with 'Round the Fountain' 14 days prior to the meeting.

If you have an item for the agenda please contact the Parish Clerk before the 25th April 2014

Jack Goodman jackgoodman61@gmail.com

Heyford United FC

We were disappointed to lose the Jersey Cup semi-final, 2-1 to Woodford Utd, as it would have been exciting to have an all Heyford Jersey Cup final. Congratulations though to Heyford Athletic on reaching the final, to be played at Bicester on Easter Monday.

We have reached the semi-final of the Banbury Charity Cup when we will again face Woodford United, having beaten Heyford Athletic 4-3 after extra time in a very close encounter. Let's hope that we can turn the tables this time!

Tribute: Gladys Ismay Gray



Gladys was born in the family home at Souldern on 16 January 1920, the 5th child of Henry & Ada Westbury and one of 8 children. She attended Souldern and Fritwell schools, leaving school at 14, her early jobs were in service at Aynho and Ardley

Gladys married George Gray from Upper Heyford and they had two children, Ismay and Veronica. Ismay married Jim, a USAF serviceman in 1958, so one half of Gladys family has lived in America for the past fifty years, not that this stopped her seeing the family grow up, as she visited them 15 times. The family home was South View in Orchard Lane, Upper Heyford (1939 – 53) and later 27 Somerton Road (1953 – 2010).

Gladys and George were at their happiest enjoying home life in Somerton Road. They even had the same neighbours throughout their time in Somerton Road (the Sales' at No. 29 and the Golders at No. 25) which is a sign of how content a neighbourhood it was! Gladys kept the family home spotless; her neighbour Phil even referred to her house as being fit for the Queen! Gladys always provided a warm welcome and you could always be sure of a cup of tea when visiting. One family member recalls her last memory of Gladys busily cutting her grass at the age of 80, when she last visited from New Zealand.

Gladys worked on Heyford Base, ironing military shirts, a job she loved doing so much that all clothing in the family home was ironed – even socks and tea towels!

Later she worked as a shop assistant for Ellison & Cavel in Oxford, as a playtime supervisor at the Heyford Base School, as an assistant at the Wedgwood concession shop at Heyford Base, and finally at Callows shop in the village then located in the former Wesleyan Chapel. She was always conscientious and contented wherever she worked Gladys and George both played an active part in the

village, belonging to various committees and helping to organise village events. Even to this day, Gladys is affectionately referred to as 'Mrs May Day' by one parishioner. Gladys was a keen member of the WI and enjoyed being part of the Warreners' club in the village. She enjoyed nothing more than spending a warm, sunny Sunday afternoon watching Upper Heyford play cricket and helping to prepare teas for the teams.

Gladys enjoyed her garden, and even when she was no longer able to tend to it herself she would watch as Helen, Phil and Richard took on more of the responsibility, providing plenty of refreshments for them! Gladys was always very appreciative of the help of everyone around her.

Gladys was a very proud and loving Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother and Great, Great Grandmother. A family member recently quoted how it seems impossible for us all to think of Upper Heyford without her.

Everyone will have their own personal memories of Gladys, but in general they will all be the same - a lovely gentle lady, who was never angry, treated everyone with respect and greeted them with a smile.

The staff at Langford View Care Home, where she spent her last year, said how easy it was to look after her as she never complained and still had that radiant smile. Gladys really appreciated so many of her village friends taking the trouble to visit her in the home

We celebrate her life, and remember the happiness that she brought to us all, so when you think of her, don't be sad, smile, because that is what she would have wanted.

We appreciated your support at a sad time

We were overwhelmed with letters of condolence and offers of support, and it is a great comfort to know how much mum was appreciated by the community that she loved and served for over 70 years.

To live a full and happy life of 94 years is a wonderful achievement, and we were blessed with a carefree and joyous family life, because of the affection shown by our loving parents. We have so many happy memories to console the loss of our dear mum and she will always be in our thoughts.

There are too many people to thank individually, however, please accept our grateful thanks for all the help that we received.

Our thanks also to Stephen for his conduct of the service and Darren Hancock, funeral director.

The collection and donations amounting £830 will be used for the upkeep of St Mary's, the church that we were both married in, and mum attended regularly, so it is very important to us that the church is available for future generations too.

With best wishes, Ismay, Veronica and families

Coarse Gardening

The poet T.S.Eliot famously wrote 'April is the cruelest month', from which we may infer that he did not do a fat lot of gardening in February or March. (All right, I know he didn't quite mean it that way, that he was commenting on how the burgeoning Spring may make us more conscious of our own growing decrepitude or something of the sort. There is no need to take that superior tone with me, I get the idea - but that is what it says: it says 'April is the cruelest month'). So far as I am concerned, trying to tidy things up after last year's atrocious summer and the subsequent months of wet was quite sufficiently trying, thank you very much, and I am looking forward to a delightful, benign and positively kindly April, please, not cruel in any way.

So far, so good. March has brought on the daffodils and butterflies and there have been days when even Tom Eliot might have cracked a smile. Mind you, it is only half way through March at the time of writing and we could yet have snow... 'Welcome, March, with wintry wind/ Would thou wert not so unkind', as Michael Flanders put it. Our daffodils are mainly the smallish, dainty variety called *February Gold*, which never flowers in February for us, hanging back every year until March comes roaring in. We also grow the smaller wild-type Lent Lily which gave Wordsworth such delight. It has a paler yellow trumpet with creamy perianth segments and looks much more at home with wild primroses than with the stronger yellow cultivated daffodils. All the narcissus tribe seem to like our heavy, water-retentive soil and have not suffered at all from the recent months of wet, unlike the tulips left in the ground from previous years, which have just vanished. The hellebores, too, have done very well indeed and really like damp and soggy conditions. I offer this as a helpful hint; it may be that you, like me, have lost garden plants in recent months and are wondering what the heck *will* survive forty days and forty nights of Biblical weather. All our delphiniums have rotted, as have most of the lupins, and other herbaceous border plants look as though they are wondering whether to bother to make the effort at all this year, or to build an ark.

Yes, it has been damp and dispiriting, but we didn't get flooded, for which we must be extremely thankful. I am told that you are never too old to learn, so I have taken it on board that I must focus like mad on the plants which actually revel in the mud and murk and forget about Chelsea Flower Show exhibits which would, at vast expense, take one horrified look at this place and curl up immediately. All the primroses and their relations like it here and are flourishing and multiplying and turning up in unexpected places. Violets, too, are busily colonising obscure spots (apart from the ones which Big Bird, the cock pheasant, persists in nibbling). There is a beautiful one, for instance, which has decided to grow behind where the yard broom leans against the wall. You can't see it until you decide to sweep up. Snowdrops have increased amazingly and I am due for quite a lot of hands-and-knees time soon, dividing and replanting congested clumps, an activity which may be hard on the joints but which is a truly wonderful investment in the future, completely inflation-proof despite anything the Chancellor might do. Hyacinths, from small bulbs cheaply bought, do astonishingly well here. I had formed the impression over the years that hyacinths planted out in the garden just dwindle away, producing nothing but clumps of rather too-bold leaves. I

thought you had to regard them as annuals, to be chucked out after flowering, like in the town parks - too expensive for normal folk to consider. However, when we first came here, ten years ago now, we planted twenty each of 'Pink Pearl', blue 'Ostara' and white 'L'innocence', in rough grass and cow parsley under the big pear tree. The pink ones have all but disappeared by now and the blues are somewhat reduced, though still flowering, but the white ones are blazing away again at full size, as they have done every year, and have now formed clumps.

Now that I know at last what will really prosper here, it'll be a case of 'propagate, propagate, propagate' this summer. Divide and rule! With a large garden and no regular paid help the trick is to plant big blocks of anything which enjoys the conditions, hoping that great masses will suppress the weeds and provide interesting colour in due season. I see that the perennial geraniums (cranesbills) have all survived the wet and have made some big clumps, ideal for splitting up into many, many small ones - provided that an area free of weeds can be found to put them in, which is easier said than done. Those who visited us on the Friends of St. Mary's open garden day may have observed some stonking great patches of stinging nettles under the shrubs, full of health and vigour, as well as spears of couch grass making its Spring appearance, and the fact that one large area of shrubs and perennials has been invaded by that little stinky blue-flowered weed called ground ivy, which seems to be ineradicable. Trying to get shot of all these invaders is neither beer nor yet skittles, especially in the mud. One way of doing it is to clear an area of anything worth having and then let the weeds grow. Once they have plenty of leaf they can be sprayed with systemic herbicide, such as glyphosate, repeated if necessary until no more appear. This has worked in the case of bindweed here and, in my previous garden, ground elder; how about that! Or, if you have both patience and application (I don't) you could follow old Fred Loads' advice of 'hoe them every Wednesday'. That'll see them off.

Let's hope we can soon start happily moaning about the heat and the hosepipe ban.

Happy weeding. Roger Burt.



UPPER HEYFORD
SUMMER FESTIVAL DAY
Sunday 22 June 2014
2—5pm

Village walkabout, garden & allotments visits
Flower Festival at the Church
Cream teas, strawberries & cream at the Reading Room
Perhaps some live music

If you would like to have visitors to your garden (remember it's not a competition so don't be put off!) please contact Ian 232788
ianloughscott@btinternet.com

SOMERTON NEWS



Come and join us at SWIG (Somerton Women's Independent Group) on the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month.

The April meeting is traditionally our AGM. This year there will be a different format. To start with a chance for the members to air their views, positive and negative, about the way SWIG is run and the activities that we have had over the past year. After this the AGM will take place. Delicious finger food and drinks will be served during the evening and we hope as many members as possible will attend.

The May meeting will be a demonstration of flower arranging and visitors are very welcome .

Regards

Pauline Gattley

Barnes Memorial Hall AGM

Thursday 10th April at 8.00pm

Come and join us at the Barnes Memorial Hall for the AGM. This is a great opportunity for you to hear about the review of the running of the hall during the past year and to let us have your ideas on what new activities you would like to see in the hall. We are keen to hear from you how we might make improvements. Everyone is welcome!!

Pilates Class

The Pilates class on a Tuesday morning Sharon Bladon-Greene has set up has proved to be a great success, so much so that she is trying to encourage Sarah to take a class in the evening for those that can't make it on the Tuesday.

Sarah is a Master practitioner in Pilates as well as being a Physiotherapist.

Ideally, they need between 8 & 10 people, so if you are interested in attending, please email Sharon:

oxfordergonomics@btinternet.com

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Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

Website: www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk (Community)

We run an extensive programme of courses for adults within the school all year round (apart from school holidays).

A full copy of our brochure and current offer is available to download on the Marlborough School website www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/community/index/html

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

On some of our weekly courses it is possible to join late if there is still availability – please ring to check.

All our courses are competitively priced to give our students great value for money.

We will be running the following classes after Easter:

Anyone Can Sing Tues 7-8pm

Archery Mon and Thurs 8pm

Badminton Mon and Thurs 7pm

Dressmaking for Improvers Mon 7.30-9.30pm

French More Next Steps Mon 7-8.30pm

Golf for All Sat 12 noon

Italian Conversation Thursdays 7.30-8.30pm for 5 weeks from 5 June

Italian More Next Steps Tues 7.30-9pm

Italian Next Steps Tues 7.30-9pm

Next Steps Computing Wed 4-6pm

Pilates Thurs 11-11.55am

So Now You Can Sing Tues 8.15-9.30pm

Spanish Intermediate Wed 7.30-9.30pm

Spanish More Next Steps Thurs 7.30-9.30pm

Tai Chi Tues 6.15-7.15pm and 7.30-8.30pm VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY ON THESE CLASSES

Watercolour Painting Tues 7.15-9.15pm and Thurs 2-4pm (5 weeks)

Yoga Mon 7-8.30pm, Tues 4.30-6pm, Thurs 9.40-10.55am VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY ON THESE CLASSES

Yoga Masterclass (no more information at present but if you think you might be interested please contact me)

Zumba Gold Thurs 5pm

Zumba Thurs 6pm

Our fifth Saturday workshop is taking place on **17 May**. Classes running that day are:

Acrylic Painting Techniques, Bicycle Maintenance

Digital Photography, Indian Head Massage (am only)

Papercraft for Beginners

Yoga Workshop (Balance Yourself) (am only)

Mrs Jenny Bodinham 01993 813592

Events Calendar - At a Glance

Friday 4 April	Bingo Upper Heyford Village Hall	7.30pm
Sunday 6 April	EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA Barnes Memorial Hall, Somerton	2 - 4pm
Tuesday 8 April	SWIG Somerton Village Hall	
Wednesday 9 April	Warreners, Upper Heyford Village Hall	2—4pm
Thursday 10 April	Barnes Memorial Hall, Somerton AGM	8pm
Wednesday 16 April	Heyfords WI Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
Saturday 19 April	Souldern Market at Village Hall	9—12 noon
Monday 21 April	Lord Jersey Cup Final Bicester Town ground Heyford Athletic v Woodford Utd	3pm KO
Thursday 24 April	Lower Heyford Annual Parish Meeting In the church	7pm
Friday 2 May	Bingo Upper Heyford Village Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 3 May	Lower Heyford & Caulcott May Day celebrations	2—5pm in the sports field
Saturday & Sunday 10 & 11 May	Upper Heyford Artweeks Upper Heyford Village Hall 12—6pm	
Monday 12 May	St Mary's Upper Heyford Annual Church Meeting for ALL	7pm in the church
Tuesday 13 May	SWIG Somerton Village Hall	
Tuesday 13 May	Royal British Legion Meet & Greet	Barley Mow, Upper Heyford 7.45pm
Wednesday 14 May	Warreners, Upper Heyford Village Hall	2-4pm
Thursday 15 May	Upper Heyford Annual Parish Meeting The Reading Room	7.30pm
Saturday 17 May	Souldern Market in Village hall	9-12 noon
Saturday & Sunday 17 & 18 May	Upper Heyford Artweeks Upper Heyford Village Hall	12 noon—6pm
Wednesday 21 May	Heyfords WI Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
Thursday 22 May	ELECTION DAY	Don't forget to vote