

# Valley News

August 2013

No 208

News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



We send our best wishes to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the birth of their son, George Alexander Louis, and remember also all children throughout the world, especially those born in a region of war and deprivation.

**Valley News is delivered FREE to every household in:**

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

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**Also published on line [www.upperheyford.com](http://www.upperheyford.com)**

## Church Services in the Valley

<b>The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford</b>		<a href="http://www.cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk">www.cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk</a>
<b>For further details about services or requests concerning baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact the benefice office</b>		
Rev Edward Green	01869 340562	edward.green@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 Mary	Friwell St Oalve	Lower Heyford & Caulcott St Mary	Somerton St James	Souldern Annon to the BVM	Upper Heyford St Mary	Heyford Park The Chapel
4 Aug	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 Communion	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Matins	9:30 Animal Service	11:00 Contemporary Worship Communion
5-9 Aug	HOLIDAY CLUB 10:00-12:00 MONDAY TO FRIDAY						
11 Aug	9:30 Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	No Service	11:00 Sung Eucharist	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contemporary Worship
18 Aug	9:30 Morn- ing Prayer	11:00 Fam- ily Worship Communion	11:00 Morn- ing Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship	11:00 Contemporary Worship
25 Aug	9:30 Family Worship	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Communion	9:30 Family Worship Communion	Morning Prayer	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship
1 Sep	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 Communion	9:30 Said Communion	11:00 Matins	9:30 Traditional language Communion	11:00 Contemporary Worship Communion
8 Sep	9:30 Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship / Communion	9:30 Sunday Club	11:00 Sung Eucharist	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contemporary Worship
15 Sep	9:30 Said Com- munion	11:00 Fam- ily Worship Communion	11:00 Morning Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship	11:00 Contemporary Worship
22 Sep	9:30 Family Worship	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Communion	9:30 Family Wor- ship Com- munion	TBC	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship
29 Sep	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 Communion	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Matins	9:30 Traditional language Communion	11:00 Contemporary Worship Communion

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



**Blessing of the Animals**  
**St Mary's, Upper Heyford**  
**Sunday 4th August 9.30am**

*Bring your pet, a picture of your pet, or any animal dolls.*  
*The animal and pet blessing is a lovely ceremony that praises and affirms*  
*the wonderful contribution animals and pets add to our lives.*

For safety reasons all animals must be under the secure control of their owners

## CHERWELL VALLEY BENEFICE

### A very warm welcome to our new Team Rector Stephen Griffiths and his fiancée Cally



Dear Friends,

Cally and I are very much looking forward to joining you in the Cherwell Valley Benefice. We are very fortunate to be moving to another lovely part of the country. I was delighted to be asked to serve as your next Team Rector. The variety of ministry going on in the Benefice is impressive and the friendship and goodwill that exists amongst the parishes and people is a very good sign. There are some significant challenges and opportunities ahead as we engage with the forthcoming changes in the Benefice (in terms of the clergy team and the population). In all this we need to remember the faithfulness of God and the importance of sharing and living the Good News of Jesus in our communities. For me the most important word in all this is 'team'. My aim will be to serve and lead as a member of a team, allowing others to flourish in their gifts and talents, as well as bringing my own skills and abilities into the picture.

For those interested in this kind of thing, I thought I'd share a bit of information about me and Cally.

I grew up in south Derbyshire in a village called Rosliston, near Burton upon Trent. I have an older brother and older sister, both married with children. My mother still lives near Burton on Trent. My father now lives in France (which is very handy for holidays and stocking up with good wine). Music has played a very important part in my life from an early age. My first instrument was the cornet, which I played in a brass band all through my teenage years. I then learned to play the piano, which led on to my interest in the organ (both church and cinema types!). I've played

in some wonderful venues (churches, cathedrals and cinemas) across the country and was involved in the installation of a cinema organ in Windermere recently. At home I love gardening and cooking. Hospitality is very important to me and I trust that you will feel welcome as Cally and I set up our new home. I sensed a call to ordination in my late teens, having been encouraged to consider this by the clergy at the church at which I was converted. This led to a theology degree followed by two years general ministry experience and a further two years at Ridley Hall Cambridge. I was ordained in Derby Cathedral and served my curacy at St. Giles' Derby. In those four years I was able to develop my preaching and teaching skills, lead the youth ministry and develop the music ministry of the church. From there I moved to be Rector of St. Bridget's Moresby in Carlisle Diocese. My work has been varied and rewarding. As well as leading the work of the parish I have been involved with training ordinands, supervising curates and mentoring new incumbents. For the last year I have also been Rural Dean of Calder. I love reading British history and discovering the secrets of the landscape and countryside, so I look forward to finding out about this lovely part of Oxfordshire.

Cally grew up in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, and her parents and sister still live in that area. She studied history at Leicester University, and then Personnel Management at De Montfort University. It was while she was a student that she became a Christian, and started going to Holy Trinity Church in Leicester. Whilst there she developed her own musical talents through getting involved in worship as part of the student work at the church, as she loves singing and playing the guitar. Cally currently lives in Oxford, and will move across to the Benefice once we are married in November. She is a senior member of staff for a Christian Charity called UCCF, which provides resources for Christian students at university wishing to share their faith in Jesus with their friends and course mates. Being based in Oxfordshire means that she'll be able to continue her work with UCCF. This involves all things Personnel, such as recruitment, training, and looking after staff. When she's not working she's often out swimming in the open air pool, or knitting something amazing. She currently attends St Aldate's Church in Oxford, which is where we will be married on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

### STOP PRESS

Sadly we have to announce that the Revd Edward Green our Team Vicar is leaving us. The date has not been decided but will certainly be before Christmas. He is to be Vicar at the Parish of All Saints Leavesden in Diocese of St. Albans. We are most grateful for Eddie's ministry and support during his four years with us, and will be very sorry to lose him, but we do of course wish him well in his new parish. More in the next issue of Valley News.

## WHAT'S ON IN THE CHERWELL VALLEY

BE PART OF A VERY SPECIAL EVENT SING  
WITH A GERMAN ORCHESTRA  
THEY VISIT CHERWELL VALLEY CHURCH 3-6  
OCTOBER 2013

FESTIVE CONCERT WITH OUR CHOIR,  
INCLUDING WELL KNOWN FAVOURITES  
ON SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER IN SOULDERN  
CHURCH, SUNDAY SERVICE WITH CHOIR &  
ORCHESTRA IN THE FIRST FULL PERFORMANCE  
OF A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT OF A SCHUBERT  
MASS. THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE  
WITH OUR BENEFICE: AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
WELCOME OUR VISITORS AND EXPERIENCE THE  
WONDERFUL COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN THIS  
BEAUTIFUL PART OF OXFORDSHIRE.

### HOW CAN I TAKE PART?

COME AND SING IN THE CHOIR FOR THE  
CONCERT & BENEFICE SERVICE- NOVICES AND  
EXPERIENCED SINGERS EQUALLY WELCOME  
COME WITH YOUR FRIENDS TO THE CONCERT  
ON

**SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 7.00 P.M.**  
**JOIN US FOR THE SERVICE ON**  
**SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER AT 9.30**

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1971 IN DINSLAKEN NEAR DUSSELDORF HAS  
TWENTY-FOUR SKILLED PLAYERS & REGULARLY  
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[iain.porteus@btinternet.com](mailto:iain.porteus@btinternet.com)

**Community Market**  
**Souldern Village Hall**  
**Every third Saturday 9:00am-12:00noon**

Locally sourced, grown, produced or baked  
*Meat, eggs, vegetables, plants, cakes & savouries*  
(subject to availability)

Hand crafted  
*gifts, cards & jewellery etc.*  
Sausage/Bacon/Egg Baps  
(to eat in or take out)

Come and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a chat with  
friends

Autumn/Winter Markets  
21<sup>st</sup> September, 19<sup>th</sup> October  
Christmas Market 16<sup>th</sup> November (*in the Church*)

Tel: 01869 345931 or email:  
[barbara.a.mcgarry@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.a.mcgarry@gmail.com)  
for further information

Scrumptious Cream Teas!

**UPPER HEYFORD READING ROOM**



Sunday afternoons 2 - 4 pm  
4th & 18th August

### CHOROS: Songs of Love

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30pm in Upper Heyford Village Hall**

Not content with performing in the Reading Room and in the church during the past two years, Choros is completing the hat-trick by giving its next exciting performance in Upper Heyford Village Hall on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm. The first two concerts gave the villagers a taste for beautiful choral music superbly sung by this widely acclaimed choir conducted by Janet Lincé. A goodly sum was raised for the Community Fund on both previous occasions and once again the profits will go towards ongoing projects. The programme will include gorgeous part songs, jazz arrangements of favourite songs, madrigals to satisfy the early music brigade and even Maori songs all on the theme of LOVE.

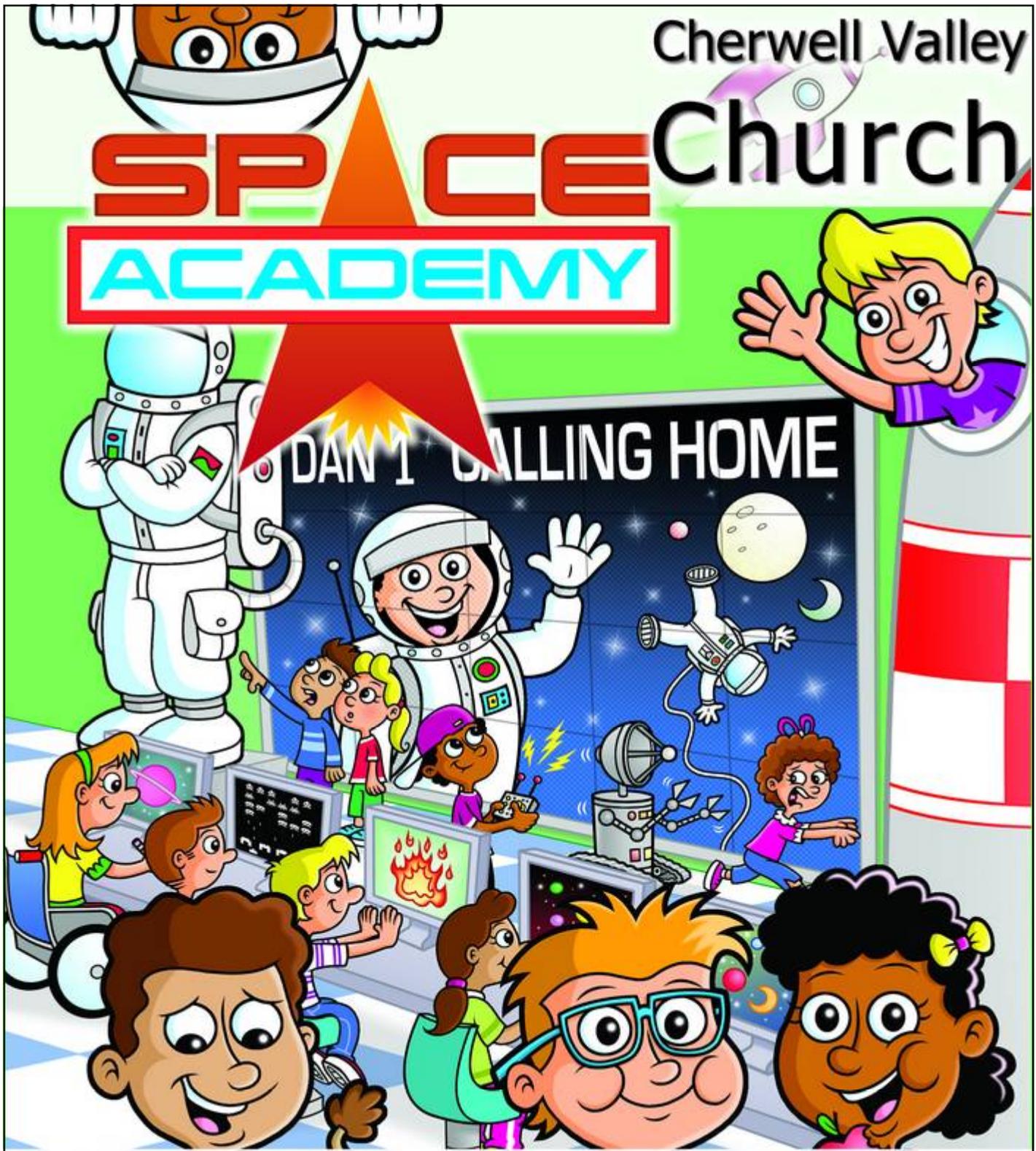
Tickets £10, OAPs £6, schoolchildren and students £2, are available from  
Mary Goodman (232722; [jgoodmanjr61@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jgoodmanjr61@yahoo.co.uk))

Cherwell Valley

Church

SPACE

ACADEMY



DAN 1 CALLING HOME

**Benefice Holiday Club**  
**5th-9th August 10am-12pm**  
**Heyford Park Chapel**  
Contact 01869 233687 for more information

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

### **Councillor Calling**

**Pioneer Square** in Bicester is now open – you can hardly have missed it! – with the new Sainsbury and cinema both finished on time and a number of shops and cafes already moving in. Unfortunately, I missed the actual opening ceremony due to another commitment but took the first opportunity to have a good look round. It looks good to me, with easy links to Sheep Street and to parking. Fingers crossed that the traffic and buses keep circulating freely: so far I've not experienced any jams so the only complaints I've heard are from residents opposite about the look of the car park – and Sainsbury are already on the case and working up new designs.

**Parking** above Sainsbury belongs to them and they have made their 526 places free for two hours with an third hour costing £1.70 (I gather the signage isn't too clear, so you may want to watch out). The rest of the parking in Bicester – Market Square, cattle Market, etc – still belongs to CDC, with charges still in place, which leaves an odd situation, confusing for visitors, with half the parking free (up to two hours, at least) and the other half to be paid for. Once we see how it's working, there'll be a full review to decide how all Cherwell's carparks will work in future. It's even more complex in Banbury, which is envious of Bicester's free places, but where Cherwell's are just the cheaper half of the parking, with other providers charging more. (The proportion will reduce further with the planned expansion of the Castle Quay shopping mall across the canal and onto the two Spiceball car parks). So the practicalities are complex enough, but that's by no means the most of it...

**Money**, of course, is at the root of this, with parking contributing some £900,000 last year in Banbury and £700,000 in Bicester, over a tenth of the council's budget. With yet another squeeze coming on – our government "grant" (in reality, payment back to us of some of what our businesses pay in Business Rates) is to shrink by a further 10% in 2015 – and Council Tax capped by government, making ends meet without parking charges would be quite a challenge. However, my successor in the financial hot seat does not intend to do this alone so we've just set up a Budget Planning Committee to combine the talents of many other councillors to work on these problems. I won't attempt to predict the outcome: ideally, we'd boost local trade with free parking, absorb the grant cut and keep Council tax frozen for another year without any impact on services to residents by continuing efficiency savings, not least from more joint working with South Northants and Stratford District Councils – but it will take a lot of hard work and late nights to see if that can be made to happen in the less than ideal world we live in.

**County Council** budgets are under just as great pressure as District and one cost cutting proposal that has been causing concern is to narrow the criteria for free school transport. Although not a county councillor, I represent Cherwell on the county-wide School Organisation Stakeholder Group and so had a forum to air concerns directly to the decision makers about the impact this might have in our area – especially on the Warriner. I am glad to say that, while the proposal has not been completely dropped, it has been deferred as a result of the level of concern. I am hopeful that the relatively tiny savings (£340,000 after four years – a lot of money to me and you but marginal in terms of the county's budget) will be hugely outweighed by the difficulties.

**Planning**, meanwhile, is sometimes about preserving what's best about our area and not simply adding yet more swathes of new building. Locally, four parishes are putting through Neighbourhood Area plans so they, and not developers, decide where new housing should go. This is a complex process so perhaps it is not surprising that it's the larger parishes (who are also most under threat) of Bloxham, Adderbury, Hook Norton and Stratton Audley who are doing this. Open to all, though, are suggestions for the new Local Heritage Assets Register, which can be buildings, monuments, landscapes or any other manmade feature. If accepted, they will have some protection as sort of local Listed Buildings scheme – so do contact CDC's Design & Conservation team about anywhere you think deserves protection but is not Listed by English Heritage. Meanwhile, enjoy this glorious sunshine while it lasts!

*James Macnamara*

### **Oxfordshire councils challenge fly tippers to clean up their act**



A toilet, several sofas and bags of raw meat are just some of the things councils across Oxfordshire have had to clear up from bring bank sites in the last few months, as fly tippers continue to blight community facilities.

The bill for removing waste tipped at the sites, typically located on housing estates or in supermarket car parks, reached over a huge £100,000 last year, and councils are clamping down on this illegal practice. Enforcement Officers will be making regular visits to sites to ensure they are being used correctly and using covert CCTV cameras to catch offenders.

Councillor David Dodds, Chair of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership said "we provide local bring banks to help residents recycle items that can't fit into their recycling boxes or bins at home. Unfortunately some people are abusing this service and leaving behind items which can't be recycled, costing us a huge amount to clear up every year. Often business waste is also tipped at the sites, which are provided for householders only."

District councils provide bulky waste collection services for large electrical items and furniture, and there are 7 Household Waste Recycling Centres across the county that accept a wide range of materials for recycling and disposal. For more information on these services and waste management in Oxfordshire visit [www.oxfordshirwaste.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshirwaste.gov.uk).

If the containers at a bring bank are full or if you witness fly tipping please report it:

**Cherwell District Council: 01295 227003**

## POETRY CORNER

A few poems get imbedded in your consciousness because they affect you deeply or have a particular rhythm or use of language. This poem I was simply required to learn by heart as a sophomore in High School (aged 15). It does have a nice cadence and story line but it meant very little to me until Mary and I had our children, then it became so much more. My appreciation has been reinforced by Grandad duties since. The description of a Father's precious time with his daughters captures a rare kind of moment.

Jack Goodman

### The Children's Hour Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Between the dark and the daylight,  
When the night is beginning to lower,  
Comes a pause in the day's occupation,  
That is known as the children's hour.

I hear in the chamber above me  
The patter of little feet,  
The sound of a door that is opened,  
And voices soft and sweet.

From my study I see in the lamplight,  
Descending the broad hall stair,  
Grave Alice, and laughing Allegra,  
And Edith with golden hair.

A whisper and then a silence:  
Yet I know by their merry eyes,  
They are plotting and planning together,  
To take me by surprise.

A sudden rush from the stairway,  
A sudden raid from the hall!  
By three doors left unguarded  
They enter my castle wall!

They climb up into my turret  
O'er the arms and back of my chair;  
If I try to escape, they surround me,  
They seem to be everywhere.

They almost devour me with kisses,  
Their arms about me entwine,  
Till I think of the Bishop of Bingen  
In his Mouse-Tower on the Rhine!

Do you think, O blue-eyed banditti,  
Because you have scaled the wall,  
Such an old mustache as I am  
Is not a match for you all?

I have you fast in my fortress  
And will not let you depart,  
But put you down in the dungeon  
In the round-tower of my heart.

And there will I keep you forever,  
Yes, forever and a day,  
Till the walls shall crumble to ruin,  
And moulder in dust away!

### St Mary's Church Upper Heyford STOP PRESS

St Mary's Upper Heyford Parochial Church Council is delighted to announce the award of a very generous grant of £53,900 from Viridor Credits which, with our funding from the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and your outstanding fundraising efforts will enable us to move forward with making the church waterproof and safe for the future. We would like to thank all of you for your generosity, help and support so far in making this possible. There is a lot of work still to be done, but this is a true triumph for the village and community of Upper Heyford. Well done everyone!

Andrew Gotch, PCC Secretary

(Though not mentioned above it is important to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by Alison & Andrew in order to achieve this wonderful result - St Mary's PCC)

### Saturday 14th September 2013



How about getting that cycle out (or walk if you prefer) and enjoying a leisurely trip around the local village churches, while at the same time raising funds for the church of your choice!

Sponsorship forms available from all the PCCs, remember that you do not need to be too ambitious, just a few local churches is fine.

*Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust has generously supported all the local churches in the past*

# 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.

## **Woodstock Partnership of Schools Community Learning at the Marlborough School, Woodstock**

Our Community Education programme for 2013-2014 is now available on our website and copies will be placed around the area and sent out to those on our mailing list during August. We will put copies in libraries, shops and other community venues around the area but if you still can't find a copy it is available to download on the Marlborough School website [www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/community/index/html](http://www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/community/index/html)

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

We offer weekly courses and Saturday workshops – there really is something for everyone.

Our biggest offer yet. Bookings can be made by post all summer or by phone/email after Wednesday 4 September. We look forward to hearing from you.

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

## **SOMERTON VILLAGE PRODUCE SHOW**

**Saturday**

**7th September**

**2013**

**Opens at 2pm**

**Prize giving just after 3pm**



**Fridays: 2nd August & 6th September  
Upper Heyford Village Hall  
All money prizes & good raffle**

Proceeds in aid of the church Restoration Fund



## **If you would like to hire the UPPER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL ...**



Please contact Emma Measures at [vhire@upperheyford.com](mailto:vhire@upperheyford.com) or call **07563 170292** (outside office hours only please) or visit the "Amenities" section of [www.upperheyford.com](http://www.upperheyford.com)

### Parish Residents Hire Charges

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

### Non-Parish Residents Hire Charges

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

### Amongst other things, the newly refurbished Village Hall offers:

- Large Main Hall with Stage
- Small Kitchen with 2 serving hatches onto the Main Hall
- Large Kitchen suitable for catering large functions
- Separate (rear) access for caterers / suppliers
- Off road parking
- Disabled access & facilities
- Full height panoramic doors opening onto recreation area

**We look forward to hearing from you.**

Alternatively, to hire the Village Reading Room please call Brenda Cooper on 01869 233746

## **HELP**

Somerton Local History Group are putting on an exhibition in September entitled THE RURAL POST OFFICE. If anyone has any documents, photos or other items e.g. clothing, stationery etc., relating to any Village Post Office we should love to see them and perhaps copy or borrow them. They will be well looked after and returned safely to you.

Rosemary 01869 345439 [deddlib@hotmail.com](mailto:deddlib@hotmail.com)  
Basil. 01869 345792.

## **Blessing of the Animals St Mary's, Upper Heyford Sunday 4th August 9.30am**



Blessing of  
the Animals



**UPPER HEYFORD  
Flower & Produce Show  
Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2013  
2.00 PM to 5.00 PM**



**Upper Heyford Village Hall & Marquee  
Recreation Ground, Somerton Road**

**Schedule of events:**

**2.00 pm:** Show to be opened by Mr. Ian Lough-Scott.  
There will be a ploughing competition (harvest permitting) in either the field north of the Recreation Ground or the field east of the Allotments, from approximately 11am onwards.

**2.15 – 4.00 pm:** A variety of stalls, including Tombola; Bric a Brac; Cakes; Produce; Tea and Cake; Ice Cream; Raffle; Children's and Adult's Sports and Games; Quizzes; Face Painting; BBQ and more.

**2:30: pm:** 1940s dance demonstration (15 minutes)

**3.00pm:** Games Children and family sports (30 minutes)

**3:30 pm:** Guided allotment walk.

**4:00 pm:** Prize-giving for winners of the flower show, best vintage dressed adult and child, ploughing match and vintage tractor display; raffle draw and auction of produce.

**Exhibitions:** Artwork by the Painting Group; the various Flower Show trophies will be displayed; Vintage Tractors.

**Entry: Adults – £1, children under 16, and OAPs – 50p, children under 6 – Free.**

The Show closes at 5:00, to be followed by an evening blitz party with live music at 7:00 to include a 2 course meal, 1940s Disc Jockey and a 1940s singer; licensed bar. Tickets £10:00 per person: call (01869) 23 2550; E-mail [andrew.stone3@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.stone3@btinternet.com)

**Donations:**

- Cakes for tea to Maureen James on (01869) 232878 to arrange drop off, or leave these at the Village Hall on the morning of the show.
- Prizes for the tombola to Linda Funnell, Westerly Cottage on the High Street. (01869) 232348
- Prizes for raffle to Ann Woski, Treeside, on the High Street. (01869) 23 2976

Due to printing costs we are unable to deliver a schedule and entry form to each household on Heyford Park and the Ley's Caravan site. However entries are welcomed from those who wish to take part. The relevant documents are available from the Residents Association or the Community Shop at the Community Centre. If further information or copies are required contact the Residents Association by e mail at <[heyfordpark@btinternet.com](mailto:heyfordpark@btinternet.com)> or Carole Gother: 07592 735 669.

Any profit from this year's show will go towards the Village Hall.

# Ashcroft THERAPY CENTRE

Hudson Street, Deddington OX15 0SW  
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[www.ashcrofttherapycentre.co.uk](http://www.ashcrofttherapycentre.co.uk)



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[www.dragon-framing.co.uk](http://www.dragon-framing.co.uk)

**A Way of Caring**  
Registered Charity No 297099  
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Adderbury  
OX17 3NL



### **Katharine House Hospice Newsletter**

Did you receive a copy of our Spring Newsletter packed with updates, reviews and news? If not, and you'd like a copy and to go onto our mailing list to ensure you receive future issues, give the Fundraising Office a call on 01295 812161. Don't forget to let us know if you move, so that you don't miss out!

### **Are you following us on Facebook and Twitter?**

Our Twitter and Facebook pages are gaining followers and are an excellent way to keep up to the minute with our news, events and lottery winners. Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/katharinehouse](http://www.facebook.com/katharinehouse) and our Twitter you can follow us @khhosp. Come and visit and say hello

### **POLICE - BICESTER RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD**

The neighbourhood team is continuing to focus on village primary schools after requests to support the issue of parents parking on yellow zigzags. Please remember that the zigzags are there for one reason only – to protect your children as they enter and leave the school grounds. Please try be grateful that they are there, not annoyed that you might have to walk a little further.

Catalytic converter thefts are slightly increasing in Oxfordshire at the moment. High clearance vehicles are most at risk due to easy access to the underside. The most effective method of prevention is defensive parking – close up against a fence or hedge or even another car to reduce access to the cat side of the vehicle.

ANPR Operations were carried out at Camp Road, Upper Heyford and the Middleton Stoney crossroads, with more than 600 vehicles checked.

### **Speed Check**

Following a request from locals, PCSO Cooper conducted a speed check with the Speed Indicator Device (SID) in the Caulcott dip on 2<sup>nd</sup> July from 16.20-17.10hours. 82 vehicles passed through the SID travelling in the direction of Upper Heyford village. 24 of those were in excess of the 40 mph limit – we will return again...

### **Have Your Say**

Would you like to receive short messages about what we do in your local area and crime prevention advice? Follow us on Twitter: @TVP\_Bicester. We're a small team so won't inundate you with messages and if you don't like what you're reading, you can always "unfollow" us, but we'd love you to stay!

### **Sign up to Thames Valley Alert**

Thames Valley Alerts is the new system for receiving crime and policing updates for your area. The state-of-the-art system allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it. A new option includes receiving information via text and more traditional landline and email messages will still be available. To sign up to receive alerts visit [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)

**The Heyfords WI**  
Formed January 1935



**We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in Upper Heyford Reading Room at 7.30pm.**

**You don't have to be a member to come along to one of our meetings, but once you have, we hope you will want to join us**

What a wonderful meeting we had in June when we welcomed Heather Shute, and her Medical Detection Dogs. They are trained to assist individuals who manage complex medical conditions on a day to day basis. The dogs are taught to identify the odour changes that are associated with certain medical conditions such as diabetes and nut allergies.

We were once again invited by Steeple Aston WI to join them for a walk and lunch, which was enjoyed by all who attended and Catherine Crook took some wonderful candid photos. We also managed to have a short evening walk around Kirtlington, the walk started a shower but that soon cleared up and the weather stayed fine for the rest of the evening.

There was no meeting at the Upper Heyford Village Hall in July as we visited Iron Down Farm, and this was followed by a visit to Wychwood Brewery at the end of July.

August sees us hosting Mike Payne who will talk to us about the "History of Pinewood Studios" and we will also have a stall at the Upper Heyford Flower Show where we will have cakes, jams and plants for sale. In September we will be out for the day on a canal boat and our monthly meeting will be a Hands on Flower Arrangement.

For those who are still having BBQ's here's a simple recipe for a tasty glaze you might like to try on your red meat of poultry.

### **Sweet-n-Spicy Mustard Glaze**

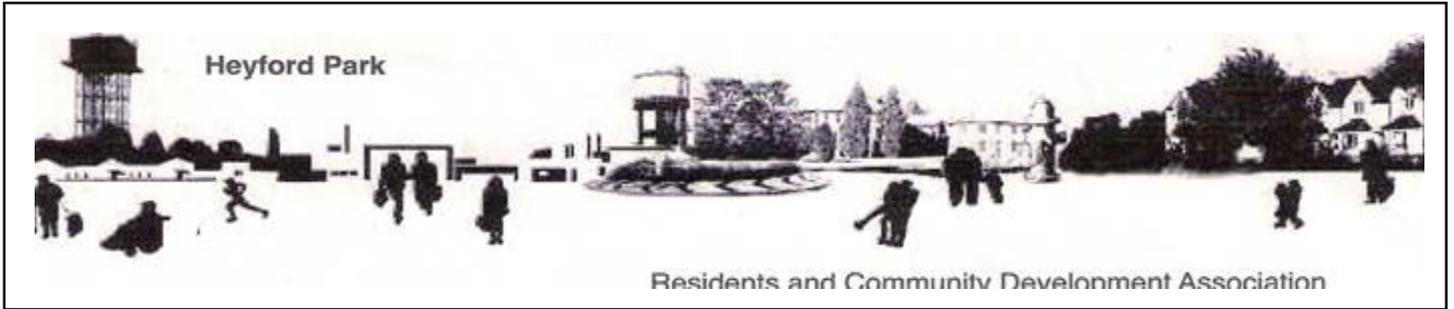
2 Tablespoons Dijon Mustard  
Finely grated zest of half small orange  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves  
3 tablespoons Demerara sugar  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
Mix all ingredients together and brush on to the meat 10 minutes before the end of cooking

### **Warreners**

Members had a most enjoyable meal at Kidlington Community Hall, Susan (Bunce) and her helpers really did us proud, in fact we liked it so much we have now booked for our Christmas meal.

Colin Oakes gave a fascinating talk on Old London, the second he has given and he is coming back again next year with even more tales! He is a most entertaining speaker.

The August meeting on 14th is a social afternoon with bingo, and on Sept 11th a sing-along with Keith Moses.



<b><u>Chair Person</u></b>	<b>Tim Bigelow</b>
<b><u>Vice Chair</u></b>	<b>Alf Gother</b>
<b><u>Secretary</u></b>	
<b><u>Treasurer</u></b>	<b>Angela Ford</b>
Bee Henderson	Carole Gother
Denise Clough	Edward Fraser
James Henderson	Marilyn Brown
Natasha Smith	Paul Fortnam
Sarah Fortnam	

### **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***

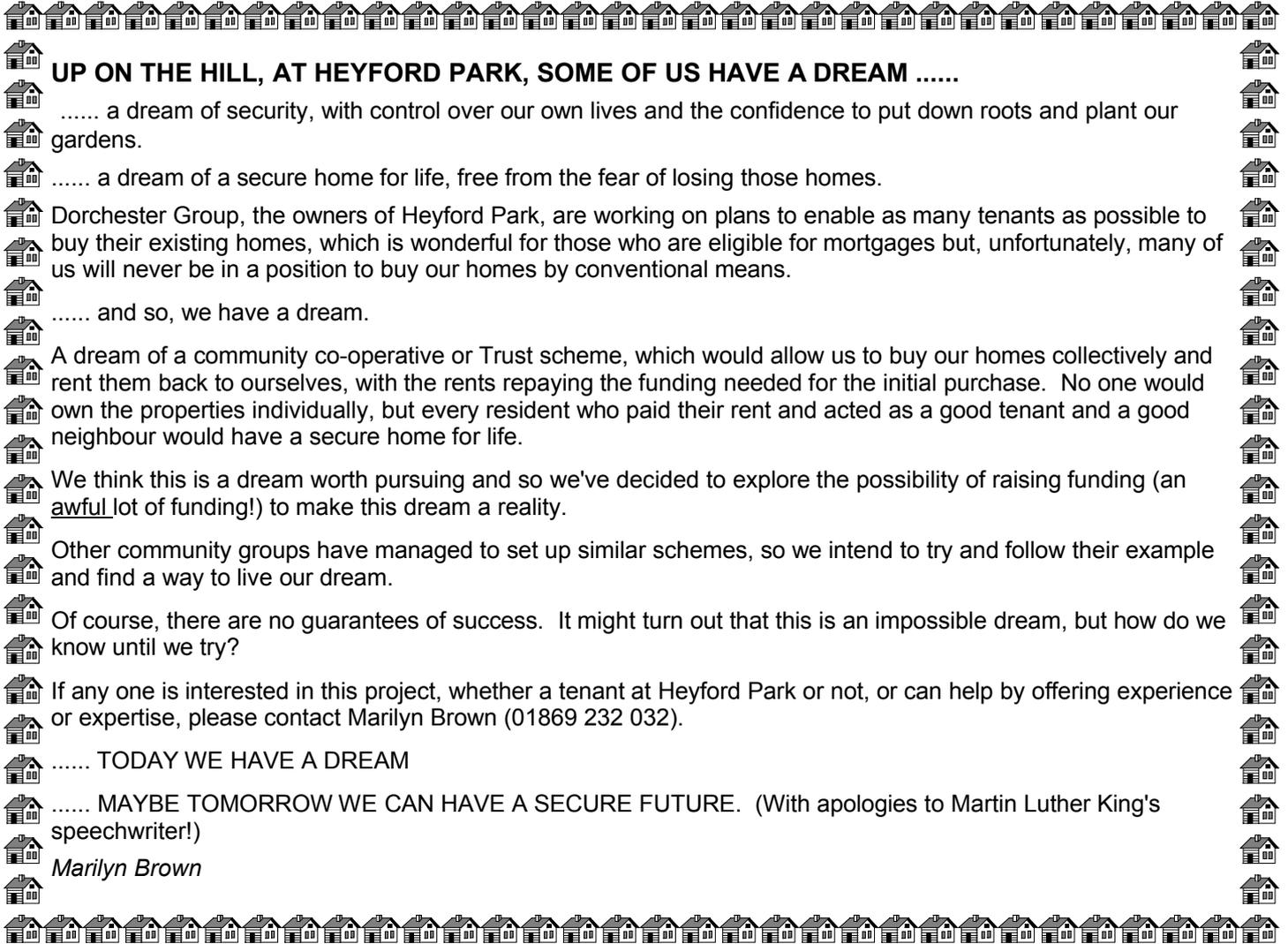
Please support the Community Shop as it is run by residents for  
the local community.

Here at Heyford Park there are many things going on! Heyford Park Residential Lettings (HPRL) are painting the outsides of the bungalows white which perks them up a bit. Work has also commenced at the Old Officers Mess, which will one day be the Free School if all goes well, and blue and green paint markings are appearing all over Heyford Park and stretching down Camp Road to Upper Heyford, and a blue porta cabin has appeared by the old shopping centre . So it looks as though things are starting to take off as it were towards building new homes. This will mean many changes for us the residents here, some of us have been here many years, others not so long, most of us consider this place to be our home, and we do wonder if the people who buy or rent these new homes will become a part of our community.

Heyford Park is unique because of its history, its links to the military both British and American, the protected wildlife areas, and also the unique close knit community that it now serves. We have ballet classes for the children, line dancing will be starting in August, Eve a charity which helps women and girls was "conceived " here and has gone from strength to strength and is now widely known throughout the county. Scouts, Playbus and so much more. Our shop closed, and as we can't be without a shop, up sprang the Community Shop with the profits going back into our community, fresh baked bread, freshly made sandwiches, beautiful bouquets of flowers are sold and a plant area , a Thai night which we can pre book a meal. On sunny days out comes the BBQ and the bouncy castle for the kiddies to enjoy, and there are more things planned throughout the summer holidays!!

We are a thriving and very much alive community, with many excellent ideas that when the time is right we put into action. It is a pleasure and a joy to live here, crime rates are very low simply because we know that neighbours watch our homes, some might call these people "curtain twitchers", I call them concerned about the welfare of others as if anything is seen that is untoward, the word soon gets out, our Facebook site becomes very "hot" with comments of what is happening, so thieves have no chance to go undetected . Children are mostly safe to wander around , and if someone loses their pet, the call goes out to us all and we are busy looking in sheds under cars and hedges, and the escapee, whether it be dog, cat, rabbit, guinea pig or chicken, is soon returned to where it should be. Heyford Park may not be a village in the normal sense, but the village spirit is very strong .

There are many small or medium sized businesses here too, building trades , seamstresses, hairdressers, book keepers, chefs, mechanics, gardeners, artists, you name it and it is probably here, a mix of various races, colours and creeds, and a friendlier bunch of folks I have yet to meet! We can boast that in our community we have Doctors, nurses & paramedics too, health & safety executives, legal eagles, astronomers, environmentalists, carers, pet whisperers, people who run miles or ride bikes for charity , Reiki masters, healers, card & jewellery makers. We have CEO's SEO's, executives, administrators, PhD's, doctorates, & even a Lady!! We can tell the world we have had movies made here, and seen Brad Pitt and others, pop music videos have also been done here. Just before the Olympics, we were "invaded " by many persons from various services, who practiced with "bombs" and guns so as to keep all those who attended the Games safe from terrorist attacks. All of us here have things in common one way or another, and we are fighters, we have aims & goals we don't give up, we are proud to live here, and proud of our community.



**UP ON THE HILL, AT HEYFORD PARK, SOME OF US HAVE A DREAM .....**

..... a dream of security, with control over our own lives and the confidence to put down roots and plant our gardens.

..... a dream of a secure home for life, free from the fear of losing those homes.

Dorchester Group, the owners of Heyford Park, are working on plans to enable as many tenants as possible to buy their existing homes, which is wonderful for those who are eligible for mortgages but, unfortunately, many of us will never be in a position to buy our homes by conventional means.

..... and so, we have a dream.

A dream of a community co-operative or Trust scheme, which would allow us to buy our homes collectively and rent them back to ourselves, with the rents repaying the funding needed for the initial purchase. No one would own the properties individually, but every resident who paid their rent and acted as a good tenant and a good neighbour would have a secure home for life.

We think this is a dream worth pursuing and so we've decided to explore the possibility of raising funding (an awful lot of funding!) to make this dream a reality.

Other community groups have managed to set up similar schemes, so we intend to try and follow their example and find a way to live our dream.

Of course, there are no guarantees of success. It might turn out that this is an impossible dream, but how do we know until we try?

If any one is interested in this project, whether a tenant at Heyford Park or not, or can help by offering experience or expertise, please contact Marilyn Brown (01869 232 032).

..... TODAY WE HAVE A DREAM

..... MAYBE TOMORROW WE CAN HAVE A SECURE FUTURE. (With apologies to Martin Luther King's speechwriter!)

*Marilyn Brown*

## SPORTS AWARDS

**Cherwell District Council will be celebrating its 3rd Annual Sports Awards Evening at Spiceball Leisure Centre, Banbury on Saturday 14th September.**

The Cherwell Sports Awards celebrate and raise awareness of the value of sports and physical activity to individuals, teams and clubs within the District and will also recognise the contribution of those who deliver at a local level including schools, clubs, volunteers and coaches. We are currently approaching sports clubs, schools and other organisations across the District for nominations in the categories below

Please could you give some consideration as to whether you have anyone who you would like to nominate for any of these categories. To complete the nominations on line and for the nomination criteria please follow the link right at the bottom of the e-mail. The closing date for nominations is Sunday 28th July. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me

- Active Inspiration Award
- Unsung Hero
- Junior Sportsperson of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- School Sports Team of the Year
- Sports Teacher of the Year
- Leader/Volunteer of the Year
- Junior Sports Team of the Year
- Disabled Sportsperson of the Year
- Sports Team of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Club of the Year
- Disabled Sports Team of the Year

<http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=9464>  
Thanks Liam Didcock, Senior Recreation Facilities Officer  
01295 221781 or 07814429779  
[liam.didcock@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:liam.didcock@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)



Registered charity no: 294354

**We invite you to join us on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August for a cake and tea morning to raise money and awareness for MND. We will have lots of yummy cakes and treats, hot and cold drinks, a big raffle with great prizes, arts and crafts stall, bric a brac stall and more!**

**Location - Fritwell village hall Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August Time - 10am-1pm**

### WHAT IS MND?

Motor neurone disease (MND) is a rare neurological condition that causes the degeneration (deterioration and loss of function) of the motor system (the cells and nerves in the brain and spinal cord which control the muscles in our bodies). This results in weakness and wasting of the muscles. MND is progressive and symptoms worsen over time. Sadly, MND severely reduces life expectancy and most people with MND die within five years of the onset of symptoms

**We look forward to seeing you there! Fay and team 01869 349704**

## SOMERTON VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION SHOW Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm

YES, HERE WE ARE AGAIN WITH THE SOMERTON VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION SHOW.

THIS YEAR IT WILL BE HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER. COME AND SHOW OFF YOUR HANDY-WORK; FROM THE GARDEN THE KITCHEN OR THE WORKSHOP AND DON'T FORGET YOUR CAMERA OR NEEDLEWORK.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR HOBBY IS THERE SHOULD BE A SLOT FOR IT AMONG THE EIGHTY EIGHT CATEGORIES WHICH MAKE UP THE SHOW.

SCHEDULES ARE DELIVERED TO EACH HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE. CHECK IT OUT TO FIND THE CATEGORIES WHICH SUIT YOUR INTERESTS AND BRING THEM TO THE HALL ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> BEFORE 11am. NOT LATER PLEASE, AS THE INDEPENDENT JUDGES WHO AWARD THE PRIZES HAVE BUSY PROGRAMMES AND MUST NOT BE KEPT WAITING WHILE WE TRY TO GET THE DISPLAY SET OUT. EVERY YEAR WE TRY TO INTRODUCE SOMETHING NEW. THIS YEAR IT IS A COMPETITION FOR THE YOUNGER ENTRENTS. HOW MANY DIFFERENT OBJECTS CAN BE FITTED INTO A MATCH BOX? LET'S SEE WHAT PEOPLE CAN COME UP WITH. IT'S CATEGORY 88.

THE HALL OPENS AT 9.00am IT IS CLOSED FROM 11.00am DURING THE JUDGING AND REOPENS AT 2pm. COME AND SEE HOW EVERYBODY HAS DONE AND ENJOY A CUP OF TEA AND THE RAFFLE BEFORE THE PRIZES ARE GIVEN OUT JUST AFTER 3.00pm.

FINALLY DON'T FORGET THE AUCTION OF SURPLUS HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITS AT THE END OF THE SHOW. NEW TO THE SHOW? DO NOT WORRY; WE ARE ALL AMATEURS. THERE IS NO REASON WHY YOUR ROSE/ CAKE/PLUMB/ PHOTOGRAPH IS NOT AT LEAST AS GOOD AS ANYONE ELSE'S. PUT IT IN THE SHOW. JUST THINK YOU COULD WIN ONE, OR MORE, OF THE MODEST BUT HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER PRIZES AND BE THE ENVY OF ALL YOUR FRIENDS!

WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER.

JOHN GATTLEY, CHAIRMAN SOMERTON VPA, CONTACT FOR EXTRA SCHEDULES - 01869 346654



## Somerton News

Come and join us at  
**SWG**

(Somerton Women's  
Independent Group) on  
the 2nd Tuesday evening  
of each month.



It is a great way to see and catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Annual Membership of SWIG is £12, but our meetings are open to all. If you are not a Member but would like to join us for a particular meeting, do come along and we will charge you £2 on the door. Most of our meetings are in our beautiful new village hall from 7.30 p.m. on and include a glass of wine, excellent refreshments, and tea and coffee

Below are details of our next two meetings.  
August 2013 - No meeting

September 10th in the Somerton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Julia Colegrave of Wykham Park Farm Shop will be with us to talk about the products they sell in the shop This local Aladdin's Cave of good things to eat is a buzzing example of our increasing interest in good, well sourced, and local food. Julia will also bring along some of the range of items they sell, to give us a chance to buy some of their products.

Keep watching this space! We will publish details of our next two meetings in the next Valley News.

### ***News from the Somerton History Project***

One of the major aims of the History Project has been to attract more visitors to our church and to our website. You may have noticed that we now have brown signs pointing to Somerton Historic Church at both the Ardley and North Aston turns.

Thanks to painstaking design work by David Jaques we also now have a supply of very attractive leaflets which we intend to leave in hotels, guesthouses, libraries, information offices etc. These will we hope attract visitors to the church and the website and also serve as a short introduction in the church itself. There is therefore a supply of them at the back of the church. If you know of anyone who might be interested do please feel free to take copies and help us distribute them.

You will see a copy of the leaflet in the new church notice board near the bus stop. This was also financed from the History Project and we hope to put rather more project news up there in future

We are still encountering problems in getting our seventeenth century clock back from the restorers in Cumbria. They obviously want to bring it when they have other business in these parts, and this seems to be taking far too long.

### **So now we have a lovely new playground!**

The one thing Somerton lacked was an play area, which would offer an invaluable resource for the children of the village and surrounding communities and also a meeting place for the entire village. Up to 15 years ago, there was a

small play facility on a site known as " the old sewage works" which had play equipment built and installed by the local farmers but sadly, with modern day health and safety, the equipment was condemned and taken down back in the 1990s

In 2008, a group of young families in the village joined together to pursue a common purpose - a playground for their children. At first this seemed like an impossible dream but as the children got older it became apparent that a safe play space was needed.

Families formed a social group, the Somerton Teatime Club which met at the village hall on a regular basis and through this group, further ideas regarding the play area were formed. The Parish Council were approached and they kindly agreed to apply for grants to fund landscaping and new play equipment. This was important as they were able to help with issues such as VAT, public liability insurance, and could apply for loans for any short falling when it came to the initial pay out of VAT. The Parish Council also helped to maximise fundraising efforts. A play area subcommittee of the Parish Council was formed with members from the Teatime Club who set to work on applications for grants. This involved much consultation with the community, particularly the children. During the application process various challenges were addressed; design of the playground which was led by public consultation with an emphasis on the children's ideas; perimeter fencing; landscaping of the site; site maintenance; access issues; finances, including funding, budget and tax issues. The lease on the area was coming to an end and the Cherwell District Council kindly agreed to renew the lease for a further 25 years. The Parish Council were successful in securing funding from Viridor Credits (play equipment), the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment 2 Grndon Waste Management Ltd (fencing and landscaping) and the Doris Field charitable trust.

The Somerton Teatime Club put a huge effort into local fundraising which was supported enthusiastically by the community and events were also arranged by the Somerton Social Club.

The total fundraising fell short of the total cost of the wish list and therefore the contractors were consulted again to bring their quotes in line with the reduced budget. After much deliberation, changes to the design and discussions with contractors, two local companies were chosen to take the project forward. Landscaping and fencing was contracted to Nicholson's nurseries and Trevor Stewart Timber Play equipment provided a bespoke design for the play equipment based around a farming theme. Work began in the spring with new fencing and native hedgerows planted to increase biodiversity on the site. Construction of the play equipment then began in May and was completed a couple of months later - poor weather hampered progress on occasions but never affected the enthusiasm of the team - and the finished result is even better than the plans indicated it would be. Fruit trees, wild flowers and a willow tunnel will complete the area when they are added in the autumn. Somerton is delighted that after years of work, the playground has passed its final inspection and will be officially opened on Friday 26th July at 4.30pm with a Teddy Bears' picnic. Many congratulations to all those involved.

## UPPER HEYFORD NEWS



### With grateful thanks for an 80th special birthday party

They say life is full of surprises! Without my knowledge, on Saturday 13th July, Clare, Donna, Ann, Andrew and Stuart, not forgetting the grandchildren, had organised a special 80th birthday party for me, in the Reading Room, with plenty of food and a lovely birthday cake. This was shared with family and friends, who had all managed to keep it a secret from me.

I would like to thank one and all for the cards and presents and everyone for being present to share this special day, it was all greatly appreciated.

Many thanks, Dump Brain

### Tribute: William (Bill) Larnar

Bill was born in Upper Heyford, and lived with his first wife Carol in Mill Lane, until he exchanged homes with Bob Gregory and family and moved to Oxford. Sadly Carol passed away on her way home from a holiday in Weymouth, many years ago.

Bill's first job was working with Sonny Buswell, and he played in the Heyford United team of the early 1960s.

He later married Isobel, sadly she passed away just before Bill. Bill was Elsie Hudson's brother; Elsie has now lost 2 brothers and a sister in the last two years.

*George (Jack) Hudson*

### Memories!

I am not a native of Upper Heyford but have lived here for 87 years. Over the years Heyford has sadly had many aircraft crashes. The first I remember was seeing a Handley Page Heyford nose diving shortly after take off, coming down about where the Shopette is now.

Heyford has seen many changes in my time, Greaves Lane is now Orchard Lane, before the USAF came to Heyford the road to Fritwell started at the corner of the Ridings. A small garage was on that corner, and an assortment of dwellings were on the left hand side. The Fritwell Road had Balus Firs and Kennel Copse, between the two there was a road up to the old original Ardley Quarry, many local men worked there.

Many of the old names of fields have disappeared; many would not have heard of Peppers Bushes or Triple Elms. If you go to the ford you cross over two bridges, on the left of the first one there is a pool where legend has it a wagon & horses went over never to be seen again - I have fished this pool many times but have never caught a fish!

If you look over the hedge from the canal above Ox Lock, the narrow meadow is called 'Goosam', beyond the bridge is 'Big Meadow', I have taken my granddad's tea many times when hay making, no baling in those days.

I see many lovely looking apples in local supermarkets, but none taste as good as those got with a well aimed stick in the Parson's orchard, then creeping through the hedge to get them.

*George (Jack) Hudson*

### Floodlighting St. Mary's Church, Upper Heyford.

- 20<sup>th</sup> May** In celebration of the birthday of the late Albert Paviour. 'With love for you, Dad, from Carole, Fred, Michael, Jo and families. God Bless,xx'
- 'We cannot send a birthday card,  
Nor your hand we cannot touch.  
But God will send the greeting,  
To the one we loved so much.'*
- 21<sup>st</sup> May** In celebration of the birthday of Stewart Pratley. 'All my love forever, Sue.'
- 28<sup>th</sup> May** In celebration of the 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday of the late Mrs Doris James. 'With love from Maureen, Peter, Paul, Debbie and little Grace.'
- 30<sup>th</sup> May** In memory of the late Mr. Jimmy James who died in 2004. 'With love from Maureen, Peter, Paul, Debbie and little Grace.'
- 7<sup>th</sup> June** In memory of the late Kathleen Smith, who died in 1975. 'With love from Jim.'
- 16<sup>th</sup> June** In celebration of the birthday of the late Grace Smith. 'With love from Jim.'
- 18<sup>th</sup> June** In celebration of the birthday of the late Gilbert (Jack) Brain. 'With love from your daughter, Ann.'
- 20<sup>th</sup> June** In celebration of the diamond wedding anniversary of Jean and Bernard brain. 'Love from Ann.'
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June** In memory of the late Sandra Jayne Brain who died in 2007. 'All our love, Sally, Rob, Lilly Jayne and Georgie.'
- 30<sup>th</sup> June** In celebration of the birthday of Sue Prattley. 'Happy birthday Sue. All my love, Stew XX.'

### Not in my garden please!

Like most people in this lovely village of ours, I enjoy gardening. Violet Cottage has a small private [secret] garden at the back of the property, the tending of which gives me a great deal of pleasure. And I will happily show my garden to anyone who is interested. However, sadly I will also have to show you piles of excrement deposited every night by cats. Put simply, it makes me nauseous.



Responsible dog owners control and pick up after their animals, why then do cat owners seem to think it OK for their cats to use neighbouring gardens as their latrine? [ In case you are wondering, no they don't bury it]. I understand that the village cat owners will be annoyed and offended by this piece, but before you start vilifying me, please consider how offended, annoyed and disgusted I have been and still am by this foul nuisance. Janet Lawrance



# ***Would you like to participate in an Upper Heyford Artweeks exhibition next year?***

**Can you paint, draw or print?**

**Do you make items of pottery, jewellery, glass, textiles or sculpture?**



*Artweeks is an event when Oxfordshire artists open their studios to the visiting public. The artists can be professional or simply enthusiastic amateurs. Upper Heyford (village and Heyford Park) has residents, and people attending art classes, who produce paintings, textiles, pottery, calligraphy, photography, jewellery and many other arts and crafts.*

***Will you join our exhibition in our Village Hall for the weekend 10th & 11th May 2014?***

*We are hoping to fill our Hall with a large selection of art as well as offering teas and cakes to the visitors!*



Please look at the Artweeks website <http://www.artweeks.org/> and the section "For the Artist" for more details about group exhibitions.

*Applications for Artweeks 2014 are required this Autumn, including a final list of participants, so we ask that you consider this over the next few weeks and send us your name and a contact email to [artweeks@UpperHeyford.com](mailto:artweeks@UpperHeyford.com) - Then start painting, sculpting and all things creative so we have lots to display next year!*

***If you are interested in joining our exhibition or if you would like to know more details, please contact Kim Smith (email [artweeks@UpperHeyford.com](mailto:artweeks@UpperHeyford.com) or telephone 07790 627676)***

## COARSE GARDENING.

It always seems weird, if not downright perverse, to sit in a July heatwave perusing spring bulb catalogues, yet here they are and it has to be done. It's somewhat analogous to sitting on the beach planning next term's carol service and we've done that, too, in the past. Hark the Herald and watch out for jellyfish... Looking ahead six months like this is one of the minor pleasures of gardening and also the reason why old gardeners are so reluctant to die, because if they did they might miss something. Spring bulbs are successful in this garden, on the whole, apart from tulips, which I have had to learn will not persist reliably here and should be regarded as annual indulgences. Last summer's continuous rain and the wet winter which followed made sure that all my stock of tulips rotted in the ground. This spring we had some good early red ones at the front of the house, but they were newly planted; of previous years' plantings, about three came up. As learning curves go, this one has been expensive as well as steep. So we will not be buying thousands of tulips, thank you very much. Daffodils are the thing. They really like it here and the wetter the winter the better.

The wet conditions last year made a real mess of my garden, killing off a great deal more than just tulips - all my delphiniums, for example - and bringing about rampaging weed growth which I have still not got under control. However, the trees and shrubs appear to have liked it and have put on a great deal of superb growth and unexpected masses of flowers, particularly those things which bear berries, various ornamentals as well as red currants and gooseberries. This may be due in part to the fact that the very cold, late spring seems to have killed off many pests, especially aphids, so new growth on shrubs such as roses and Japanese maples is clean and disease-free, as I am sure you must have noticed in your own gardens. The down side of the lack of aphids is, of course, a dearth of ladybirds, which rely on them entirely for food, and of hoverflies, whose larvae are also aphid eaters. Other familiar garden insects have suffered from so many months of either wet or cold. Butterflies seem to be making a late recovery, perhaps, but where are the bees? We have many plants which, in a normal year, you *hear* as you approach, the foraging bees zooming by on their way in and making small buzzing clouds above them. Catmint, lavender, various pink and blue cranesbills and the purple self-heal and white clover in the lawn should be crawling with bees: but this year, they are just not there. We have taken to strolling around the garden, counting bees. If we can get up to twenty, that is doing well. Oh dear, oh dear. This is disastrous. Honey bees seem to be almost entirely absent and bumble bees are often a third of the size they should be, dwarfed by starvation conditions early in the year when they were larvae developing in the nest. We can only hope that natural checks and balances will act in their favour and, if the weather remains summery, colonies will have a chance to build up in the remaining weeks before the autumn. Good news is that we have discovered a thriving bees' nest nearby - large dark bumble bees with orange bottoms. The slightly less good news is that they have made their nest within the tumble drier exhaust outlet which comes through the house wall. When the tumble drier is working, as it often is, especially when the little grandsons are here, the poor bees can't fly in against the stream of hot air being expelled, although they try, and they end up stacked in a dodgy-looking holding pattern, like Tupolevs

low on fuel jockeying for position over Heathrow. Not only that, but one of us is now slightly nervous of opening the tumble drier door...

I decided not to put on an Open Garden this year because I was ashamed of the state of things, but there was a brief slot, just before the heatwave got going and after Wimbledon, when the place was worth seeing and I felt quite proud of it. At its peak, with the air full of the scent of roses, honeysuckle and mock orange, a bunch of friends wandered round on a fine, warm evening, glasses of white wine in hand, and were reluctant to come in. It may have been the wine, of course, or the view, but I flatter myself that the garden had something to do with it. Other gardens in the village were looking really good, too, with climbing roses all over the cottages and vivid plantings in plots, pots and baskets. Three people, separately and independently, have suggested to me that it might be an idea to try to organise a Village Open Gardens Day next year, when anyone interested would be made welcome to visit all sorts of participating gardens, large and small. Personally, I would love to see some of the small, or very, very small, gardens which are tucked away out of sight, the ones which may be glimpsed from the road or not even that. The beginning of July would seem to be about the right sort of time, possibly a bit later, when the summer plants have had a chance to get going. What do you think? It's important to emphasise that if we undertake to do this, there would need to be a fair few gardens to make a tour of the village worthwhile and that there should be *no feeling of competition* about it. We would not be awarding points for prizes or demerits for weeds. (I saw on TV a year or two back a programme about a community which had entered a Best Kept Village competition or similar. There was a Committee which went round the place with clipboards and eagle eyes for dandelions or peeling paint on fences. You can imagine! They were a real pain. We want none of that.) There's no mad rush, but perhaps I could compile a list of those prepared to join in. Let me know.

No feeling of competition, huh? Well, I bet my sow thistles are taller than your sow thistles. Enjoy your bindweed - and the rest of the summer.  
Roger Burt.

### **Deddington Health Centre - 111 Telephone service**

The 111 service is up and running locally - 111 is a number to call when you need health related help, but it is not life threatening. If you need emergency help continue to use the 999 service for ambulance, fire and police. Within Oxfordshire our 111 service is run by the local Ambulance service, and a call handler will take your details, and put you in touch with a nurse or clinician if you need a call back. If you need other advice or information on health services they will direct you to the most appropriate place. If you called 111 and they felt you were an emergency, they would not ask you to dial again, they would immediately have an ambulance called out for you. Having our own 111 service run by local staff who know our area and Drs, means we are able to use the 999 more appropriately for the really emergency cases. One member had used it very recently and praised the service highly.

## EVENING PRIMROSE

One of my favourite flowers this time of year is the evening primrose, *Oenothera Biennis*, The Latin name comes from two Greek words, *oinos* meaning wine and *thera* meaning a hunt. The roots were made into a relish with vinegar and eaten to dispel the effects of wine as olives are eaten today. The plant was carried when hunting to bring luck. The flowers close during the day when it is warm and then open again in the evening with a lovely scent that tempts and feeds all kinds of beetles and bees. Everything about the evening primrose is plentiful and nourishing. The roots can be pickled, the leaves were used as a farmer's ham and eaten between slices of bread and butter, and the flowers are delicious in salads. The seeds are full of oil and nutrients that build up the system and help to regulate all hormonal imbalances. The oil is also used for burns and other cuts and skin problems.

The American Indians used evening primrose in various ways. They would rub it on their moccasins and bodies to guarantee a good hunt and to keep snakes away. They crushed and soaked the plant leaves for dressing wounds, to relieve bruises and other skin problems. They used the fine black seeds as food and as a healing medicine. Roots were steamed as vegetables or roasted. The whole plant can be used in its various parts to aid digestion.

As I was slowly clearing my allotment by hand I found three varieties of this plant along with ten other medicinal plants and three varieties of orchids. I was quite surprised to receive a letter by the allotment committee insisting on cutting the grass. Fortunately I was away for three weeks so when I returned I was able to cut around the treasures that had naturally grown. You never know what you might find working with nature. Personally I feel we need to meet all together on the allotments to share experiences, which is something that has not happened for over ten years.

The allotments came from a letter that anyone can read in New College. It was written in 1879 by people in the village to the fellows and scholars of New College asking for a piece of land near the village to grow food. The fellows of the college voted to give the poor of the village a piece of land later in that year. There were six trustees indicated in the document. The vicar, the bursar and the warden of New College along with three other trustees from allotment holders who were to be elected by the allotment holders themselves. It seems a good plan.

Debra Kaatz

### Clarification!

The allotments came into being long before 1879, 1842 actually, with the Enclosure Award for the village. The parish fared better than most being very late with its enclosure and as a result (and through the efforts of one Mr Letchmere) was awarded a Poor's Allotment and Recreation Ground, both shown clearly on the plan of 1842, and enjoyed to this day.

The records show that in 1851 there were 58 tenants paying a total rent of £46.11s. 6d. In 1887 the Rector wrote to the Charity Commissioners seeking a reduction in rents (Heyford 50 shillings an acre, compared with £1 an acre at Middleton Stony) and thereafter the rents were reduced by a third.

The original trustees were the vicar, plus the bursar and the warden of New College, the three parish trustees were added later. The Allotment Barn was given by the Earl of Jersey in 1891. *Upper Heyford Historical Society*

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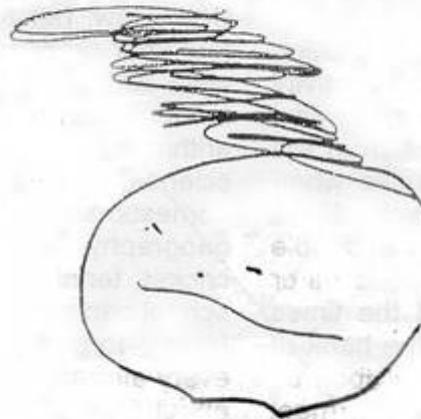
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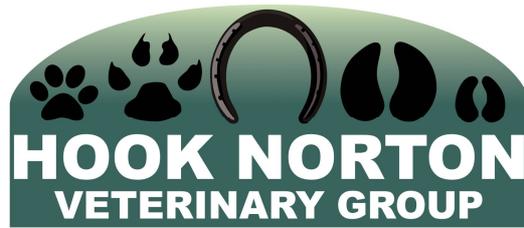


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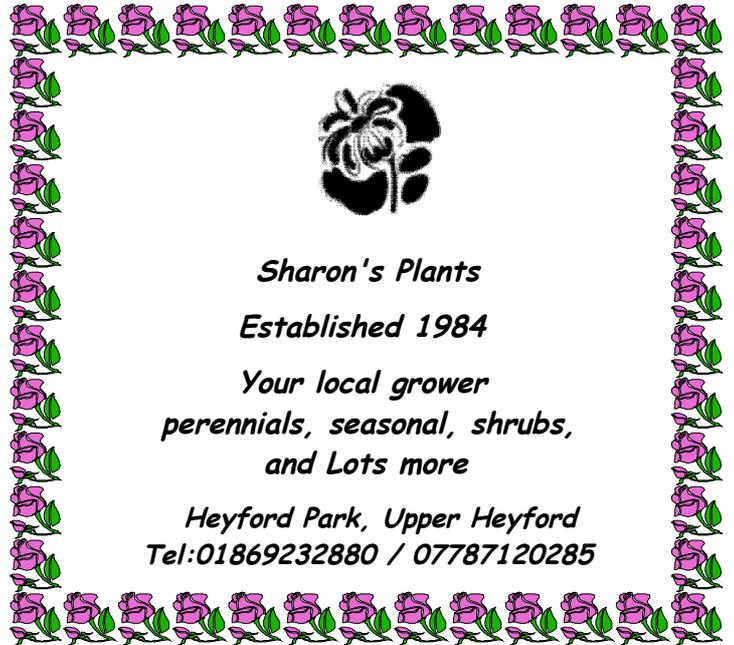
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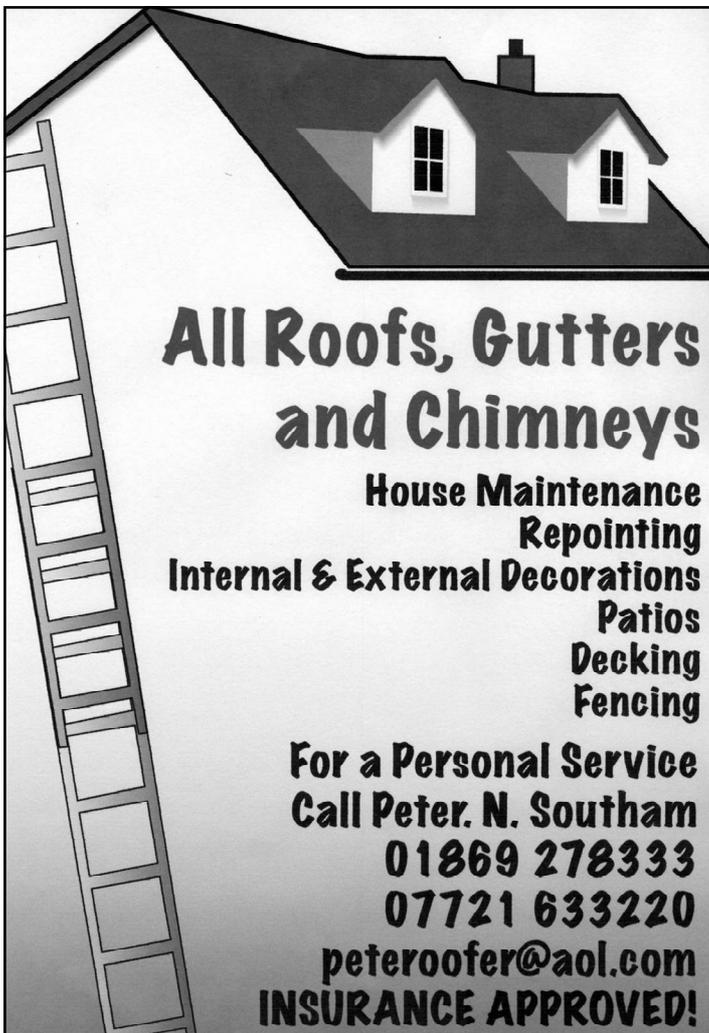
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## *Events Calendar - At a Glance*

<b>Friday 6 September</b>	Bingo, Upper Heyford Village Hall	7.30 pm start
<b>Saturday 31 August</b>	Upper Heyford Flower & Produce Show, Recreation Field	2pm opening 7pm Evening Blitz Party
<b>Saturday 7 September</b>	Local football season starts Heyford United & Heyford Athletic	2pm KO
<b>Saturday 7 September</b>	Somerton Produce Show	2pm opening
<b>Sunday 8 September</b>	Choros: Songs of Love Upper Heyford Village Hall	6.30pm start
<b>Saturday 14 September</b>		Sponsorship forms available from PCCs
<b>Saturday 21 Sept</b>	Souldern Community Market Souldern Village Hall	9am—12 noon
<b>Friday 4 October</b>	Bingo, Upper Heyford Village Hall	7.30 pm start
<b>Saturday 5 October</b>	German Orchestra concert, Souldern Church	7pm
<b>Sunday 6 October</b>	German Orchestra Service Souldern Church	9.30 am
<b>Saturday 19 October</b>	Souldern Community Market Souldern Village Hall	9am—12 noon
<b>Saturday 16 November</b>	Christmas Market Souldern Church	