

# Valley News

February 2014

No 211

News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



Photo: Clifford Reeves

A Pillbox problem for 'Captain Mainwaring' but no-doubt Lance-Corporal Jones will have the answer!  
Considering the amount of rainfall recently the floods are surprisingly low

**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>		
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	Ardley	Fritwell	Lower Heyford & Caulcott	Somerton	Souldern	Upper Heyford	
	St Mary's	St Olave's	St Mary's	St James	Ann to the BVM	St Mary's	Heyford Park Chapel
2 Feb	Benefice Communion Service - 9:30 Fritwell						
9 Feb	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 Communion	9:30 Sunday Club	11:00 Matins	9:30 Traditional Language HC	11:00 Contem- porary Worship Communion
16 Feb	9:30 Fam- ily Com- munion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Fam- ily Worship		11:00 Sung Eucharist	9:30 Mat- ins	11:00 Contem- porary Worship
23 Feb	9:30 Morn- ing Prayer	11:00 Family Worship Com- munion	11:00 Morn- ing Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 No Service	11:00 All Age Service
2 Mar	9:30 Family Worship	6:00 Even- song	11:00 Family Communion	9.30 Family Wor- ship Com- munion	11:00 Said Morning Prayer	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship
5 Mar	7:30pm Im- position of Ashes and Communion				10:00am Imposition of Ashes & Holy Commun- ion		
9 Mar	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 Communion	9:30 Sunday Club	11:00 Matins	9:30 Tradit- ional Lan- guage HC	11:00 Contem- porary Worship
16 Mar	9:30 Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship		11:00 Sung Eucharist	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contem- porary Worship Communion
23 Mar	9:30 Morn- ing Prayer	11:00 Family Worship Com- munion	11:00 Morn- ing Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship	11:00 All Age Service
25 Mar					Souldern Patronal Festival		
30Mar	9:30 Family Worship	6:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Communion	9.30 Family Communion followed by AGM	11:00 Family Service	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship
6 Apr	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 Communion	No Service	11:00 Matins	9:30 Traditional Language HC	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 ages, including children.

## CHERWELL VALLEY BENEFICE

Dear friends,

I am currently reading a little book called 'Jesus for Sceptics'. You might think this is an odd choice perhaps for a Christian minister who should have a confident faith. My main reason for reading it is to remind me that the majority of people do have serious doubts about the claims of Jesus Christ and the role of the church today. The Church of England has, I believe, a ministry to the whole community. It is not designed to be a club for the insiders. When functioning at its best, the church should help people at every stage of belief and Christian discipleship. This involves listening to those who consider themselves sceptics about matters of faith. The little book helpfully describes what a true sceptic is. The ancient Greeks used *skepsis* to describe an investigation or consideration. It is about having an open mind. GK Chesterton once quipped 'The object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid.' True scepticism involves a search and a willing heart and a sense that there are answers to be found. Sometimes people tell me they are sceptical about Jesus, the bible, the reality of God and the usefulness of the church. Occasionally this really means they have closed their hearts and minds to the possibility of God. More often through it is meant in another way, nearer to the true meaning of scepticism. They are open to conversation, finding answers, discovering new things and moving forward. Maybe you are in that category.

The most common concerns about Christianity seem to be: whether Jesus ever lived, whether the gospels (and the bible in general) are reliable, the identity of Jesus, whether forgiveness through the cross is possible, and whether the resurrection is true. In my experience people are pleasantly surprised when they find out how objective so much of the Christian faith is. The little book *Jesus for Sceptics* has reminded me how important it is that the church promotes healthy discussion and an open forum for questions. I hope in the future to organise some small group sessions for those interested in exploring the Christian faith.

Perhaps there is a slight double meaning in the title of the book. There is a need to present Jesus simply and clearly to people who are sceptical about him. We cannot take Christian education and upbringing for granted and the church is notorious for its jargon and complexity! But Jesus is also *for* (as in positive towards) sceptics. He spent much of his ministry answering questions from confused enquirers. He made time for those seeking understanding about God (remember Nicodemus who came to Jesus under the cover of darkness?). He welcomed the open minded and open hearted (he invited the children to gather around him) but often turned away from the proud and self-confident (the Pharisees do not come out well in the gospels).

I hope that 2014 brings you many opportunities to explore your faith.

In the service of Jesus Christ, Stephen Griffiths

Jesus for Sceptics by Michael Green ISBN 978-0-9572-2123-9



Exploring  
*spirituality,*  
*faith everyday, &*  
*journeying together*

*Christians*  
*exploring faith and supporting each other in their*  
*everyday day life.*

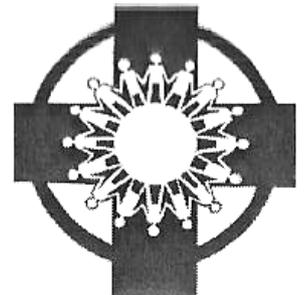
*Steps is an opportunity to chat and share*  
*views and opinions to deepen and grow*  
*our own faith and spirituality.*

**All Welcome**

**From Tuesday 28th January**  
7:30 at 3 Larson Road, Heyford Park

**Stepping Stones**

**Benefice  
Newsletter**



**Issue 1 January 2014**

**Pick up your free copy**

**Available in all churches throughout the benefice**  
**or phone the benefice office**  
**233687**  
**for extra copies**

## WHAT'S ON IN THE CHERWELL VALLEY

### Heyford Park Chapel



[heyfordparkchapel.org.uk](http://heyfordparkchapel.org.uk)

#### Service of Prayer for the Residents of Heyford Park

Heyford Park and its people are going through a period of significant change. At Heyford Park Chapel we pray regularly for the needs of the community.

On **Sunday 9th February at 11am**

we invite you to join us as we seek God's wisdom and guidance for all those involved with and affected by the development.

Please come along and join us for prayer, fellowship and refreshments after the service.  
A warm welcome awaits you.

### Soup Sundays

#### Upper Heyford Reading Room

**9th Feb 12-2pm**  
**23rd Feb 12.2pm**  
**9th March 12-2pm**

Choice of 2 lovely homemade soups with rustic crusty bread only £2.50  
Plus a slice of homemade cake and cup of tea/ coffee £1.50  
No bookings necessary.

Please join us for a cuppa  
and a piece of cake in support of  
**Katharine House Hospice**



**Upper Heyford Reading Room**

**Sunday 2nd March 2 - 4pm**

**£2.50**

**Good raffle**

### SOULDERN COMMUNITY MARKET

Dates for 2014

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Mar 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Apr 19<sup>th</sup> ~ May 17<sup>th</sup>

Jun 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Sept 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Market Nov 15<sup>th</sup>

**9:00-12:00**

**In the Village Hall**

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

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

Contact: *Barbara McGarry*

Tel: *01869 345931*

*barbara.a.mcgarry@gmail.com*

### 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: 7 February & 7 March**

**Upper Heyford Village Hall**

All money prizes & good raffle

In aid of the church Restoration Fund

**Subject to weather conditions**





Happy New Year to all from Marc & Ray

It has been steady progress since our first Village News introduction to our Rally, we have come up with a rally name GENGHIS CONE (a take on Genghis Khan the great Emperor of the Mongol Empire) with the idea of sprucing up our rally car to look somewhat like an ice cream van, To start this idea off Marc has been able to purchase two 20" tall illuminating ice cream cones to sit on the car!!

We now have a web site for you to visit <http://marctopbanana.wix.com/genghis-cone>

You might have seen our not so "TRUSTY" Suzuki Jeep out and about, yeah it let us down in Redhill only having had it for 206 miles! OMG we need it to cover 10,000 miles and back. It required a new water pump, so whilst it was stripped down we had the timing belt replaced.

Hyde Park London has been nominated as the official UK start on the 19th July, we still intend to have our start from the Reading Room Upper Heyford on the 18th July.

Below is our present route, but if we can get through Iran cheaply we will. So these are the countries we are passing through:

France, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakstan, Russia, Mongolia and homewards Mongolia, Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland. Germany, Belgium, France, & Blighty.



Our next task is to sort the Visa's for the Rally, to me the not so fun part. We have set ourselves a target of raising £1000 for each Charity we are supporting, your chance of helping us is through our web site or going to our justgiving site: [www.justgiving.com/genghis-cone](http://www.justgiving.com/genghis-cone) or [www.justgiving.com/Raymond-Funnell](http://www.justgiving.com/Raymond-Funnell)

### Wassail "Be in Good Health" by: Mike Hardcastle South View

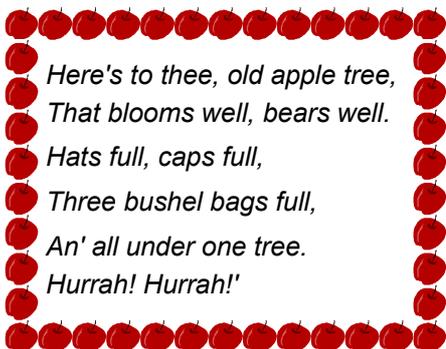
Response:

*Drinc hæl*

Wassailing is the cider makers ceremony for blessing the apple orchards and signifying the trees to come back to life ready for next years bumper crop.

Traditionally, the wassail is celebrated on Twelfth Night, mostly regarded as January 6. However, most people insist on wassailing on 'Old Twelvey Night' (January 17) as that would have been the correct date before the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar in 1752.

So in that tradition a small ceremony was held in the South View Orchard where we toasted our best tree and sacrificed 'Apple Bread' while reciting:



*Here's to thee, old apple tree,  
That blooms well, bears well.*

*Hats full, caps full,*

*Three bushel bags full,*

*An' all under one tree.*

*Hurrah! Hurrah!*

As the 17<sup>th</sup> of January falls on a Saturday next year, we will be organising a larger village event visiting each tree or orchard in procession singing songs and drinking cider. With a final destination of the Barley Mow. All comers will be welcome.

On a more practical note, the main batch of Upper Heyford produced cider will be bottled on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm. Contributors please feel free to pop around on the day or any time after that to collect your produce.

The remaining 25 litre barrel will be bottled later on and held primarily for village events and the now traditional Summer Solstice party on the 21<sup>st</sup> June.

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

### Councillor Calling

If anyone ever suggests that being a District Councillor might be boring, my experience this month should prove them wrong in spades – whichever side of the role you want, from big-picture policy to nitty-gritty case work, it's all there and, as for variety...

**Strategic** issues started with the **Local Plan**, which was finally submitted on 24<sup>th</sup> January. While this, at last, gives it "weight" when deciding applications, it is also nerve-racking. Neighbouring Aylesbury have just had theirs rejected because it didn't comply with the "Duty to Cooperate", yet another recent goal-post shift. So we await a Public Examination (probably in April-May, while I'll be rather busy asking you to re-elect me!), when developers and others will try to persuade an Inspector that it, and all its supporting documentation, is flawed.

One torpedo already running, concerns this **Duty to Cooperate**: the Plan is built on carefully researched figures for housing need built up when the process began. We are now told not only that they need updating but that they need to be county-wide so a **SHMA** (Strategic Housing Markets Assessment) will shortly be published which may seek to stuff Cherwell with Oxford's overflow, which would mean re-writing the Plan on the hoof – what a nightmare!

Today's nightmare from which we won't wake until the Plan is approved is the **5 Year Supply** treadmill, whereby the current vandalistic clique of housing ministers are signing off almost any planning appeal, however damaging to the countryside, if a council cannot show it has a pipeline of "5 year's supply" (by which they mean 6 years as there's a 20% buffer *plus* all the backlog since 2006) so developers are running riot all over our villages while they have this extraordinary opportunity.

**Operationally**, we are grappling with next year's **Budget** against, as you'd expect, a background of cuts in income. I'm hoping that we can use our savings from joint working with both South Northants and now, increasingly, Stratford councils to deliver yet another year of 0% increase. As last year's austerity delivered a further increase in our **Customer Satisfaction** Survey, perhaps we can continue to deliver more with less for another year – but it gets increasingly difficult and you wonder how long we can keep the struggle going.

**Locally**, meanwhile, there are more tough issues:

**Housing policy** is now under review, following my intervention on the Steeple Aston Rural Exception Site last month. Heyford Park turns out to have a different issue as the vast majority of tenants, who were there in March 2012 for the Housing Needs Survey, are eligible for affordable housing on the Base: they'll have the tribulations of moving (said with feeling – I'm overrun with builders right now!) but be assured of a home at an "affordable rent" in a new or refurbished property at the end of the day. I'm now pushing to extend this to all tenants and, with our MP involved, hope a solution can be found. Clearly people need certainty urgently but, with development phased over ten years, at least there's some leeway to fight for a solution.

**Planning applications** for a five-pitch gypsy site to the north of Caulcott and an anaerobic digester and power plant to the south are, of course, highly sensitive and need careful sifting to identify the strict, unemotional, planning reasons for approval or refusal. Being connected as neighbour, parish council chairman and district council makes disentangling conflicts of interest interesting in itself!

**Reports of stench in Ardley** caused a stir as it was attributed to the incinerator. This, in fact, isn't yet up and running, but it brought CDC's nuisance team rapidly into action. If there should be a problem, call the same numbers (CDC 01295 227007 and Environment Agency 0800 807060) as you would for smell from the compost site.

The Local Government Boundary Commission are consulting on reducing our councillor numbers from 50 to 48, which doesn't seem a problem to me (if it is to you, tell them on [selgbce.org.uk](http://selgbce.org.uk)). Where I will object is if they then insist that rural wards should have three councillors each. The issues above come from a dozen communities: make that 20 and the workload, accountability, local connections and effective democracy itself will be jeopardised – so please object strongly when they consult on that. Meanwhile, I'll try to keep all the plates spinning...

*James Macnamara*

### Poppy Collection 2013

It was splendid to see Valley News' cover photo of the service at Upper Heyford's War Memorial recording the culmination of the Remembrance season. I was delighted to be free to join in here, being no longer responsible for representing St John Ambulance at the county's service in St Giles – it certainly makes it easier to ensure that the right people get the right wreaths at the right time!

Contributions for those wreaths contributed a splendid £125, included in the **£1,304** raised for the Poppy Appeal in 2013, keeping up the great record of recent years. As the need from recent war wounded to the increasingly frail World War veterans and their widows and all who have served in between grows ever greater, your contribution is hugely valuable.

Those present on Remembrance Sunday put a remarkable £263 into the collection plate, adding another significant sum to the static and door-to-door contributions. Under the "static" heading, I am most grateful to all the businesses which gave up precious space to host a poppy tray and tin as well as to their generous customers. This includes all our pubs – The Bell, Horse & Groom and Barley Mow – and shops – the Canal Shop in Lower Heyford and both stores at Heyford Park – and the Community Café.

Meanwhile, our valiant door-to-door collectors, this year including Emily Daly in Lower Heyford, Denise Ball in Caulcott, the Lawrances in Upper Heyford and Victoria Prentis in Somerton (apologies to anyone I've missed out!) brought in nearly £600 between them, showing how incredibly valuable their efforts in all weathers are.

So, many thanks to all of you who supported the 2013 Poppy Appeal in whatever way: you have contributed to a thoroughly worthwhile result.

*James Macnamara – Poppy Appeal Organiser*

## POETRY CORNER

### DAFFODILS

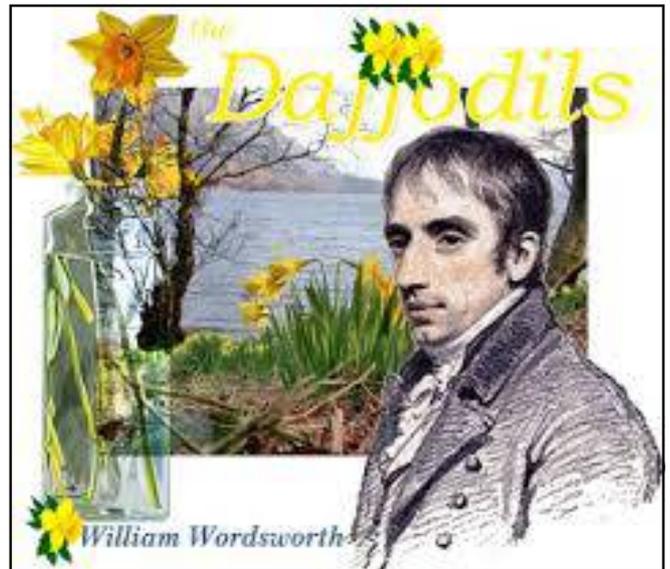
#### WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770-1850)

I wander'd lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host of golden daffodils,  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretch'd in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee: -  
A poet could not but be gay  
In such a jocund company!  
I gazed - and gazed - but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought.

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills  
And dances with the daffodils.



This is generally considered Wordsworth's most famous work, inspired by a sea of daffodils he and his sister came across during a walk together around Glencoyne Bay, Ullswater in the Lake District.

Wordsworth's vivid use of imagery enables us to bring to mind the beauty of nature. Even though we do not yet see them, we can picture golden daffodils dancing under spring skies.

I hope like me, it also reminds you that it will not be long before we say goodbye to February and open the door to Spring.

*Carole Monks*

### The Profumo Scandal - a Heyford connection!

50 years ago the government of the day was rocked by what became known as the Profumo Scandal - it had everything newspaper reporters dream of - sex, cold war spying, and people in high places not telling the truth! And of course there has to be a scapegoat. Dr Stephen Ward, society osteopath filled the bill, and he was soon before the courts on a trumped-up charge of living off immoral earnings.

You may ask how Upper Heyford is involved in all this, aficionados' of the scandal will know that glamorous young women were at the centre of it all, and that Dr Ward enjoyed the company of glamorous young women and his last girl friend was one Julie Gulliver. The few of us still around at 70+ will recall Julie as a schoolgirl at the village school, living at the time in South View, Orchard Lane, and later in a cottage on Chilgrove Drive (later knocked down to allow airfield expansion).

In 1963 Julie appeared on the front pages of the national press hand in hand with Dr Ward. Sadly she was also with him in his flat on the night he died—suicide we are told!

Julie was an attractive lady who got mixed up with 'the wrong crowd' and died at the age of only 35. A sad story.

*Upper Heyford Historical Society*



Julie & Dr Ward at his trial at The Old Bailey

# 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.

## PIANO TEACHER WANTED

Local piano teacher needed please for one well behaved grown up living in Somerton. Not quite a beginner but with much to learn.

Please e mail

[forwisemans@msn.com](mailto:forwisemans@msn.com)



## Should each village have its own defibrillator?



Acting quickly when someone is in cardiac arrest and fighting for their life is crucially important. Around 60,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the UK every year.

When someone goes into cardiac arrest, every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces their chances of survival by 10%.

A defibrillator is a machine that delivers an electric shock to the heart when someone is having a cardiac arrest. These machines can also be called AEDs (automated external defibrillators).

Locally we are fortunate to have a Community First Responder, however, he/she cannot be available at all times, so it might make sense to have a back-up.

Defibrillators vary in price from £400—£1000, and ideally should be used by someone with first aid/medical training.

Perhaps this is a matter that should be considered by our parish councils

## Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

Website: [www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk) (Community)

The January-March classes have just begun. Listed below are some courses that can still be joined and have spaces or that begin in March – ring for more information. Full information about all our courses is available on our website as above. Also information about classes running after Easter.

**Archery** Mon and Thurs 8pm

**Badminton** Mon and Thurs 7pm

**Be Creative With Your Photos** Tues 7-9pm (from 4 March for 5 weeks)

**Flower Arranging for Beginners** Wed 7-9pm (from 5 March for 5 weeks)

**Golf for All** Sat 12 noon

**Italian Beginners** Tues 7.30-9pm NEW CLASS NOT IN BROCHURE

**Italian Conversation** Wed 7.30-9pm start delayed

**Now You Can Knit** Wed 7-9pm (from 5 March for 5 weeks)

**Pilates (Mat)** Thurs 11am

**Spanish Next Steps** Thurs 7.30-9.30pm

**Yoga** Tues 4.30-6pm

**Zumba Gold** Thurs 5pm

**Zumba** Thurs 6pm

Our fourth Saturday workshop is taking place on **15 March**.

Classes running that day are:

**Roman Blind Making: An Introduction**

**Aromatherapy Facial** (am only)

**Stained Glass** this is now FULL

**Wedding Flowers with WOW! Factor**

**Yoga for Healthy Spines**

**Painting using Special Effects**

**Pottery**

**Bicycle Maintenance**

**Keeping Your Children Happy and Healthy with Chinese Medicine** (pm only)

**iPad for Beginners** (am only) this is now FULL

Thank you for your support.

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).

**Mrs Jenny Bodinham Tel: 01993 813592**

**Marlborough C of E School, Community Education**

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

JOIN THE  
HEYFORD AND DISTRICT BRANCH



All supporters are welcome

You don't have to have an Armed Forces background

Membership costs just £13 per year

Youth membership available for people aged 12 to 16 years

Contact Mike Lawrance Tel: 01869 232828 or [mike.lawrance@uwclub.net](mailto:mike.lawrance@uwclub.net)

## St Mary's, Upper Heyford Tower Lighting

1 <sup>st</sup> November	In celebration of the 101 <sup>st</sup> birthday of the late Mrs. Nora Medhurst. By her son, Dave.
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	In memory of the late Grace Smith who died in 2008. 'With love from Jim.'
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	'To celebrate the happiness of our life together on this, our wedding anniversary.' Bob and Hansa Menzies
5 <sup>th</sup> November	In memory of Di Hudson, much loved late wife of Roy. 'Loving you always, darling.' From husband Roy. 'Love you Mum.' From son, Michael
9 <sup>th</sup> November	In celebration of the birthday of Canary Lord. 'With love from Craig and Tom.'
11 <sup>th</sup> November	In memory of the fallen, particularly those from this parish. From Mary and Jack Goodman.
21 <sup>st</sup> November	In Celebration of the birthday of Rebecca Radda. 'Happy 6 <sup>th</sup> birthday Pixie.' Lots of love, Mummy, Daddy, Joe & Beth. xxxx.'
24 <sup>th</sup> November	In celebration of Heather Burt's birthday. 'From Roger, with love.'
30 <sup>th</sup> November the	In memory of the late Pat Hedges. From Poetry Group with love.
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	In celebration of the birthday of Edward. With love from all the family.
5 <sup>th</sup> December	In celebration of the 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday of Pauline, cousin of Madge Beere. 'Wishing you a happy birthday, with love from Madge.'
8 <sup>th</sup> December	In memory of Walter and Lucy Evans and John Stanley Monks
16 <sup>th</sup> December	In celebration of the 41 <sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary of Eileen and Ray Booker. 'With all my love and thanks for 41 wonderful years, dear Eileen. From Ray'.
20 <sup>th</sup> December	In celebration of the arrival of Reverend Stephen Griffiths and his wife, Cally, to the benefice team. From the friends of St. Mary's.
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Remembering with love Peggy Cuss (23.12.10) and Ronald Cuss (22.1.59). Greatly missed by all the family.
24 <sup>th</sup> December	In memory of Jan Woski and all deceased family members and friends of Ann Woski.  In memory of the late Archibald Slatter. 'With love from Jean, John and Hannah.' * In celebration of the 47 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Jean and the late Ron Beesley. 'Thinking of you Ron every day, missing you more and more. In our hearts forever more. From your wife Jean and all your family.'
27 <sup>th</sup> December	In celebration of the 68 <sup>th</sup> birthday of the late Eric Rhodes.
29 <sup>th</sup> December	In memory of the late Mrs Doris James who died in 2000. 'With love from Maureen, Peter, Paul, Debbie and little Grace.'
31 <sup>st</sup> December	In celebration of the birthday of the late Heather Woollcott. Also in memory of her late husband Vic who died this past summer. Much loved and greatly missed aunt, great-aunt, uncle and great-uncle of Christine, Roland, Stephen, Catherine and David.

\*Jean and Ron were married in St Mary's Church on Christmas Eve, 1966

## 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**

At our November meeting Sarah Rodger gave us an insight into the wonderful work of the Berkshire/Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire Air Ambulance and explained how it is all funded through public donations. **(within a few weeks we saw at first hand how important the Air Ambulance is when it was called to Upper Heyford village to deal with an emergency over the Christmas period)**

We did not have our normal meeting in December but instead went to The Trigger Pond in Bucknell for our Christmas meal, as with last year, we were lucky to be there at the same night as the Carol Singers, a lovely way to end the evening.

The New Year started with Steve Moll sharing with us the incredible world of the honey bee, and what an incredible world it is!

Our next meeting on 19th February will see Robin Stafford Allen talking to us about Nuclear Fusion & the Energy Crisis.

### The Warreners

We started the new year on 8 January with bingo and a picture quiz, of familiar and not so familiar faces! The winning table achieved 48 out of 50 – excellent. On February 12th members will be at The Barley Mow for the annual fish & chips or sausage egg and chips lunch, which is real favourite.

In March we will be having an old fashioned 'Beetle Drive' always great fun—even if the beetles are not always much like beetles!

We have a very full programme for the year, with some talks, entertainments, and activities, plus our usual bingo, teas etc.

It is a most worthwhile couple of hours for any over 55, new members will be made most welcome, so why not give it a try. On the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Upper Heyford Village Hall.

### Thank you

Maureen, Peter, Ann and Mary would like to take this opportunity to say *thank you* to all who have supported the church lighting and bingo programme. Together, last year, these projects realised a profit of £1,400 towards St. Mary's chancel roof repairs. Happy New Year to all.

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[www.ashcrofttherapycentre.co.uk](http://www.ashcrofttherapycentre.co.uk)

## **Tribute: Ann Cooper, a Somerton girl**

Some two months ago both the Oxford Mail and Oxford Times carried an obituary to Ann Cooper which featured her considerable local government achievements in the Woodstock area, where Ann was both a Parish and Town Clerk and subsequently a Town and District Councillor. This edition of the Valley News provides the opportunity to recall that, in April 1935 she was born, Ann Giles and for the first 20 years of her life lived at Station House, Somerton.

Ann was the only daughter of Edward (Ted) Giles who at that time was a 'GWR Signalman' subsequently to become the final Station Master at Somerton. This however is a somewhat misleading statement as it was necessary for the railway company to avoid confusion with its larger railway station of Somerton in Somerset, and therefore the official title of the North Oxfordshire facility was 'Fritwell and Somerton'. It is perhaps a thought that a future edition of the Valley News could feature this long lost railway station and recall something of its staff and passengers of which your Editor was certainly one.

Ann's war time primary school days were spent at Somerton under the care of Head Teacher Miss Edwards but, it is perhaps not surprising, given that her grandfather Giles was Kidlington's oldest bred and born man of his day, that she subsequently progressed to Gosford Hill School where she finally became Head Girl. School days over, she was employed at both Nuffield College and The Midland Bank in Oxford. In August 1955 an abrupt change came to her life when her father was promoted to a larger railway station in the West Midlands and Ann married Roy Cooper, who himself was born at Fritwell. The wedding being at Somerton just a week before her parents moved away. Ann and Roy had several civil service postings before returning to Oxford University Surveyors Department with their young family in 1964. From that time onwards they lived in Woodstock with considerable involvement in its civic life.

It was in April 1974 that Ann became the Woodstock Town Clerk but, this was to coincide with a very sad event when their eldest son Phillip, who was himself taking his A Levels at Gosford Hill School and had just become a three Counties Badminton Champion, was taken seriously ill and died of cancer just 2 months later. Ann herself suffered from the same condition for the last 6 years of her life. However, it is perhaps a recognition of her achievements that it has just been announced that the donations collected in her memory have reached the grand total of £1,200 to be divided between McMillan Nurses and the Sobell House Hospice.

The family wish to express their deepest appreciation for all the messages of condolence and the magnificent collection which has far exceed all their expectations.



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



### **CARE FOR A CUPPA**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

Brighten up the dark winter months by taking part in our brand new **Care for a Cuppa** fundraiser! We would like to invite you to organise a coffee morning or afternoon tea for Katharine House between Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Invite your friends and family around for a cuppa, cake and chat and we will provide you with a Care for a Cuppa fundraising pack complete with posters, balloons, recipes and top tips to make your event a success. Simply ask for donations on the day for coffee and cake, or hold a raffle or sweepstake for something a little different. You can hold your Care for a Cuppa at home, at work, at school or at your local club or society – the possibilities are endless!

We would also like to invite local cafes, pubs and restaurants to hold their very own Care for a Cuppa between Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – or even a Care for a Curry or Cocktail! For more information please call Helen Mariner on 01295 812161.

To find out more please call the fundraising team on 01295 812161 to order your Care for a Cuppa fundraising pack! Every penny that you raise by organising a Care for a Cuppa event will make a tremendous difference to local patients and their families. Thank you.

### **THE OXFORD CONCERT PARTY AT BROUGHTON CASTLE**

We will be holding this extra special concert in the magnificent medieval Great Hall at Broughton Castle, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 7.30pm. Once again, the renowned Oxford Concert Party will perform a wonderful evening's entertainment. Described as "*Europe's only Baroque and Tango Orchestra*", OCP's repertoire includes original compositions, Vivaldi, Piazzolla, French café music, Argentinian tango, Irish laments and Finnish polkas. Tickets are £25 from Fundraising ((01295) 812161 or email [sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk](mailto:sarah.brennan@khh.org.uk)) and include a glass of wine and nibbles. We would encourage supporters to book early to avoid disappointment- the last performance sold out and places are limited.

### **ZUMBA 2014**

To all keen Zumba enthusiasts-look out for our fantastic brand new Zumbathon, taking place in April 2014. Why not get a team together and make it part of your New Year fitness routine? Keep an eye out at [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk) or Facebook to find out more!

### **FESTIVAL OF OPEN GARDENS 2014**

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to open their garden to raise money for the hospice in 2014. Your garden would be featured, along with all the others, in a programme that will be distributed to all our supporters with our Spring newsletter in late March/early April. Last year's festival raised almost £7,000 towards hospice care. We already have supporters opening their gardens in Broughton, Bloxham, Middleton Cheney and Farthinghoe and would be delighted to hear from anyone else willing to take part in our festival. For further information please telephone Nicky on 01295 812161.

### **KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE LOTTERY**

Our lottery is a vital income source for Katharine House, having raised over £1 million since May 2000. If you're stuck for a birthday present idea, we have a variety of Lottery Gift Membership solutions. For £1 per week you might get a phone call on a Friday morning from Wendy our Lottery Administrator telling you that you've won £1,000- Wendy loves making that call! For more information call the Lottery Office on 01295 812161 or email [lottery@khh.org.uk](mailto:lottery@khh.org.uk).

### **SAVE THE DATE- MIDNIGHT WALK**

Our Midnight Walk will be on Saturday 14 June, details and application forms will be included with our Spring newsletter despatched to supporters towards the end of March. They will also be available from Fundraising (01295) 812161 from March onwards. Last year this fantastic event raised almost £75,000, a fantastic sum!

### **ARE YOU FOLLOWING US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER?**

Our Twitter and Facebook pages are gaining followers daily and are an excellent way to keep up to the minute with our news and events. 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!

Thank you, **Sarah Brennan** Community Fundraiser

### **Thames Valley Police—Neighbourhood policing**

Four persons have been dealt with in the Lower Heyford area after an altercation occurred between residents over an alleged road traffic collision. Four people have been interviewed over this allegation and this is being treated as an ABH (assault occasioning actual bodily harm).

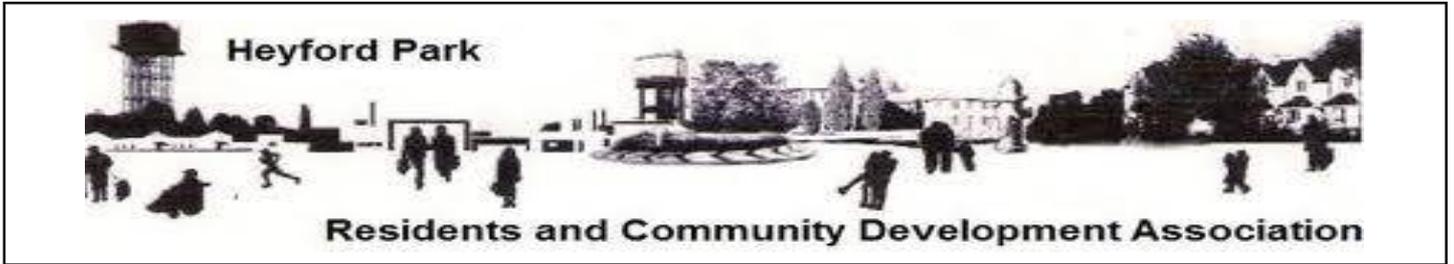
A male was arrested after a report of a theft from inside a hanger within Heyford Park, Upper Heyford which involved a large amount of tyres. This is still an ongoing investigation over the ownership of the tyres.

A male who was previously arrested in connection with a theft by employee at a company within Heyford Park, is due to appear in Crown Court in relation to this in January 2014.

Between Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013, the Cherwell Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team organised several events and operations as part of Operation Ranger, which is a focus on rural crime.

As part of this, members of the team went out with delivery drivers from Nolan Oils to offer crime reduction advice to their customers and other residents in relation to fuel thefts. A crime reduction day was also held at PA Turney in Middleton Stoney, to give advice to customers that entered the store, and a tractor that was recently recovered after being stolen had an engineer from Data tag installing their device.

A tack marking event was organised at a stables in Goddington. Several pro-active operations took place across the rural areas of Banbury and Bicester, these included ANPR operations, intelligence led patrols and a staff member from Datatag came out on patrol with us in an attempt to look for vehicles that may contain stolen plant.



Officers	
Honorary Chair Person	Tim Bigelow
Honorary Vice Chair	Alf Gother
Honorary Secretary	<i>Position open</i>
Honorary Treasurer	Angela Ford
Committee Members	
Bee Henderson	Carole Gother
Denise Clough	Ed Fraser
Marilyn Brown	Natasha Smith
Paul Fortnam	Sarah Fortnam
James Henderson	<b><i>Looking for more!</i></b>

**HEYFORD COMMUNITY HOUSING PROJECT**

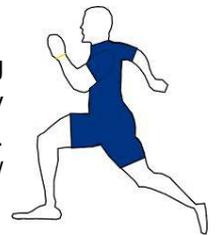
This is very much an on-going project. Anyone currently living on the Heyford Park estate who is interested in this project and wants the chance to continue renting their present home are urged to make contact as soon as possible.

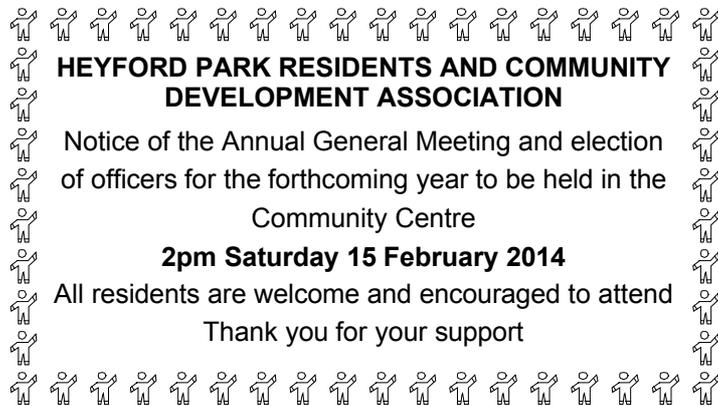
'phone: Marilyn Brown 01869 232 032

email: [Heyfordhousing@gmail.com](mailto:Heyfordhousing@gmail.com)  
[marilyn999@btinternet.com](mailto:marilyn999@btinternet.com)

**HEYFORD PARK RUNNING SOCIETY**

There is a new Heyford Park Running Society for those who are that way inclined. See Facebook for details.  
[www.facebook.com/groups/483806938394576/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/483806938394576/)





**HEYFORD PARK RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

Notice of the Annual General Meeting and election of officers for the forthcoming year to be held in the Community Centre

**2pm Saturday 15 February 2014**

All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend  
 Thank you for your support

**PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE  
 HEYFORD PARK ROAD NAMING**

The Parish Council has received the following request from Cherwell. Suggestions can be submitted as stated in the letter or by e mail to the Parish Clerk at [<jackgoodman61@gmail.com>](mailto:jackgoodman61@gmail.com). Suspense for replies has been extended till 15 February.

**Reference: Heyford Park residentially led and mix use development.**

I am sure that you are aware of the planned development for Heyford Park which is situated in the parish of Upper Heyford. The access roads will need allocating new street-names and I'd be grateful if the Parish Council could suggest suitable road names for the development with a local connection. As usual it should neither be likely to be confused with any existing name or refer to any person still living.

At this stage it is not known how many road names will be required; therefore please supply a number of suggestions or a theme in keeping with the historical area.

Please could I have your response within 21 days of this letter by email or completing the street name and numbering contact form on our website at <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/>

The form can be found by clicking the 'Online service' icon and under 'Planning' clicking on the 'Street naming and property naming application'.

The final decision on the name will be made by Cherwell District Council.

If you wish to discuss any aspects of this request please contact Miss Julie Shea. Contact details can be found at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely, Julie Shea, Senior Administrative Officer

**HEYFORD PARK RE-DEVELOPMENT**

No-one needs to be reminded that the re-development of our living space is well underway. However, residents are urged to consider the dangers of the ever expanding works and be aware of demolition and construction vehicles moving around site. The fence and hedge have been removed along the path to Upper Heyford village and it is now open to the road. Take care with the little ones and animals and be aware of traffic moving along Camp Road.

**SPEED LIMIT IN HEYFORD PARK - A REMINDER**

Whilst the speed limit along Camp Road is 30 mph, the speed limit within the residential area of Heyford Park is 20 mph despite some outdated and conflicting signage still in evidence. Remember that children and animals are about at all hours.

**SPEEDING ON CAMP ROAD**

Residents regularly use the path to and from Upper Heyford village and where this was secure from traffic it is now open to the road. Drivers are reminded that the speed limit for the entire length of Camp Road is 30 mph and should not be treated as a race track - this can be located on the inside of the airfield. Furthermore, negotiating roundabouts the wrong way at speed is going to end in death, preventable with very little effort.



## **We need your furnished spare bedroom**

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**Phone:** [01869 232720](tel:01869232720)

**E-mail:** [office@areabodes.co.uk](mailto:office@areabodes.co.uk)

Refer a Friend with a room to rent and we will give you £10. Once the referral has been viewed and provided with their first tenant.

## **Winter traditions**

Deep in the cold and damp of winter the earth rests, gathering the riches of rain and snow while digesting the compost of summer. It is at this time of year the Christmas roses come into flower. The shepherd's purse emerges with its lovely heart shaped seeds. It was used traditionally to staunch all blood injuries. The lesser celandine also comes out. Traditionally a cream was made with the root to help with haemorrhoids. .

Traditionally the twelfth night cake was made to help lift the spirits. This is made from 110g butter, 110g sugar, 110 g flour, 150g mixed dried fruits, 1/2 teaspoon each of cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, mace, ginger, allspice and coriander, 2 tablespoons brandy, the peel and juice of one lemon and one orange and three eggs. They were all mixed together, put in a cake tin and a dried bean and dried pea were added. The cake was then slowly baked. On twelfth night the one who found the bean became bean king and the one who found the pea became pea queen. If a woman found the bean then she could choose the king and if a man found the pea then he could choose the queen. They then gave blessings and wishes to all the others eating the cake. It is also said that the three kings set off at this time to find the blessed child. It is the season for Wassailing the apple trees to encourage a good crop for the next year. Traditionally there were festive parties in the orchards at night to sing to the apple trees while drinking hot cider. Cider was poured onto the roots of the trees and cider soaked bread was placed on the branches for the guardian birds. Guns were then fired into the air to chase away the evil spirits.  
Debra Kaatz

## **Fraking—it could be coming our way soon!**

What do we really know about Fraking? There is plenty of propaganda for and against, but where is the independent scientific view?

Perhaps there is no such thing as an independent scientist, when dealing with the subject, as most would appear to be in one camp or the other.

Fracking has support in government and according to its statistics, North Sea gas production is in rapid decline, falling by nearly two thirds since 2000. In 2012 year we imported about 4 times more gas than we exported, mostly from Norway and Qatar. Of the electricity we used in 2012, 39% started life as coal, 28% as gas, 19% as nuclear and 11% renewables.

A rise in wholesale gas prices saw energy suppliers switching back to coal. Yet, the government wants CO<sub>2</sub> down 80% by 2050.

So clearly there is a case for finding new energy sources in addition to renewables - solar, wind turbines etc

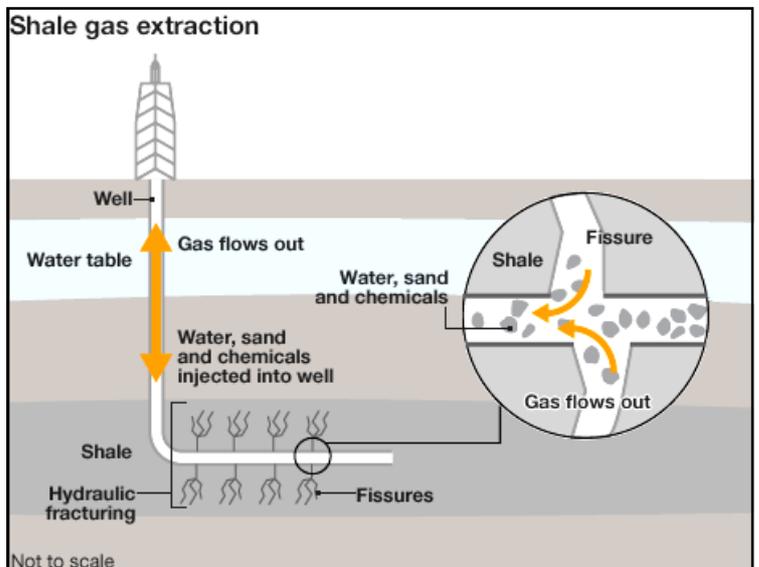
27% of UK CO<sub>2</sub> emissions come from our homes, so we all need to play a part in reducing our energy consumption.

Do we want fraking (or fraking protests if it comes to that) in our area?

Where can we find an independent free thinking scientist who would perhaps be willing to give advice at a local meeting on the pitfalls or otherwise of fraking?

**Do you have any suggestions?**

**THIS IS LIKELY TO BE A MAJOR ISSUE SOON SO IT WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE SOME GENUINE FACTS!**



## LOWER HEYFORD NEWS

### Lower Heyford Church News

2013 was quite a year! We began it without a Team Rector and lost Eddie as Team Vicar at about the same time as we welcomed Stephen as our new Team Rector. We still managed to have a service almost every Sunday, though a third of these were DIY, or to be technical, lay-led. Reaching out beyond our core congregation, there were four baptisms and seven weddings, a good Harvest and a well-attended Easter; a total of nearly 200 came to our three Christmas services and the church was also filled for Eddie's farewell. So St Mary's continued to play the central role in village life that it was established for about 1,000 years ago, and on weekdays as well as Sundays, not only for weekly Morning Prayer, but also for regular village meetings, of the Parish Council and the PCC, and for other occasional gatherings. This is as much part of the building's historic function as its use as a place of worship. For some time the PCC have been planning to make it generally more useful and welcoming by creating a flexible meeting space, much needed since the sale of the Village Hall, and by installing kitchen facilities and a WC, all at the west end. *Project 1000*, which will be a fitting celebration of our church's tenth century and a confident investment in its future, has been a major preoccupation over the past several months. Work is at last under way and currently scheduled for completion around Easter. There will be a fuller description of the project and a progress update in the next issue.



On Eddie's departure the Diocese decided to sell the Rectory, which is their property not the parish's (unlike the church). It is sad that we will no longer have a church house in Lower Heyford but the purpose of the sale is to fund the building of a new one in Heyford Park to accommodate the Team Rector at the centre of the largest community in the Cherwell Valley Benefice. The current plan is to accommodate a new Team Vicar in the church house in Fritwell, at the centre of the three villages in the northern half of the Benefice. Regardless of where the ministers live, the Team will, of course, continue to serve all six parishes as even-handedly as before and there need be no concern that Lower Heyford & Caulcott will lose out as a consequence of the sale of the Rectory.

### Two careful owners!

How often have you heard that from a dodgy car salesman? Well this 1930s Morris has definitely had just two owners and it has been well looked after by both owners, the late Dorothy Dew from Lower Heyford, and 92 year old Len Plum, the current owner.

Lower Heyford residents and Steeple Aston school children of the 1950s would be well acquainted with the old car, which Miss Dew used for well over 20 years, including travelling to Steeple Aston school where she was a teacher.

Mr Plum, who worked at Hopcrofts Holt garage in the 1950s (and later had his own garage in Deddington) serviced the car for Miss Dew, and when she gave up driving he purchased the car from her. Which is just as well, as in his very careful hands the car is still on the road and in fine working order. And what a lovely picture it makes.



Photo: Oxford Mail—Roger on the left & Len on the right

Roger Needle of Steeple Aston owns three Morris cars including a Morris Minor from 1967, he is a member of the Morris Minor Owners' Club and the Morris Register Club. Without their passion for our motoring heritage and the technical knowledge of people like Roger and Len the wonderful old cars from yesteryear would be lost forever.

*Morris Register – the club for Morris vehicles designed before 1940*



## LOWER HEYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th January 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Church

**Present:** - Mr Macnamara (Chair), Mrs. Ball (Vice Chair), Mr Mortimore, Mr Dare, Mr. Eggeling, Mrs. Turner, Mr. Thompson

Members of the public: John. Coley, Eric Moore, Winefrede Moore, Terry Jones, Julia Jones, Barry Varney, Sarah Varney, Tony Smith, Mike Vincent, Margaret Varney, John Varney, David Irvine, Rev. Stephen Griffiths, Willie Shepherd, Netta Shepherd, Tom Clayton, Richard Bennett, L. Chandler, N. Bowen, Alan Humberstone, Mr. Powditch, Mrs. Powditch, Mrs. Malin, Eric Ball

**Apologies:** No Apologies had been received

**Declarations of Interest :** Mr. Dare declared an interest in Heyford Station

**Minutes of the last meeting** held on 21st November 2013 were read and it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

#### 10.14.01 Planning -

13/01802/F Romani Gypsy pitches at Caulcott - there was considerable debate by the councillors and also members of the public and it was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a submission, to be approved by the Chair, to CDC objecting to the application.

**ACTION: CLERK**

13/01891/F Construction of an anaerobic digestion facility at Kirtlington - this was debated and it was decided to object on the grounds of traffic and industrial development in the open countryside with the fallback request that, if approved, there should be a Routing Agreement barring lorry traffic to and from the site coming via Port Way through the parish

13/01981/LB - Amendment to 13/01007/F and 13/01008/LB - no objections

#### 01.14.02 Clerk's Report

Archive material confirmed to be held by Roger Bowen but not as yet catalogued. Clerk to take documents returned by Cantelli to Roger Bowen

Caulcott drainage - email from OCC - covered later in these minutes

Rifle Plank Bridge - no further progress

Big Society funding grant of £500 received - covered later in these minutes

Email received from local resident regarding Trustee vacancy- covered later in these minutes

Notification of New Homes Bonus of £202 received

#### 01.14.03 - Highways -

**Drainage** - There had been email correspondence between Thames Water and OCC regarding the situation regarding drainage in Caulcott. For many months there has been a problem with overflowing sewage in the village and tankers have been pumping all day and night since October. Sewage is being pumped into Gallos brook and onto fields where livestock is being fattened. The situation is completely unacceptable and clerk to write to OCC Drainage, Environment Agency, Thames Water and CDC copying in Cllr Fulljames and Sir Tony Baldry. **ACTION : CLERK**

There have been 2 further burst water pipes on Station Road in December, which is probably attributable to the volume of lorries using the road combined with old pipes not having been replaced. Clerk to write to Highways copying in Cllr Fulljames

**ACTION : CLERK**

Mr. Macnamara and Mr. Dare had met with Cllr Fulljames in December in order to identify all Highways issues which are of great concern to the parish council and which Cllr Fulljames may be able to assist.

**01.14.04 Heyford Station** - Network Rail have placed a fuel tank in the yard immediately opposite Station House with no consideration for the owners of Station House. This is just one in a string of incidents where Network Rail are behaving with complete disregard to local residents. Alistair Watson has written to Network Rail and received no response. Clerk to write to CEO of Network Rail **ACTION : CLERK**

**01.14.05** - Meetings Mr. Thompson had attended the recent NAG meeting and reported that the main topic of conversation was the Romany site neat Carterton which has been causing problems recently.

**01.14.06 Correspondence** - Correspondence lists were circulated and discussed

**01.14.07 LHRINC** - Clerk had received two applications for the position of Trustee to the Charity, and it was **RESOLVED** that both Sue Watson and Alan Humberstone be invited to become trustees, with Dr Clayton to contact both to advise of next steps.

The fees payable to Trumans solicitors was questioned. £930 had been paid in settlement of an invoice submitted. Clerk to ascertain if this amount is for the Council's share only. **ACTION : CLERK**

**01.14.08 Playground** - Mrs Turner reported that an updated application will shortly be submitted to Viridor. A grant of £500 had been received from the Big Society Fund which will need to be spent in this financial year and so it is proposed that a bench be purchased for the playground. **ACTION : PT**

**01.14.09 Local Government Boundary Commission** - Mr. Macnamara made the councillors aware that consultation on this matter is in progress and will report back in due course.

**01.14.10 Finance** - The following accounts were approved for payment :

Payee	Detail	Amount	Cheque No
ORCC	subscription	50.00	500214
Cathy Fleet	Clerk salary	216.55	500215
Cathy Fleet	Clerk expenses	53.12	500216

The precept document prepared by the Clerk was examined and discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to submit a precept request to CDC of £8950 for the forthcoming financial year.

Date of next meetings : 20th February 2014, 27th March 2014, 24th April 2014 (to include Annual meeting), 8th May 2014

Mr JJ Macnamara Chairman

# UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

## Church News – St Mary’s, Upper Heyford Lesson & Carols

It was a quite delightful evening, very well attended, and it included a most beautiful printed order of service prepared by Barbara, Roger & Heather, and with superb artwork by Stephen Yorke. Very many thanks to all who attended and participated, we are especially grateful for the Poetry Group who composed the readings and poetry and organised the whole event in a thoroughly professional manner. Thanks also to Alex our organist, who delayed her evening out with friends in order to play for us. A lovely evening, again next year, please.

## Christmas Eve

The midnight service was well attended too, the Christmas service is a most wonderful occasion with beautiful carols, when even the most reluctant singer is happy to join in. The church looked stunning with flowers, Christmas tree and crib. Our crib was made by someone many years ago using wood from an old pew, and with a real thatched roof. Whoever made it, has long since passed away, but his legacy be with us for many years to come, as it is very sturdily constructed and of pleasing appearance - well done, dear forebear.

## Building works

It may well appear that progress is slow, however, this spring should see the start of the work on the chancel roof and various stone repairs. Anyone who has had dealings with old buildings, especially listed buildings, will know only too well, that the legal requirements and very careful treatment needed to ensure the integrity of the building does mean that speed is not a high priority. The most important requirement is that the job is done properly.

## Craig’s funeral

The church was packed for Craig’s funeral, the whole village mourning the loss of a well respected man at such a young age. There was a lovely floral display prepared by parishioners and the churchyard looked pristine.

It is at times like this when the importance of the church comes to the forefront, we do not all share the same convictions, however, it provides for most people peacefulness, tranquillity and friendship, and for many the importance of the Christian faith at a sad time in our lives. The collection was donated to Barnardos, and in addition there was over £100 freewill to St Mary’s.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Heyford United FC

On Saturday 18 January Heyford United defeated Deddington 5-4 thus reaching the semi-final of the Lord Jersey Cup for the first time in over 60 years. If we manage to reach the final there is the possibility of meeting Heyford Athletic in the final—what a great day that would be!



We are most grateful for the use of the playing field and pavilion, and recently were commended on our good facilities. However, there is one area that continues to be a problem, dog mess! It is very disappointing to find so much, on one occasion I had to remove 8 piles, not good at a sporting facility, and embarrassing for the club when the referee points it out.

*Dave Farbrother, manager*

## NAME THAT ROAD!

### PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE

The Parish Council has received the following request from Cherwell. Suggestions can be submitted as stated in the letter or by e mail to the Parish Clerk at <[jackgoodman61@gmail.com](mailto:jackgoodman61@gmail.com)>. Suspense for replies has been extended till 15 February.

### Reference: Heyford Park residentially led and mix use development.

I am sure that you are aware of the planned development for Heyford Park which is situated in the parish of Upper Heyford. The access roads will need allocating new street-names and I’d be grateful if the Parish Council could suggest suitable road names for the development with a local connection. As usual it should neither be likely to be confused with any existing name or refer to any person still living.

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Please could I have your response within 21 days of this letter by email or completing the street name and numbering contact form on our website at <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/>

The form can be found by clicking the ‘Online service’ icon and under ‘Planning’ clicking on the ‘Street naming and property naming application’.

The final decision on the name will be made by Cherwell District Council.

If you wish to discuss any aspects of this request please contact Miss Julie Shea. Contact details can be found at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely, Julie Shea. Senior Administrative Officer

## UPPER HEYFORD SUMMER FESTIVAL DAY

Sunday 22 June 2014  
2—5pm

Village walkabout, garden & allotments visits

Flower Festival at the Church

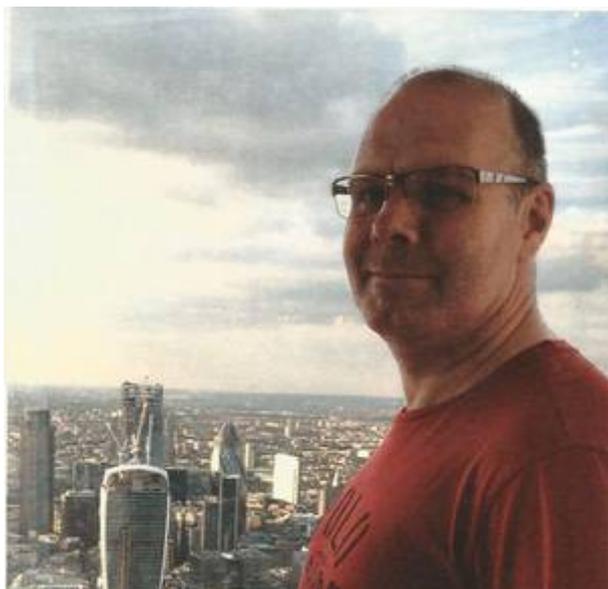
Cream teas, strawberries & cream at the Reading Room

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](mailto:ianloughscott@btinternet.com)

## Tribute: Craig Lord



Just before Christmas Upper Heyford was stunned by the sudden death of Craig at the tragically young age of 40. Though Craig and Canary were by village standards newcomers they immediately became very much part of the community, particularly as everyone took a keen interest in their building project - converting the old Wesleyan Chapel into a family home. Craig was the sort of man that on meeting you immediately took to, he was friendly and welcoming, a big man totally laid back and unpretentious.

At his memorial service Craig's father, Ian, gave a moving narration of his life, and although most of the congregation had only known Craig for a relatively short time, all those present recognized his many familiar traits.

Craig was born on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1973 at Fairfield Hospital, Bury to be followed by younger siblings, Robert and Sarah. His schooldays were at Hazlehurst Primary in Ramsbottom and then Bury Grammar School.

Craig joined cubs at an early age and subsequently moved up to Scouts and then Venture Scouts. He loved his time in Scouting which culminated in gaining the coveted Explorer Belt on an expedition across Sweden. During his gap year he toured Europe and once set off for Sweden in December in an old Skoda with no heater which was both his transport and his accommodation. In later years he and a friend set off from London to Timbuktu, they got as far as the Sahara bordering onto Mali before they were advised to stop due to a local war and land mines. When they returned home the car was still full of Sahara sand!

Craig always loved music, over many years his favourite band was the Manchester rock band 'James' and only last year he went to one of their reunion gigs with his sister Sarah. In his teenage years Craig taught himself to play the guitar although, we are told, somewhat badly.

So typical of his nature, it was not one of the big Manchester football clubs that he supported, for him it had to be lowly Bury Football Club. As his father said Craig was a great believer in fairness and he always tended to side with the underdog -



which probably explains his lifetime obsession with Bury Football Club.

Principally due to the influence of his much loved granddad Bert, Craig decided to pursue a career in the building trade. After his gap year he went to Salford University and came out with a degree in Construction Management. Craig's first job was in the North West with Shepherd Construction who sponsored him whilst at university. He then moved to London to specialise in Quantity Surveying and worked on landmark projects such as the Jubilee Line and the Gherkin for such companies as Skanska and Imtech.

Craig and Canary were married in 2002, and five years ago they were blessed with a son, lovely Thomas. Two years ago Craig became self-employed to fulfil his dream of having his own company and also to give him flexibility to spend more time with Thomas. He took on an allotment and continued his love of building by adding a very large shed and a playhouse for Thomas.

It was at Craig's behest that the very popular film nights were added to the village calendar. These were totally a Craig project, even down to the Cornettos at the interval and the general informality of the proceedings, which meant that the films started when the audience appeared to be comfortable, and the interval taken when Craig suddenly decided it was time for a break! We must continue the film nights in Craig's memory.

Craig's sudden passing was inexplicable and shattering. It is at such times that the very best qualities are shown by friends and neighbours. The community of Upper Heyford really excelled and with compassion and kindness offered a helping hand to Canary and Thomas in their time of great need.

The village greatly appreciated Canary's brave decision to have the memorial service in St Mary's prior to a private cremation. It is not often that St Mary's is full, on this occasion it was more than full, as so many wished to pay their last respects to a much loved, gentle family man.

Friends and neighbours took on the responsibility for church flowers, refreshments and the marquee attached to the Reading Room. The sadness of the occasion was offset by the warmth and camaraderie shown by everyone and the happy memories of Craig that we all hold dear.

The collection is to be donated to one of Craig's favourite charities, Barnardos.

### **Thank you**

*We and Canary and Thomas would like to send our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Parish Council and the people of Upper Heyford for the support that the family has received since Craig sadly passed away.*

*The efforts of the village in assisting with the funeral arrangements and then providing the facilities and refreshments afterwards was nothing short of amazing.*

*As Craig's parents the pain of his passing will be with us for ever but it gives us great comfort that Canary and Thomas live in a village where the residents provide such wonderful support.*

**Ian & Barbara Lord**

## Coarse Gardening

We will start the year with some fragrant rose petals from Old Hodge the Gardener's post bag:-

(e-mail from 'Benny')

My brother gave me a bag of daffs for Xmas. Can I still plant them?

Yes, of course you can. They won't grow, but you can certainly plant them.

(Letter on lined paper from Perdita Gringe, Mrs)

Dear Mr Hodge,

I have had my Christmas tree now for 5 years and it is not looking so good, I planted it in the garden and it stayed a lovely dark green colour but it did not grow any new shoots, now it has gone rather greyish all over and a bit whiter at the tips, what treatment should I give it please?

None. It is plastic.

(Letter on crested, engraved writing paper, from Hermione, Lady Sangazure).

Dear Hodge the Gardener,

I am somewhat embarrassed at having to solicit your advice, but I do have a rather delicate situation to address. My dear husband, Reginald, bought for my Christmas present a large and vigorous flowering Azalea in a pot. This was just too, too sweet of him, because for years past he has always given me a suit of striped flannelette pyjamas, and subsequent to my having dropped a few gentle hints as to their suitability, he did at least attempt to find something a trifle more feminine, and it was entirely his own choice, dear man. Sadly, though, the flowers on this enormous thing, which must have cost an absolute fortune by the way, are a ghastly sort of purplish red, like very nasty claret, frightfully common, and they clash with the décor most dismally. I would dearly like to throw it out or give it to some suitable person, but dear Reggie is so proud of it, having chosen it and bought it all by himself, that he admires it and fusses over it every day, picking off dead flowers and so on. What am I to do? Is there some way in which I could bring about its demise? It would have to be accomplished in such a manner that Reginald would have no suspicions. He would need to be assured that it had died of natural causes and that every care had been lavished upon its wellbeing. I am entirely in your hands and I do beg of you to be subtle and discreet in this matter.

*My dear Lady Sangazure, killing a potted Azalea is the easiest thing in the world. Most people manage it in a couple of weeks or less. More often than not the plant is actively dying before it even arrives in the house! The facts of the matter are that Azaleas have quite strict cultural requirements, viz. they need a position in bright light, in a cool, if not downright cold, room, and the roots must be kept wet at all times with rain water. (Rain water is necessary because Azaleas are acid-loving, lime-hating plants and cannot tolerate average tap water). The quickest - and usual - way to dispatch one is to keep it in a hot room, preferably on a shelf over a radiator, and forget to water it. However, I would not advise you to follow this route, as the resultant shriveled, crispy-dry plant would cry 'Willful neglect!' to the heavens and Sir Reginald would be justifiably suspicious. I suggest that you inform your husband that you have researched the horticultural requirements of your plant and that it is vital that only rain water is given to it. Ask him to provide you with a plastic container of purest rain water from a butt somewhere on*

*the estate. Assure him that nobody but your good self will attend to the plant. Then, when he is not around, give your acid-loving plant a nice drink of something calcareous every day; the limy dregs at the bottom of the kettle would be ideal. That should 'neutralise' it for good and all. The leaves will turn yellow and drop off in short order. Sir Reginald will, no doubt, blame Harrods. It might be a good idea to telephone the emporium, warning them that he might demand a replacement for the 'sick' plant they sold him, and put in a word for one of a delicate pink or virginal white, which would not be at odds with your wallpaper.*

(Voicemail message from Jimmy Belton)

We got this big fungus growing in the cupboard under the stairs, sort of yellow it is. D'you reckon you can eat it? **Dry rot can be eradicated either cheaply or effectively. Take out a second mortgage.**

(Note of remarks from Miss Minnie Greebly as she was walking her Yorkshire Terrier down the lane past my garden gate)

"Did you know my old Dad's living with me now? Oh yes, he's been here a year or more. It's ever so nice - not so lonely. Only, he grows his own, know what I mean? Not a problem, really, but it does smell queer. I can't have him smoking it in the house, it gets into the curtains so. He has to go out into the shed. He calls it the potting shed, though he never pots anything, only his old tobacco plants! He's got them in the greenhouse. Very special, they are - the greenhouse has to be whitewashed all over so the sun doesn't scorch them, he says. You can't see in. They're very pretty, the plants, a bit like when sticky buds come out, you know? Leaves like little hands, with fingers? Only frillier. His pals are always round our place, in the shed, smoking and laughing. They think it's funny he calls it the potting shed, I don't know why. Gives him something to do... Anyway, I've brought you some - see what you think of it. I can get you lots - he's got great bags of it."

*Dear Minnie, Thank you so much for the tobacco. I don't smoke any more, but I have a chap staying with me who does. He's the son of my old mate Peter Smithson, who went to California in the sixties to be with the Beautiful People. He changed his name to Skydreamer Fleetwood Mac and shacked up with a girl called Rainbow Hibiscus; Malibu is their boy, Mal for short. Well, I say boy - he was born in the seventies, so he's your generation actually. He's here tracking his ancestry. He made some sort of lumpy ciggies out of your tobacco and he said - (as far as I can recall - I don't understand a lot of what he says) - he said "Whooooooo man you gotta try this skunk man it's like way beyond awesome like wow talk about Colombian Gold sheeeesh man it ain't in it it'll blow your brain like nothing you ain't never sucked on it's like to just lay down and die." He then slept for two days. It does smell quite fragrant, doesn't it? He is very keen to meet you.*

(e-mail from Angie)

I have a beautiful red rose flowering in my garden!! In February!!! It is called 'Moulin Rouge'. Is this a record?

No. It's a DVD. You can get it from Amazon.

A very happy and prosperous 2014 to you all. Old Hodge.

**Old Gardeners  
never die  
They just go  
to seed**

## SOMERTON NEWS



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

### **SOMERTON BAZAAR 2013**

The Annual Christmas Bazaar was held early this year but it didn't prevent people turning out to sample the delicious mulled wine and mince pies. Santa was so popular that he ran out of presents and we have received apologies from the North Pole and promises that it won't happen again. Despite this slight hiccup we raised a staggering £1,604 which was divided between the Village Hall and the Church.

Thank you to all those who help every year, to the newcomers who joined us and to all of you who came and parted with their money. It was very much appreciated. As a footnote, a purse was found which we believe belonged a young boy, possibly there with his granny. If you can help trace him, it will be returned.

### **CAROL SINGING**

By contrast the carol singing around the village took place rather later than usual, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. This coincided with the first really bad spell of weather, who could have thought that it would get even worse!

It was a bit late in the month to cancel it (and I'm always averse to cancelling anything), so we stoically went ahead and amazingly the rain ceased to pour and became a light drizzle until just before we finished 4 hours later.

It has been voted one of the best ever because of the camaraderie of the singers and the hospitality and generosity of so many people which resulted in a collection of £315.00, another record for our annals.

This was divided between **Save the Children Fund for Children in the Syrian Conflict** and **Norpip**, a charity which has had great success in helping parents, often without any family support who have difficulty bonding with their new born babies.

A very satisfying way to start Christmas.

### **BRACKLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR**

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> visit from the BMVC to St. James Church Somerton and although the audience was not as large as we hoped it was more than made up for in their obvious enjoyment. The enthusiasm of the Choir was infectious as they treated us to a selection of Christmas songs and carols.

The refreshments & wine were plentiful and it was a lovely way to start the Festive Season. The proceeds of £258 was given to the upkeep of the Church.

## *News from the Village History Group, January 2014*

The Village History Group is still very much alive and we met this week to plan our activities in the New Year. More on these later. The main focus will be the exhibition in September about Somertonians who fell in the Great War. If you have any memorabilia which you might be prepared to share please get in touch with Rosemary Arnold (345439).

We also want to review of our website ([www.somertonoxon.co.uk](http://www.somertonoxon.co.uk)). We would welcome comments to Alice Bowmaker (345553 or [a.bowmaker@virgin.net](mailto:a.bowmaker@virgin.net)). Meanwhile we have to wrap up the Project financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and as part of this we have to complete an evaluation of what we have achieved.

### **The Passing of an 'Old Somertonian'. A TRIBUTE TO DONALD (DON) HENRY LYDIATT 1928 - 2013**

Don was born at number 1, New Buildings, Aston View, Somerton on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1928.

He was the 3<sup>rd</sup> child of Tom and Ida Lydiatt. Tom was a farm worker in the village for the then, local farmer, Mr. Tom Emberlin. They lived in a cottage belonging to the farmer and Tom and Ida went on to have 7 more children including twin sisters for Don. All the children were born between 1926 and 1945 and they lived very happily together in the small 3 bedroomed cottage.

Don talked fondly of his happy childhood and his wonderful parents who worked so hard to feed and clothe such a large family and he would often say 'we may have been poor but we were loved and we were happy'.

Sadly Don's eldest brother Richard was killed in an accident in 1953 which left Don as the eldest brother to his siblings.

Don married his dear wife Iris and went on to have 8 children of his own. He worked on the railway for many years and was always a very proud man. Latterly he worked for Fine Lady Bakery "Heygate" where he was very happy.

Don visited Somerton regularly and always spoke of being a 'Somertonian' and said that one day he would return to the village, which he has now done, his wish being granted.

Sadly Don's wife could not be with us in Church as she is in a Nursing Home, but his proud family were there to say their prayers and thank God for a wonderful father, grandfather and brother.

### **Thank you**

The family of the late Donald Lydiatt wish to thank everyone for their kindness in their sad loss. A sincere thank you to the Reverend Stephen Griffiths for his help patience and kindness, and for conducting the funeral service.

A special thank you to Lucy Reeves, Rosemary & Malcolm Arnold for all their help in the preparation of the village hall, and preparing the wonderful spread of food, which was enjoyed by all.

Thank you all, we couldn't have managed without you.

*Doreen Brookfield*

## *Events Calendar - At a Glance*

<b>Tuesday 4 Feb</b>	STEPS 3 Larson Rd. Heyford Park and every Tuesday	7.30pm
<b>Friday 7 Feb</b>	Bingo Upper Heyford Village Hall	7.30pm
<b>Sunday 9 Feb</b>	Soup Sunday Upper Heyford Reading Room	12—2pm
<b>Tuesday 11 Feb</b>	SWIG Somerton Village Hall	
<b>Wednesday 12 Feb</b>	Warreners Fish & Chips at The Barley Mow 12.30pm	12.30 Barley Mow
<b>Saturday 15 Feb</b>	Souldern Market at Village Hall	9—12 noon
<b>Saturday 15 Feb</b>	Heyford Park Residents Association AGM at Community Centre	2pm start
<b>Wednesday 19 Feb</b>	Heyfords WI Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
<b>Sunday 23 Feb</b>	Soup Sunday Upper Heyford Reading Room	12—2pm
<b>Sunday 2 March</b>	Care for a Cuppa Upper Heyford Reading Room	2—4pm For Katharine House Hospice
<b>Friday 7 March</b>	Bingo Upper Heyford Village Hall	Bingo Upper Heyford Village Hall
<b>Sunday 9 March</b>	Soup Sunday Upper Heyford Reading Room	12—2pm
<b>Tuesday 11 March</b>	SWIG Somerton Village hall	
<b>Wednesday 12 March</b>	Warreners Upper Heyford Village Hall	2pm
<b>Saturday 15 March</b>	Souldern Market in Village hall	9—12 noon
<b>Wednesday 19 March</b>	Heyfords WI Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
<b>Friday 4 April</b>	Bingo Upper Heyford Village Hall	7.30pm