

Valley News

June 2014

No 213

News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



Heyford Athletic show their delight after their Lord Jersey Cup final triumph against Woodford United

Matt Blenford hit a hat-trick as Heyford Athletic won the 126th Jersey Cup final after a 7-0 thrashing against Woodford United at Bicester. Six second-half goals proved the difference. Blenford opened the scoring by converting a corner, before doubling the advantage early in the second half after a fine solo run. He was denied a hat-trick by the woodwork, but from the rebound, a Woodford defender put through his own net. However, Blenford's third goal came after he ran through the defence to slot home. Chris Philpott headed in a Blenford free-kick to make it 5-0, before two goals in injury time sealed the rout. Jon Crosthwaite hit No 6, before Lee Clack completed the tally.

Picture & report by the Bicester Advertiser 24 April 2014

Valley News is delivered FREE to every household in:

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

Editor: Ian Lough-Scott, The Rickyard, Upper Heyford, Bicester OX25 5LH Telephone: 01869 232788

Email: ianloughscott@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Stan Morris, The Orchard, Water Street, Somerton OX25 6NE Telephone: 01869 345544

Also published on line www.upperheyford.com

Church Services in the Valley

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

	Ardley St Mary	Fritwell St Olave	Lower Heyford & Caulcott St Mary	Somerton St James	Souldern Annum to the BVM	Upper Heyford St Mary	Heyford Park The Chapel
1-Jun	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 Communion	No Service	11:00 Morning Prayer	9:30 Traditional language Communion	11:00 Contem- porary Worship Communion
8-Jun	9:30 Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	9:30 Sunday Club	11:00 Sung Eucharist	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contem- porary Worship
15-Jun	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Morning Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Contem- porary Worship
22-Jun	9:30 Family Worship	6:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Communion	9.30 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Said Morning Prayer	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 All Age Service
29-Jun	9:30 Benefice Communion Service						
6-Jul	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	11:00 1662 Communion	No Service	11:00 Morning Prayer	9:30 Traditional language Communion	11:00 Contem- porary Worship
13-Jul	9:30 Fam- ily Com- munion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	9:30 Sunday Club	11:00 Sung Eucharist	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contem- porary Worship
20-Jul	9:30 Morn- ing Prayer	11:00 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Morning Prayer	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Morning Prayer	11:00 Contem- porary Worship
27-Jul	9:30 Family Worship	6:00 Evensong	11:00 Family Com- munion	9.30 Family Worship Communion	11:00 Said Morning Prayer	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contem- porary Worship

Monday 28th July – Friday 1st August – HOLIDAY CLUB 10am-12noon

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.

Please note that services may change during the period so please check pew sheets, web or noticeboards

RIDE+STRIDE

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

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

CHERWELL VALLEY BENEFICE

Dear friends,

'Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well' (Matthew 6:33).

Some familiar words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount, words that you have no doubt heard many times. I want to suggest three areas in which they apply to each one of us at the moment.

Personally: The Sermon on the Mount challenges us to consider the way we live our lives. Jesus addresses everyday issues like anger, honesty, morality, money and friendship. He asks us to consider whether we reflect Christian attitudes in these things. Most people make their initial judgement about Jesus based on the lives of those who claim to follow him. It is abundantly clear from our lives who our 'Master' is. Jesus asks us to make the coming of the kingdom of God our primary concern. By doing this, and pursuing God's righteousness, we free ourselves from the aching anxieties of life. Sure, we will still have hurdles and disappointments in life, but we will be able to place these troubles within the larger context of knowing that God has a plan, a purpose, and a future for us. The Christian way of life teaches us to come to God not only as our creator, but as our saviour and our provider.

As a church: Each congregation has to seek, as a united body, God's kingdom and his righteousness. The PCC may take the lead in this, but it is the responsibility of every member to play their part in this wonderful task. This will mean praying together, studying God's word, discovering more about our communities and their needs, partnering with other groups and talking together. By doing this God can reveal what the growth of his kingdom looks like in our local community. We might be surprised by what we are called to do! It might be encouraging numerical growth as men and women, boys and girls, make Christ their Lord and come along to church. It might be growth in depth of Christian maturity or the release of new gifts amongst God's people. It might be a particular work that serves local needs. It might be a combination of these and many other things. In my experience as the congregation focuses on his kingdom, God will supply both the wisdom and resources that the congregation needs.

As a community: Our communities are going through a period of change. The development at Heyford Park is already affecting many people and will impact upon our area more and more in the coming years. For some this will bring the positive benefits of work, a new home, a new community to engage with and new facilities. For others this means facing a new future, significant change to rural life and disruption. More generally, people in our communities can feel isolated in rural areas and upset by the loss of community spirit and continuity (whether real or perceived). The values of the God's kingdom should shape the way we engage with change. Jesus calls us to take a special interest in the least, the last and the lost. They are often the ones overlooked in our communities during times of change. Who do you know who might be feeling vulnerable or anxious? Can you show them mercy or be a peacemaker in your community? Interestingly as we put the values of the Sermon on the Mount into practice they prove to be the antidote to worry. The more we serve others, the greater our perspective becomes on our own anxieties (Matthew 6:33).

Yours in the service of Jesus Christ, Stephen



Volunteer connect: providing community transport links.

Do you need help with transport to appointments? We offer a service for those people with problems accessing public transport and who cannot get to essential appointments. We use volunteer drivers and only charge 45p per mile to cover the cost of petrol.

Call us on: 0845 815 0087 or drop in to see us at Banbury CAB, Cornhill House, Banbury
Volunteer Connect info@volunteer.org.uk

New Team Vicar for the Cherwell Valley Benefice

I'm glad to announce that the Reverend Geoff Price has been appointed as our next Team Vicar.

Geoff is currently Vicar of East Bedfont in west London and has had many years of experience in ministry, including a significant time in rural areas. He is married to Hope and they will be living at the Vicarage in Fritwell. Geoff will be licensed by the Bishop of Dorchester at St. Mary's Lower Heyford on 11th September 2014 at 7.30pm. More details about Geoff and Hope to follow in a future edition.



WHAT'S ON IN THE CHERWELL VALLEY

CREAM TEAS ARE BACK!

Upper Heyford Reading Room



Sundays 13 & 27 July & 10 August
Also at the Summer Festival 22 June
2—4pm just £2.50

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT COURSE



What would you be able to do if someone collapsed in the home, workplace, street etc.?

Do you need to learn some Life Support techniques or revise those learnt in the past?

We have a Consultant Anaesthetist, (Advanced Life Support Instructor) who would be willing to run some classes.

These would be held in the Reading Room at Upper Heyford, duration about 2 hours, dates to be confirmed. There will be no charge but a small donation for hire of Reading Room may be required.

Anyone interested should call Sue Adamson on:-

01869 232841

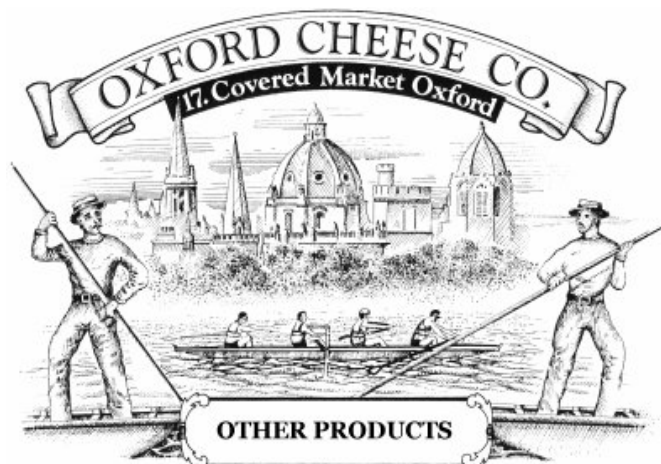
07852165366

Fridays: June 6th & July 4th

Upper Heyford Village Hall

All money prizes & good raffle

In aid of the church Restoration Fund



Somerton Women's Independent Group
presents...

An evening with the Oxford Cheese Company
Somerton Village Hall

Tues 10 June 7:30pm

Members: Free

Non Members: £3 Open to all!

The Oxford Cheese Shop in Oxford's famous Covered Market has been trading since 1983 and is recognised as one of Britain's premier cheese specialist retailers. It has one of the best selections of English and Continental Cheeses which rivals any display in Britain or Europe. There is an unusually diverse range of Ewe's and Goat's milk cheeses and a large selection of Alpine cheeses, as well as their own range which includes Oxford Blue and Oxford Isis.

Please come and join us to hear all about the fabulous cheeses available on our door step at the Oxford Covered Market. Paul Watson will be talking about cheese production, development and flavours and will also be bringing along a variety of wines that complement the various cheeses. There will also be an opportunity to sample and purchase the cheese and wine.



UPPER HEYFORD VILLAGE WALK

Saturday 14 June

10am—12 noon starting at the Village Hall

Hey-ford—name derives from 'a river crossing'

So where was the location of the original crossing of the River Cherwell before the canal and its bridges!

You will find out on this walk including the impact the canal had on the boundary of the parish

This is a leisurely walk through our lovely village taking in its heritage and history with a few amusing (and sadly a few tragic) anecdotes

Upper Heyford Historical Society



Dear Heyfordians,

We want this to be the most inclusive show we've ever held. It's open to all residents of Upper Heyford Village. Heyford Park and Heyford Leys.

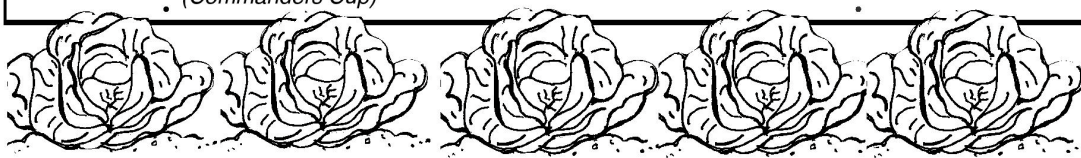
There is no need to pre-register, just turn up on the day with your flowers and produce and enter. This year there will be no entry fees and no prize money, but we will of course be acknowledging the effort put in with the ever important 1st, 2nd and 3rd place certificates, and continuing with the long-established tradition of awarding Show Trophies.

A schedule, with Show Rules and trophy classes will be published and distributed in the coming weeks, but this is heads up for all you growers out there to help with you planting plans.

ENTER INTO THE FUN!

Section 1 - Vegetables

CLASS	TYPE	NUMBER REQ.
1	CABBAGE	1
2	ONIONS	3
3	CARROTS <i>(The Grant International Trophy)</i>	3
4	RUNNER BEANS	4
5	LEEEKS <i>(The Grant International Trophy)</i>	2
6	TOMATOES	5
7	POTATOES <i>(The Grant International Trophy)</i>	5
8	SHALLOTS <i>(The Eric Hudson Memorial Trophy)</i>	9
9	PARSNIPS <i>(Cherwell Valley Open)</i>	2
10	SWEDE	2
11	SWEETCORN	2
12	LONGEST RUNNER BEAN	1
13	HEAVYWEIGHT MARROW <i>(Cherwell Valley Open)</i>	1
14	LARGEST PUMPKIN / SQUASH	1
15	LARGEST POTATO	1
16	FUNNIEST SHAPED VEGETABLE	1
17	A COLLECTION OF ANY FIVE VEGETABLES <i>(Commanders Cup)</i>	5



Section 2 - Fruit

CLASS	TYPE	NUMBER REQ.
18	APPLES - Cooking and Eating	4
19	PEARS	3
20	DISH OF RASPBERRIES OR BLACKBERRIES	
21	DISH OF FRUIT -Plums / damsons etc.	4



Section3 - Flowers & Plants

CLASS	TYPE	NUMBER REQ.
22	DAHLIAS	3
23	SINGLE BLOOM OTHER THAN A ROSE	1
24	SINGLE ROSE	1
25	TRIO OF ROSES - <i>(Cherwell Valley Open)</i>	3
26	ROSES IN A VASE - any type, any colour, no more than 7	7 maximum
27	CHRYSANTHEMUMS	3
28	GLADIOLI	3
29	AUTUMN'S GLORY	5
30	FLOWER OR FOLIAGE ARRANGEMENT - flowers or foliage grown and arranged by you	
31	FLOWER OR FOLIAGE ARRANGEMENT -shop bought flowers or foliage arranged by you	
32	SUNFLOWER DISPLAY	3
33	LARGEST SUNFLOWER HEAD	1
34	GERANIUM - <i>(Patrick & Iris Quinn Memorial Cup)</i>	1
35	FUCHSIA GROWN IN A CONTAINER <i>(Grant International Trophy)</i>	1
36	ANY OUTDOOR POT PLANT GROWN FROM A SEED OR CUTTING	1
37	A HANGING BASKET- <i>(Frank Hawkins Memorial Cup)</i>	1



Section 4 - Other produce

CLASS	TYPE	NUMBER REQ.
38	EGGS - chicken or duck	3
39	MARMALADE	1
40	JAM	1
41	CHUTNEY - With cheese and crackers	1



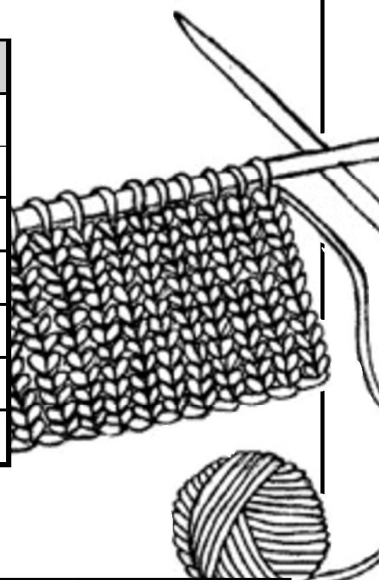


Section 4 - Other Produce continued

CLASS	TYPE	NUMBER REQ.
42	VICTORIA SANDWICH	1
43	A CELEBRATION CAKE	1
44	A FRUIT CAKE	1
45	A LOAF OF BREAD -Any size or type	1
46	CHEESE SCONES	6
47	BEST CHOCOLATE CAKE MADE BY A MAN -Points will be awarded for decoration and taste.	1
48	HOME BREW -Wine, cider or beer. With a glass and labelled	1
49	BOTTLE OF CORDIAL -With a glass	1

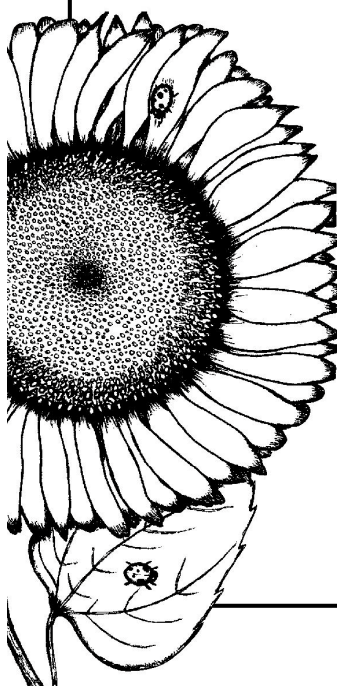
Section 5 - Craft

CLASS	TYPE	NUMBER REQ.
50	A PIECE OF KNITTING	1
51	A PIECE OF EMBROIDERY	1
52	A PAINTING	1
53	A SCULPTURE	1
54	A PHOTOGRAPH -Theme ' Life in our Village'	1
55	A PIECE OF POTTERY	1
56	A HANDMADE CARD	1



Section 6- Children

CLASS	TYPE	NUMBER REQ.
57	LARGEST SUNFLOWER HEAD	1
58	DECORATED POTATO HEAD OR OTHER VEGETABLE - (Doesn't have to be home-grown)	1
59	ANY VEGETABLE YOU'VE GROWN. (Can be one, or a collection of vegetables)	
60	HOMEMADE CUPCAKES	6
61	ANY TYPE OF HOMEMADE SWEETS	
62	A PHOTOGRAPH - Theme ' Life in our Village'	1
63	A DRAWING, COLLAGE OR PAINTING OF VILLAGE LIFE - Any size	1
64	A CREATIVE LEGO MODEL	1



What's going on at Cherwell District Council?

Councillor Calling

Results: I've just returned from the election count with barely time to spare before the newsletter deadline but now I know what to report. Thank you: I'm due to represent you for a further two years. Turnout was up at 40%, due to the simultaneous Euro elections (council elections on their own generally excite only 30%, while general elections merit 70%), of whom 54% kindly endorsed me. That means, of course, that nearly half of those who voted wanted somebody else, showing how democracy provides a regular dose of humility!

Whoever gets in, though, by whatever margin, becomes the representative of every resident, whether they voted at all and whomever they preferred. My contact details were on the leaflets I distributed and are on the Cherwell website: please let me know what you feel or need that CDC isn't doing. Actually, that shouldn't be difficult because, unless you dislike me personally, there's little that party politics does at District level. We need party groups to organise votes and keep the council running but, until someone comes up with a unique Labour way to empty dustbins or a distinctively Liberal Democrat way to administer building regulations, party affiliation shouldn't make a lot of difference locally.

Overall, the balance of the council has changed little, though we'd be foolish not to note the numbers voting, not just for the mainstream opposition, but also in substantial numbers for the Greens and Ukip, and to try and find out what they'd like us to do differently. Despite all the national excitement, Ukip's main achievement in Cherwell was to deliver a Banbury ward to Labour, as they did for the county council last year: I hope they'll start to think if that's what they really want before the general election.

In the meantime, we've got enough challenges ahead not to worry about that:

Housing numbers need to be agreed for the Local Plan. A county-wide survey has come up with a huge number. We could (just) accommodate Cherwell's share and can keep the Local Plan on track with it's Inspector's examination as we allowed for this. But there simply isn't room if the "Duty to Cooperate" with Oxford cascades thousands of homes out of the city onto us. Firstly, we must challenge the survey, then the deliverability of the numbers and finally negotiate with the City Council – challenging.

Five year supply: whether we have a finished Plan or not, whatever the new figure for housing, we'll have to keep five-years' worth of planning permissions constantly in the pipeline or developers get the whip hand again. That's doable in the current boom but will become a nightmare again when the housing market calms down.

Neighbourhood Plan: so parishes (this isn't one for the District Council) will have to decide the level of threat to them and weigh that against the potential benefits of a giant Neighbourhood Plan that would use Heyford Park to absorb any houses we don't want in our villages. Neither an easy calculation nor easy to deliver and, as all affected residents get a vote on this, it would all have to be done by next year's general election.

Affordable housing allocation hasn't been resolved. We still need to ensure that Rural Exception Sites are there for the villagers where they are built (or why should parishes allow them?) and to tie down Heyford Park's allocation so no current residents are displaced.

Development elsewhere has big challenges. Banbury Gateway shopping mall has permission and the expansion

of Castle Quay is getting there so we must ensure that Banbury Old Town is revitalised by this and not sidelined. Bicester's community centre/library and hotel are about to start and, biggest of all, Cherwell is buying Graven Hill off the Army for 1,900 homes and 2,000 jobs – a huge and complex transaction, not without sizeable risks.

Solar farms: meanwhile a private ambition is to bring in a policy like my wind farm one to minimise the damage that solar panel arrays, plus their accompanying substations, fencing and security, do when inappropriately sited in open countryside before it's too late.

Finance is a continuous headache as grants get smaller, the New Homes Bonus drops away after six years and business rates are reformed: inevitably, change always means less money for the District. We've already squeezed most of the synergies from combining functions with South Northants and are now well down that road with Stratford DC – many of our staff are doing three jobs for the price of one and a bit – so how we keep council tax the same for yet another year is a challenge indeed.

And that's just the "known unknowns": there are bound to be some unknown unknowns lying in wait: it will be an interesting two years – once again, thank you for trusting me.

James Macnamara

"Fish and Chips babies" need you!

New-born babies, many of them suffering from Aids, are being called "fish and chips babies" because many are sent home from hospital wrapped in newspaper from warmth.

They need your help. In order to assist these tiny babies we are asking you to knit a small jumper which will be sent to Africa to keep little children warm. Average knitters can complete a jumper in an evening; it's an easy, quick pattern.

Instructions: Use double knitting wool only. No pastels or white as these garments may never be washed. Bright, mixed colours are best, or stripes.

Baby Jumper Knitting Pattern (knitted all in one)

Double knitting yarn approx. 50 gms

Size 6 (5mm) needles – tight knitters Size 7 (4.5mm) needles- loose knitters

Cast on 44 stitches. Work 18 rows in K2 P2 rib.

Work 30 rows in stocking stitch (1 row K, 1 row P)

Cast on 12 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows and change to k2,p2 (for the sleeves)

Rib 22 more rows.

Next row (for the neck) rib 21, cast off 26 stitches, rib 21.

Next row : Rib 21, cast on 26 stitches, Rib 21

Work 22 rows k2, p2

Cast off 12 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows.

Work 30 rows stocking stitch.

Work 18 rows k2, p2 rib

Cast off. Sew up side seams.

New Born Baby Hat

No 8 needles. Double knitting

Cast on 73 stitches and knit 6 rows in k1, p1 rib.

Knit 28 rows in stocking stitch.

Start to decrease to shape the crown - K7 k2 together until last stitch k1 – next row pearl.

K6 k2 together until last stitch K1 – next row pearl

K5 k2 together until last stitch K1 – next row pearl

K4 k2 together until last stitch K1 – next row pearl

K3 k2 together until last stitch K1 – next row pearl

K2 k2 together until last stitch K1 – next row pearl

K1 k2 together until last stitch K1 – next row pearl

(17 stitches remaining)

Next row k2 together until last 3 stitches – k3 together. Purl 1 more row.

Cut wool and thread remaining sts and draw up. Make firm and then sew up the side.

Contact for this is **Jannice Schneeberger**

jschneeberger1@gmail.com or contact Jannice at Knit

One2Save One tel:07917068189

POETRY CORNER

War Poetry

The class has dropped its books. The janitor's disturbed some wasps, broomed the nest straight off the roof. It lies outside, exotic as a fallen planet, a burst city of the poor; its newsprint halls, its ashen, tiny rooms all open to the air. The insects' buzz is low-key as a smart machine. They group, regroup, in stacks and coils, advance and cross like pulsing points on radar screens.

And though the boys have shaven heads and football strips, and would, they swear, enlist at once, given half a chance, march down Owen's darkening lanes to join the lads and stuff the Boche - they don't rush out to pike the nest, or lap the yard with grapeshot faces. They watch the wasps through glass, silently, abashed, the way we all watch war.

by Kate Clanchy

Kate Clanchy, who was born and brought up in Scotland, was educated in Edinburgh and Oxford. She now lives and works in Oxford. Her poetry collections have won many prizes and, in 2011, she was made City Poet of Oxford. She came to Upper Heyford in that year to speak to the poetry group about her work and gave us a wonderful evening. In August of this year her "Selected Poems" will be published.

I love the way that this poem is, ostensibly, about a wasps' nest which the janitor has brushed off the roof of the school. It lies in the playground, all its intricate beauty and order in disarray, just like a human society in wartime, and the wasps, with their bewildered buzzing, are trying to work out what has happened, so that they can re-establish the world they used to inhabit before the catastrophe occurred.

Meanwhile, in the classroom, the lesson on war poetry has stopped abruptly, because the pupils' attention has been distracted by what is going on outside. Only moments before, they had been reading Wilfred Owen, and his work had stirred up in them fierce patriotic fervour. They had felt certain that they would have been brave enough to fight the Germans, however terrible the conditions. Nothing would have stopped them. Now, however, confronted by the sight of angry wasps, they are obviously fearful, and very happy to watch the insect 'enemy' from behind the protection of the window.

Without labouring any moral standpoint, Kate Clanchy underlines for us the gap between abstract courage and the reality of what that courage actually entails. Having been a teacher herself, she has provided the students (and the reader) with the perfect visual aid in the form of a wasps' nest!

Heather Burt.



MONGOL RALLY NEWS UPDATE

Team Genghis Cone 10,000 Mile Mongolia Rally

This is our new official team Logo, it is being printed onto vinyl stickers, these will go with all the Charity ones onto the Suzuki Jeep.

The preparation is still going on, new front brake pads have been added, rears ones overhauled, new distributor parts, spark plugs and ignition leads, luggage shelf made for the rear, and a safe installed. Technical gadgets added; Onboard road camera, European and Asian Sat Nav, Personal Satellite Tracker plus, messenger, and a Beer Cooler!

The London "Send Off" venue has been changed, it is now Battersea Park and the official leave date is Sunday the 20th July, We are having our grand start at the Reading Room on Saturday 19th July (actual time to be confirmed) to head down to Battersea for a gathering and party.



Our Iran Visa caused a problem, the Iranian Embassy now state, to obtain a Visa you must employ a Guide for your duration in the country at a cost of 160 Euros per day plus two extra, and feed them! So on that note we have altered our route, up from Turkey into Georgia (no Visa required) into Azerbaijan to cross the Caspian Sea by ferry, somehow!. If you look at a map it would be quicker to go through Armenia to get into Azerbaijan, but as these two countries are at loggerheads with each other, you are unable to enter Azerbaijan via Armenia, so it's the longhaul around Armenia. At this time we are waiting still for our Uzbekistan and Mongolian Visa's to appear and to apply online for Turkey.

Support us, Support our Charities

CRAFT AID UK

www.justgiving.com/Raymond-Funnell1

COOL EARTH

www.justgiving.com/Raymond-Funnell

DONATE NOW visit our website- www.marctopbanana.wix.com/genghis-cone

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CHERWELL VALLEY

Upper Heyford Artweeks

For two weekends in May, Upper Heyford Village Hall was filled with art and visitors as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks. Artweeks is an Oxfordshire wide event where, over a period of three weeks, artists open their studios and exhibit their art to the public. Oxfordshire has both the largest and longest running open studio event in the country with more than four hundred artists exhibiting their work and creating opportunities for people to meet the artists and find out more about art in an informal and friendly environment.

This year, for the first time, professional and amateur artists who live in Upper Heyford, or attend art classes in the village, presented a display of their work. The Village Hall was filled with a wide range of exhibits demonstrating both the skill and craftsmanship of twelve local people. Professional artist Stephen Yorke showed oil and watercolour paintings inspired by sea and sky, Kim Smith exhibited stained glass, sculptures and ceramics, Susan Hullah showed pen and ink pictures alongside digital art and John Hullah displayed a selection of photographs illustrating a different view on aspects of urban life. The Thursday Art Group and Watercolour Group was represented by Richard Granger, Ruth Parsons, Barry Parsons, Denise Ball, Kevin Allen, Irene Parsons and Shirley Grant. The watercolour artists, together with Linda Funnell, showed the different ways watercolour paint can be used to produce paintings ranging from landscape and people to images depicting the soulful character of animals. Shirley showed a selection of hand made textile bags and broaches, alongside quilts from Irene and detailed models and marquetry from Barry. The skills and diversity of interests from these twelve people was hugely impressive. Visitors came from the local area, Oxfordshire and further afield and commented on the quality of the exhibition.

Tea and cakes were provided throughout the event, with people spilling out onto the grass and enjoying the sunshine.

The raffle winners were picked at the end of the exhibition - Alison Graham of Upper Heyford won the limited edition print by Stephen Yorke, Mr Nash of Bicester won the ceramic dish by Kim Smith and Roger Burt of Upper Heyford won the Upper Heyford cider from the Hardcastle Estate. A total of £316.50 was raised for the village hall.

Many thanks to the artists, the people who helped with teas, especially Brenda Cooper who coordinated the refreshments and all the visitors for making our first Artweeks a happy and successful venture. *Kim Smith*



First flying fatality at RAF Upper Heyford



From the information available to us it would appear that the first flying fatality at the airfield occurred on July 6th 1934.

Sergeant-Pilot George Robinson of 99(B) squadron was killed when his aeroplane (probably a Handley Page Heyford bomber, as shown above) crashed whilst in the process of landing. George was the second pilot and the only death in a crew of five.

George is buried in Upper Heyford Cemetery

In March 1936 the *Bicester Advertiser* reported as follows: *On Friday last through the kind interest of the Station Commander and friends on the camp, the ground was purchased and a cross erected in the cemetery to mark the last resting place of Pilot-Sergeant Robinson of 99(B) squadron.*

He was interred with full military honours in the little village cemetery, the only personal mourner being his father who has since died.

The cross erected is of oak, having an aeroplane boss as its centre, with a round brass tablet affixed thereon, inscribed as follows:

"To the Glory of God, and in memory of 362999 Pilot-Sergeant G Robinson, of 99(B) squadron, who was killed in a flying accident, 6th July 1934. R.I.P."

Not surprisingly after 80 years sadly the memorial has long since rotted away and George is left with an unmarked grave. After giving his life in the service of his country a suitable memorial is the very least that he deserves.

At the Annual Parish Meeting it was agreed that the provision of a memorial and ceremony on the 80th anniversary of his death should be implemented.

Upper Heyford Historical Society

BARBEQUE AND BOWLS

Saturday 31st May

Lower Heyford Bowls Club

2—4.30pm

Come along and enjoy good food while you try your hand at bowls

All free of charge ALL ARE WELCOME

St Mary's, Upper Heyford Tower Lighting

4 th March	'In celebration of the birthday of the late Craig Lord. 'With lots love from Canary and Tom.'
9 th March	In celebration of Michael Hardcastle's birthday. 'With all my love, Margaret xx.'
14 th March	In memory of the late Mrs Sarah Brain who passed away 42 years ago today. 'Lots of love from her daughter, Ann.'
16 th March	In memory of the late Matthew James who died in 1973. 'From Mum, Dad, Paul, Debbie and little Grace, with love.'
18 th March	In memory of the late Thelma Draper. Sadly missed by Ken, Jane and all the family.
25 th March	In memory of the late Derek Bunce, who died on this day in 2011.
1 st April	In celebration of the birthday of the late Mrs Sarah Brain by her daughter, Ann Woski
9 th April	In celebration of Roger Burt's birthday. 'With love from Heather.'
14 th April	In celebration of the birthday of Margaret Hardcastle's birthday. 'With love from Mike.'
19 th April	In memory of the late Ben Brain who passed away five years ago today. 'Love, Karen and Sean.'
20 th April	In celebration of the birthday of Thomas Lord. 'With love from Mum.'
21 st April	In memory of the late Jan Woski who passed away five years ago today. 'All my love, your wife, Ann.'
30 th April	In celebration of the birthday of the late John Smith. 'With love from Sally Anne, Jean, Ian, Emily, Graham and David.'

Horse & Groom Caulcott

**The Bastille Day Beer
and Music Festival
11th evening
12th and 13th July.**



There will be 18 ales and 4 real ciders on offer, live bands will play throughout the proceedings and a BBQ will also be available. We will be raising money for Katharine House through sales of our beer festival glasses.

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**

The Heyfords WI annual report

The Heyfords WI is a small group of ladies enjoying monthly talks and other events arranged by the Oxfordshire Federation which have approximately 4,500 members spread across nearly 150 WIs

During the past year The Heyfords have had various speakers as reported in the Valley News, also have made teas for the Postgraduates at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospital, and had a cake and flower stall at the Upper Heyford flower show. The members enjoyed outings to the Wychwood Brewery and a day trip on the canal, including two evening local walks.

2015 is the centenary year of the WI. At present a baton is travelling throughout the 69 federations of England, Wales and the islands to celebrate the links of friendship and community developed through the WI. Its trip will finish at the Annual Meeting in June 2015 at the Royal Albert Hall. It is all part of the WI ethos, which is to offer opportunities for enjoyable learning for life. As part of those learning opportunities, we are lucky to have the WI's own residential college, Denman College, within our County for members to take full advantage of the beautiful surroundings.

We look forward to the coming year and will celebrate The Heyfords WI 80th birthday in January.

Lynn Humberstone, President The Heyfords WI

The Warreners

At the April meeting we enjoyed Kurling, not exactly Olympic standard but very competitive nevertheless. Really great fun, enjoyed by everyone.

We were entertained at the May meeting by 'Jay-an-ay' and a sing-along when we all joined in at the chorus. An amusing afternoon with many jokes, some not suitable for this publication!

Kirtlington Welcome Club members will be visiting us at the June meeting as we have greatly enjoyed their hospitality in the recent past. It's always nice to meet other club members and to be able to reminisce about old times. We are having an outing to the Harvester at Kidlington for a lunchtime meal in July, a trip out is always a treat much enjoyed by members.

It is a most worthwhile couple of hours for any over 55, new members, and visitors will be made most welcome, so why not give it a try.

Our meetings are held in Upper Heyford Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month from 2 to 4pm

Upper Heyford
SUMMER FESTIVAL



SUNDAY 22nd June
From 2pm to 4.30pm

Upper Heyford has many delightful gardens of all sorts and sizes, which most of us never get to see, so here's your chance to look beyond the front gate!

We mean to provide a pleasant afternoon for Upper Heyford residents and friends to wander around the village enjoying the gardens, hopefully in sunshine

It is important to emphasize that it is not a competition or fund-raiser. There will be no charge for looking at gardens, nor will the gardens be judged in any way.

Gardens which are 'open' will be labelled with a large, laminated picture of a rose fixed in a prominent position outside. A map will also be available with participating gardens marked on it.

There will also be flower arrangements in the church, in celebration of the first phase of the renovation project

You will be able to relax and enjoy a cream tea or strawberry tea in the Reading Room and marquee on the Green during the afternoon

Let's hope for a warm, relaxed and friendly afternoon

Melinda Pragnell

Roger Burt

Ian Lough-Scott

Upper Heyford Parish Council—Vacancy Announcement

Due to the resignation of Councillors Menzies and James, the Upper Heyford Parish Council has a requirement for two Parish Councillors.

Your Council needs additional Councillors and this is an opportunity for you as a member of the Parish to make a real contribution to the life of our Community.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk as below for a briefing on what the position entails and the procedures for appointment of Councillors.

Jack Goodman Jr, Clerk to the Council,
Hillside Cottage, High Street, Upper Heyford, Bicester OX25 5LE
Telephone: 07791-399823 Email: jackgoodman61@gmail.com

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



Festival of Open Gardens

Our Festival of Open Gardens continues throughout June with several supporters opening their gardens to the public. From tiny cottage gardens to large landscaped ones, each has their own charm; why not go along and see for yourself!

Sun 1 June, 2pm-5pm, **Katharine House Hospice** (East End, Adderbury), £2.50 entrance.

Sat 7 June, 2pm-6pm **Bloxham Open Gardens**: Rose Cottage (The Goggs), Dovecote House (Church Street), Malt House (Queen Street), Dursley (Banbury Road), Brook Cottage (Little Bridge Road) and Spring Cottage (Frog Lane). Entrance £5 for all gardens.

Sun 8 June, 2pm-6pm **Farthinghoe Open Gardens**: Windyridge (New Road), The Old Rectory (Old Lane) and The Old Rectory Stables (Old Lane). Entrance £4 for all gardens (children free).

Sun 22 June, 2pm-5pm, Wildwood, (Southam Road, **Farnborough**). Entrance £2.50 (children free).

Sun 29 June, 2pm-6pm, Hill Grounds, **Evenley**. Entrance £5, children free and dogs welcome on leads.

Sun 6 July, 2pm-5pm, **Broughton Castle** (Nr Banbury OX15 5EB). Entrance £5 (children free).



Mary Goodman wrestling with the lock!

The Healthy Heyford Monday morning walkers enjoyed a canal boat trip on Monday 19th May. The day consisted of morning coffee at Allen's Lock, followed by a picnic lunch at Somerton meadow and afternoon tea moored up near Lower Heyford. Everyone had a lovely day basking in the sunshine.

If you would like to join in the walks we will be running alternate Monday evenings and mornings over the summer. Approx 4-5 miles - 2hrs. For a full list please email Jo Allen on allenjoke@aol.com

Upper Heyford Recreation Field

Please, please, please pick up after your dog, apart from the fact that it is illegal not to do so, it is an indication of a most anti-social attitude to fellow parishioners.

We love dogs, but not always their owners!

Fritwell Church of England Primary School

Term 5 has now begun and our Year 6 children are working really hard in preparation for their SATs tests, which take place later this month. They have put so much effort in that they deserve to do really well—we're really proud of them all!

We have just taken delivery of £2000 of new books for our school library, thanks to a generous donation from St Olave's Church. They were delivered this week and I am as excited as the children about getting them onto the library shelves.

Our Eco-warriors organised an animal dressing up day last week to raise money so that they could adopt a snow leopard through the World Wildlife Fund. This was all their own idea—it's so lovely to have such caring children in our school.

The weather was really kind to us during our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The rain held off until we had finished the tidying up and had returned home. As usual we all had great fun! Obviously the big hunt was the main event, but there was a mini-hunt for younger children, a barbecue and other refreshments, as well as a tombola and egg decoration competition. Our fundraising team (FOFs) worked really hard leading up to the event and on the day itself to provide a great family day out. Look out for it next year if you've never been before—it's open to all members of the community.

FOFs will also be organising our school fete, which this year will be on Saturday, 19th July and will be jointly run with St Olave's Church. As I've mentioned in previous newsletters, we will be asking for our usual donations of cakes, bric-a-brac, raffle prizes and bottles. Events will be taking place throughout the afternoon and there will be the opportunity to buy barbecued food and cream teas. We hope to see you there!

Debbie McLeod, Headteacher
Fritwell Church of England Primary School
East Street, Fritwell, Bicester OX27 7PX
Telephone 01869 345283



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.

Heyford Park Residents & Community Development Association

Heyford Park Residents & Community Development Association Committee:

Chris Mullineux	Chairman
Tim Bigelow	Vice Chairman
Angela Ford	Treasurer
Marilyn Brown	Secretary
Marilyn Bigelow	
Edward Fraser	
Ernie Freeland	
Carole Gother	
Alan Harris	
Paul Nash	
Eric Nixon	

Much has been going on since the last edition of Valley News.

The committee, elected in February, is now settling down to deal with the issues that come up

The disruption caused by the construction work is causing concern as some details and some ways of working have caused public safety issues. We have raised these with the landowners from time to time and will be having a meeting with Dorchester and their contractors to try to resolve these concerns

The other safety issues which we have raised relate to speeding both on the housing estate roads and on Camp Road. For the estate roads we have put proposals to Dorchester on altering and improving the signage and making the limit on all these roads 20 mph. Currently there are signs showing 5, 10, 15 and 20 mph – this is totally confusing. The Camp Road issues (speed limits and signs, school crossing, missing bollards, white lining) have been raised in a letter to Oxfordshire County Roads and Transport Department and they have promised to investigate and respond.

There is still a lot of unease about the requirement for tenants to move to alternative houses as Dorchester begin their refurbishment programme of the RAF and USAF houses. It really is an unsettling time for residents. Although Dorchester have made a number of reassuring statements, residents still feel stressed and unsettled, some of them having lived in the one house or bungalow for nearly 20 years. This unease is compounded as everything around the place seems to be changing. No doubt things will settle down as the demolition works, services trench digging and road works are completed.

We are also concerned about the look of the place. With a greater number of empty houses the front grass is becoming unkempt; this of course disincentives residents from keeping their own grass neat and tidy. We ask anyone who is unable to cut their front grass to get in touch with us so that we can help.

Finally – we are having an open meeting on Saturday afternoon 14th June in the Chapel. All Heyford Park residents and our neighbours in Heyford Leys and Letchmere Farm are very welcome to come along and have their say about their concerns, and hopes, for Heyford Park.

Heyford Park Residents & Community Development Association

OPEN MEETING

**for everyone who lives at Heyford Park
and for organisations based here**

IN THE CHAPEL

Saturday 14th June 2014 - 2 to 5 p.m.

**The Committee of the Association cordially
invites you to come along to have your say
about what goes on in your community.**

From 2 till 3 p.m. we'll have tea and biscuits and chat informally. Committee members will take notes of any concerns you might have or suggestions you wish to make.

From 3 till 4 p.m. we'll have our Committee Meeting.

From 4 till 5 p.m. we will invite you to have your say about any concerns you have, or things you would like the Association to do for the community.

FEEL FREE TO COME TO ALL OR PART OF THIS GET-TOGETHER



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E-mail: 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.



Thames
Valley
Farmers' Market
Co-operative

Bicester Farmers Market

**Sheep Street, 8.30 – 1pm
2nd Saturday of each month**

Dates for 2014 are:

14th June 12th July

9th August 13th Sept 11th Oct

8th Nov 13th Dec

**Come along and try what we believe is the
best local fresh produce**

Free parking at the new Sainsbury's in Pioneer Square



Search for 'Bicester Farmers Market' on Facebook
Tel: 01235 227266

LOWER HEYFORD NEWS

Heyford Athletic win the Lord Jersey Cup for the 7th time: 1953; 56; 61; 65; 73; 78 and now in 2014!

The current team will need to play for a very long time to emulate the achievement of John Varney Senior who played in no less than 11 Jersey Cup finals and won at least 6 winners medals.



A very young John Varney receiving his first Jersey Cup winners medal in 1950 when the combined Heyfords team beat Kirtlington 4—0

Lower Heyford APM reports

Willy Shepherd representing the **church**, reported that in this last year both the team rector and the vicar have left, with the team rector having been replaced and interviews taking place soon for a new vicar. Despite this, services have continued every Sunday and there have been 7 weddings and 4 baptisms and celebrations of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Work is continuing on the alterations to the Church which are nearing completion with an opening ceremony planned in mid May. Funds for this have been achieved by a grant from Viridor of £63K, £30K from the Village Hall Trust, £25K from Church funds and £9K from the Oxford Historical Trust.

Dr Clayton reported on the work of the **LHRINC**

Roger Bowen reported that the **Events Committee** May Day Fete was the best ever and made a profit of £1360, however, the Fireworks in November made a loss due to bad weather. The Carol Concert will not be staged this year due to poor attendance.

Roger Bowen reported that the **Bowls Club** is still struggling for membership and have no fixtures planned this year due to insufficient players. The green will be opened on 31st May and it is hoped that people will attend and experience a taster session with a view to joining the club.

Alan Humberstone reported on the work of **Friends of Heyford Station** and was particularly pleased to report that entry into a photo competition resulted in 4th place. The 'ramping' of the box bush display is earning compliments from passengers. increasing passenger numbers is resulting in problems in the car park, particularly as it is also being used by contractors and boaters.

Lynne Humberstone reported on the **WI** (see WI item)

Petra Turner reported on the recent success of the Friends of Lower Heyford Playground in securing a grant of £44,000 for the refurbishment of the playground which will commence soon.

Alfred (Buzz) Buswell has died after a long illness, we send our condolences to Rita & family, and will include a tribute in the next edition of Valley News

LOWER HEYFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the Lower Heyford Parish Council held on
Thursday 22nd April 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 : Mr. W Shepherd In attendance:
 Apologies: No apologies had been received

Minutes of the last meeting held on 27th March 2014 were read and it was RESOLVED to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

04.14.01 Clerk's Report

Some potholes on Freehold Street fixed
 Paperwork for Viridor grant signed
 Letter written to Dorchester Group re routing agreement
 Further letter written to Savilles re trees owned by Corpus Christi
 Standing Orders, Risk Assessment & financial Regs have been circulated

04.14.02 - Highways/Footpaths - Email had been received via Steeple Aston PC from Hugh Potter regarding the Rifle Plank Bridge stating that it is high priority and it is hoped to be replaced this summer.

Potholes were reported in the following areas : Mill Lane, Freehold Street - some have been filled but not all, Greenway has many potholes its entire length. Clerk to report to CDC

Action : Clerk

Station Road has been patched but this does not constitute a structural repair suitable for 40 ton vehicles and the promised surface dressing will only mask the problem. Clerk to write to Mr. Kemp, OCC. Action : Clerk

No progress has been made regarding the drainage situation. Clerk to write to Wayne Barker

Action : Clerk

04.14.03 Matters Arising

Clerk to chase Savilles re trees on Heyford Road

Action: Clerk

Clerk to chase Dorchester group for a response to letter sent

Action : Clerk

04.14.04 Meetings - No meetings had been attended

04.14. 05 Correspondence - Correspondence lists were circulated and discussed. It was decided that no response would be made to the letter from CDC regarding Local Heritage Assets as the entire village is a conservation area.

04.14.06 LHRINC - Dr Clayton had circulated the Accounts and report on the activities of the Charity.

04.14.07 Playground - Mrs Turner reported that she is meeting with TOE2 on 29th April which will hopefully result in a further grant for the playground. Concern was expressed about the safety of the existing playground equipment and it was agreed that Mr. Thompson should make a thorough inspection the following day. His report has been included in these minutes : *"I will list the following : The outer fence is secure and is perfectly safe. the four swings are all secure and in good working order, likewise safe to use. the slide is secured by large concrete bases, the slide is perfectly secure on these concrete bases. the main frame is perfectly safe although underneath the slide itself where it is attached to the frame of the slide there is some very minor rust forming, this is surface rust only and again is perfectly safe. The climbing frame is secure and it perfectly safe to use. The rocking horse ride is secure and is safe to use, likewise the two other stand along coil type rides are secure and safe to use. the area in which the slide and swings are situated are lower than the other items, therefore you need to step down into that area. this could do with being cut back so that the step down is clearly visible - nothing that a strimmer would not cure. These are my observations and in my opinion only, the area is safe to use. What there is old but safe to use. "*

04.14.08 Planning

14/00062/F 2 Storey side extension 9 Bromeswell Close - APPROVED

14/00365/F Mr. Richard Bennett, Proposed two storey extension - No Objection

14/00446/F Mr. & Mrs Haynes 107 Freehold Street 2 x two storey rear extensions - No objection

14/00448/F Mr. & Mrs Kyte, 17 Freehold Street, variation to 12/00059/F

04.14.09 Finance - The following accounts were approved for payment

Payee	Detail	Amount	Cheque No
Cathy Fleet	Clerk salary	226.82	500227
Cathy Fleet	Clerk expenses	24.90	500228
Cathy Fleet	Clerk expenses	24.90	500228
Trumans	Legal fees	398.00	500229
AON	Insurance	659.00	500230

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Lower Heyford Parish Council held on
22nd April 2014 at 7 pm in the Church

Present: Mr MacNamara (Chair), Mrs. Ball (Vice Chair), Mr Dare, Mr. Mortimore, Mrs Turner, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Eggeling, Mr. & Mrs Humberstone, Roger Bowen, William Shepherd, Tom Clayton, Eric Ball, Mr. Hendry, Mrs Corrie, Mr. Boxall

In attendance: Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

Minutes of the last meeting held on 25th April 2013 were read, proposed by Mr. Macnamara and seconded by Mrs Ball as a true record and it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

Public Participation : Member of the public were welcomed by Mr. Macnamara and invited to participate at any time.

Mr. MacNamara introduced Gavin, Sarah McCready and Paul Silver representing Dorchester Living who gave a short presentation on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for the development of the site at Upper Heyford which they own. It was explained that Dorchester Living are planning to build 1075 new houses on the site and associated facilities, e.g. shops. pub. sports facilities could also be built. Their proposal is to form a Neighbourhood Plan which would include most villages who are willing to be included in the surrounding area. This would have the effect of fulfilling the government's housing requirement, but all at Upper Heyford thus preventing the development of existing villages. Representatives from many villages have attended meetings recently with Dorchester Living and some have expressed considerable interest in becoming involved with the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. Members of the public at the meeting expressed concern at the inevitable increase in traffic and the resulting effects on existing roads, particularly the B4030. It was explained that it is anticipated that most increase in traffic would be towards Bicester and the motorway and that traffic surveys are being undertaken. The purpose of inviting Dorchester Living to the meeting was to give residents the opportunity to form an opinion and provide feedback to the Parish Council.

Chairman's Report

Introduction. I have served as Chairman of the Parish Council for the past year so it's my duty to account to you, who elected us, for both our activities over the past twelve months and the money we precepted from you and spent on your behalf. Afterwards, there will be a time for questions and comments. As we are all unpaid volunteers doing our best for the parish with little money and less power, I hope your comments will be positive, either to encourage us to greater things or to offer your help to do better.

Clerkship. Almost everything we do manage is through the hard work of our Learned Clerk, Cathy Fleet, the PC's sole, part time, officer, to whom the Parish owes a great debt of thanks. These thanks are not only for our public achievements but also for all her work behind the scenes that keeps us legal, solvent, audited and law-compliant, with up to date Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct to comply with best practice. Since we switched to monthly meetings, this means clerking ten PC meetings a year, minutes of which are on noticeboards and the website (for the operation of which we owe thanks to Graham Wilson), and which are all open to every parishioner.

Councillors. In all this, the parish should again thank Denise Ball for serving as Deputy Chairman (I note the meeting she chaired when I was tied up in Court went more smoothly than anything I've managed!) and David Dare, Carl Mortimore, Bruce Eggeling and Leigh Thompson for serving as councillors throughout the year. Tracy Hawkins sadly resigned during the year – we are most grateful for her service to the council – and we were grateful for those who stepped forward, from whom we were delighted to coopt Petra Turner, especially as she links us closely to the ambitious Play Area renewal project. So, what have we done?

Highway safety is a priority as always. The SID continues to be effective in reducing dangerous speeding and thanks go to those who have undertaken the laborious and dangerous task of repositioning it. We've allowed in this year's budget for a second one which, provided Highways approve, will make it possible to spread the benefits equitably around the parish with less work – though constraints of siting and land ownership do unfortunately prevent us covering all the dangerous stretches of road that we'd like to.

Leigh Thompson continues to pursue road safety at the Neighbourhood Action Group and we have explored options to reduce the danger at the crossroads at the top of Freehold Street with the County Council, spurred on by the terrible damage to No 134 and eloquent representations from residents at PC meetings. Unfortunately, almost all our suggestions were refused as too expensive or incompatible with regulations, though the altered road markings we did obtain have, I think, made a small positive improvement in visibility and thus safety.

The issue of lighting on Station Road was raised after a tree fell across the road and, subject to the opinion of parishioners, is still open for discussion.

Highway maintenance issues are a never-ending campaign. With the support of our County Councillor, Mrs Catherine Fulljames, we have at last had the footpath to the Long Bridge restored and enhanced, making it high and wide enough to protect parents with children from lorries. We are less happy that repairs to the collapsing Station Road surface were mere patching and will continue pressure on this but are cautiously optimistic that a solution to the flooding outside the boatyard entrance may be in sight. Meanwhile, we are monitoring routeing agreements restricting lorry movements to Heyford Park and Ardley landfill/incinerator, will plug away for an eventual weight limit on the bridge and continue the never-ending reporting of potholes to OCC's website, which we encourage everyone to join in!

Footpaths bring me to replacement of the Rifle Plank Bridge where we've been battling away alongside Steeple Aston and Upper Heyford PC's and are now told it is in the budget and second on the list of priority projects: we will see what happens when the valley is dry enough to support heavy equipment.

Nuisance: we have pursued Network Rail over their activity at the Station Yard and Thames Water about the continuous pumping required in Caulcott – so far without success, but we continue.

Winter was too mild to see our snow plough called out but we shouldn't forget to thank David Dare for storing our tons of salt and, with others, for filling our grit bins. A few degrees colder and we would have been very much in need of this.

Charity matters have also occupied us. The PC appoints all the trustees of the Lower Heyford Relief in Need Charity and we were delighted to fill two vacancies that occurred during the year with Sue Watson and Alan Humberstone, who combine a wealth of experience and local knowledge. We completed a new lease for the Reading Room to the LHRINC and, after many years, achieved a lease for the playing fields to the Kings George's Field Trust: hopefully that will be the last of solicitors for the PC for years to come!

We would like to congratulate the Play Area group on winning a Viridor grant of £45,000 to modernise this much-used facility and will continue our practical and financial support for their work, for example by insuring the equipment, while they manage the area itself, including regular safety inspections and maintenance.

The Village Hall trust is supporting this work and has also helped, along with another large Viridor grant, to fund the improvements you can see to the church. As requested by the Parish Plan survey, this will provide a meeting area with kitchen and toilets and I hope village organisations will make use of the new facilities. Meanwhile, big village services – Christmas and Easter, weddings and funerals – can now seat a couple of dozen more people than could previously squeeze into the pews, raising the church's capacity to over 160.

We also support the Friends of Lower Heyford Station who keep our station and its surroundings looking so attractive by their unending labours.

Planning was looking uncontroversial until a few weeks ago. In Caulcott, there is the application for five Romani Gypsy pitches, which the PC has opposed, following a very well attended debate, on a series of detailed planning grounds. The application has since been deferred month after month awaiting assessments of highway access and flood risk. Meanwhile for all of us there is Dorchester's proposal that we band together with a wide swathe of parishes to draft a Neighbourhood Plan. This could help us dictate the amount and location of any future village housing and secure our fair share of improvements to roads, schools and the like – but at a price: Dorchester are completely open about their commercial interest in permission for more housing. I suspect both these will keep us busy in the coming year.

Financially, we have again reduced the precept, helped by the ending of legal work, the success of the Play Area group and by funding any new SID out of built up reserves. Our main outlays are staff costs and insurance, as you'd expect when we operate principally by volunteer labour and by getting larger authorities to do what the parish wants. Full details have been minuted and all our expenditure is audited and publicly available to everyone.

Looking forward, we are reviewing the recommendations of the Parish Plan 2010/11. While many of these have been achieved, there's more to be done and some can be added to, to keep it a live document and ensure that what parishioners said they wanted is happening. In that and all else we do, please wish us luck and give us your support.

There followed a discussion regarding the possibility of installing street lighting along Heyford Road near the Station and the conclusion was that most people would support the installation of some low level safety lighting, sympathetic with the surroundings in order to assist pedestrians travelling to and from the station. This will be further discussed at the PC meeting.

UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

Church News – St Mary's, Upper Heyford

Since the last report, much of our attention has been taken up with the work to St Mary's that started at the beginning of April and that we are hopeful will be over at the end of May. Needless to say in such a venerable building there have been some unforeseen problems – rot, woodworm, decayed leadwork – but our contractors Boshers, judiciously overseen by our Church Architect Andrew Spooner, have been coping manfully with these problems and we hope to finish pretty well on time. We hope everyone is enjoying the sight of our beautiful new Welsh slates! There will be a service of Thanksgiving for the work once it is finished and we hope that you will all join us to mark this tremendous achievement.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place at the church on 12 May. Sadly, Madge Beere stepped down as Church Warden this year and we thank her for many years of devoted service to St Mary's. Her faith, vigilance, care and love for our village church have been an inspiration for all who have worked with her over the years and she will be much missed. On the plus side, Ian Lough Scott was elected Lay Chairman of the PCC and we are very grateful and lucky to have such a public-spirited and knowledgeable stalwart of village affairs on our side to help take the church forward in Upper Heyford.

Our most pleasant duty at an APCM is to thank all those who have given so generously of time and money over the course of the year, and the PCC would like in particular to record its sincere gratitude to **Jim Smith** for his extremely generous gift of the attractive new railings at the entrance to the church; **Nuala Francis** and **Bob Beere** for cleaning and maintaining the church; **Suzanne Draper** for unlocking and locking the church every day; **Ray Funnell** for winding the clock; **Peter James** and **Bob Beere** for mowing the lawns in churchyard and cemetery; **Sheila Bailey**, **Veronica Lough Scott** and **Roger & Heather Burt** for providing the church with lovely floral displays and decoration; **Ann Woski**, **Veronica Lough Scott** and **Maureen James**, who organise the bingo, the lighting and the 200 club that contribute very significantly to our funding; and finally the **Friends of St Mary's** of which **Roger & Heather Burt**, **Mary Goodman** and **Hansa Menzies** are the mainstay and who have gathered up others to support the church by raising funds for the repairs spoken of earlier.

Looking forward, we have a new Team Vicar for the Benefice, Rev'd Geoff Price, who will be living with his wife Hope in the vicarage at Fritwell. We hope Geoff will enjoy his time in the Cherwell Valley since he has a background in agriculture – his mother's family were farmers – and he spent some years working as an agricultural missionary in Rwanda before joining the priesthood and serving in parishes in Dorset, Shropshire, Suffolk and London. He will be licensed by the Bishop of Dorchester on Thursday 11th September 7.30pm at St. Mary's Lower Heyford and you are all encouraged to attend to give him a warm welcome from Upper Heyford. We look forward to hearing his ministry at St Mary's in the autumn.

I close by mentioning our annual **Ride & Stride** event, which takes place this year on 13 September. The idea is sponsored cycling or walking between some or all of the churches in Cherwell Valley Benefice to raise funds for the **Oxford Historic Churches Trust**. The OHCT supports all Oxfordshire churches with grants for building work and we were given a very generous £8,000 to help with the work currently in progress. So it would be nice to give something back by making an effort to get on our bikes or put on our walking boots to enjoy the beauties of our local countryside and churches for a truly good cause. A date in September gives plenty time to get into training for those that require it. **Ian Lough Scott** is coordinating the event this year so please contact him for more details. Upper Heyford cyclists and walkers – we know you're out there!

Andrew Gotch

Tribute: Hazel Matthews Plowman 1921—2014



Hazel was the daughter of a hosier manufacturer in Leicester where she attended Leicester Collegiate Girls School, after which she was a student at King's College London, graduating in 1942 with a B.Sc in food science and nutrition. After a number of jobs in a ministry her last appointment was as manager of all catering at King's College London.

Whilst at Kings she met Dr John Plowman and they were married in the church at the college gates St Mary's in the Strand. They set up home in Brookmans Park in Hertfordshire and after sixteen years moved to Two Trees Farmhouse in Upper Heyford where they lived for twenty six years. They were very happy whilst making many friends, Hazel for many of those years was treasurer of the WI. When the founder of the Warreners died she became leader and provided the teas. In the summer there was at least one meeting in the garden of Two Trees. Hazel was active as a judge in summer shows throughout the county as well as a popular lecturer on porcelain and antique bygones. For a number of years a county lecturer gave instruction in the kitchen of Two Trees (whilst the Dalmatian sniffed outside the door).

In 1999 they moved to a retirement cottage in Deddington but within a few months she was diagnosed as having deterioration of the muscles which would prevent her moving freely or going up stairs. The cottage had three flights of stairs so they moved to a house in Bourton on the Water in Gloucestershire, where they made a very happy home visited by friends from Upper Heyford. During the last six years the illness took hold and she became less mobile ending up with a hospital bed and a crane to lift her in and out of a chair etc in the drawing room with live in carer plus visiting carers four times a day interspersed with stays in hospital. Despite physical handicaps Hazel remained her usual happy self and spent the last week in hospital where she died, a little before her 93rd birthday in September.

Hazel lived in Upper Heyford longer by far than any other part of her life and with John the friendship of so many made them feel villagers. She was cremated in Banbury on St George's Day.

Photo: 1977 Silver Jubilee WI tree planting High Street
Hazel (in the check coat) doing what she was so good at, organising and supervising events in the village, in fact there was very little that she was not involved with during her 26 years in the village. Editor



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Coarse Gardening

I am getting older. I had failed to grasp this salient fact for some considerable time, but recently it has been borne in upon me and finally the penny has dropped. I ain't getting no younger. The time appears to be fast approaching when I should cancel *Hot-Roddin' Dudes* and take out a subscription to *The Oldie* instead. This awareness of impending decrepitude has been brought on by the fact that the weeds in my garden appear to have far more energy than I do. In fact, they are clearly out to get me. I only have to step off one of the mown grass paths to find great swathes of goosegrass trying to get up my trouser legs while, if I stoop to pull it off, the stinging nettles stab me in the wrists. Gardening here has become more like guerrilla warfare than the genteel, leisurely pursuit illustrated in those shiny magazines, and that's even without treading on a rake.

This is only worth mentioning because we have agreed to open the garden again on Sunday, 22nd June, for the Summer Festival, together with other gardens in the village. At the time of writing, fifteen of us are willing to expose our horticultural faults to public derision. I hope there will be more. I have spread leaflets around the village explaining what it is all about (and hereby apologise to anyone who has not received one - my printer played up and I didn't quite finish the job). It is important to emphasise that this is not a competition, gardens are not going to be judged or commented upon in public or anything like that; we are trying to provide an opportunity for residents of the village to see one another's gardens and allotments 'as is', not all manicured and primped up like something at Chelsea. If you are expecting to see immaculate show-gardens, you will be disappointed; those visiting my garden will be *very* disappointed *indeed* - unless they like wild flowers, aka weeds. If you are prepared to open your garden and are hoping for at least a gold, or failing that a silver-gilt, tough. Anyone else wanting to join in should please contact me on 232770. And even if you don't want to open your garden, you can visit others' and wander along to the village green to enjoy some strawberries.

By the way, it should be pointed out (I suppose) that when you visit someone else's property, you are unlikely to be covered by any kind of insurance. You do so *at your own risk*, just as you would if you were going to a neighbour's for a cup of tea or to ask them to look for your cat.

One of the participating gardeners said, the other day, "I don't know what will be in flower by then. Everything seems to be about a month early. My garden's full of June flowers *now*." She has a point. There have been lovely fat June roses along the High Street since April. My garden is very colourful at the moment, with lots of dwarf French lilacs filling the air with perfume (I have lots because some years ago I visited a garden centre which was selling them off in the winter for fifty pence a pot, and I bought them all. We have white and, er, well, lilac-coloured ones) and also honeysuckle everywhere. We have lost count of them. Perhaps we should call the place honeysuckle cottage. None of what's out now will last until the latter third of June, though. The 'wild' areas are particularly successful, frothing with cow parsley just now. In some parts of the country it is called Queen Anne's Lace, which is just a perfect name for this airy, delicate-looking thing, though where I grew up they called it 'kek', which is a tad less poetic. When red champions are mixed in with it the effect is gorgeous. There is a superb stand of red

champion, by the way, at the bottom of Allen's Lane; it would be worth a stroll down there to see it while it is still in flower. It isn't really red, rather a strong pink, quite a splash of colour on the landscape when a lot of it grows together. If you look closely you can see the leaves of meadow cranesbill in among it - if that produces its translucent blue poppy-like flowers while the champion is still on it'll be a sight for sore eyes...

The wild areas are burgeoning (like the mayflies this year. What a hatch!). They are splendid. The early bulbs, and then the succession of native wild flowers mixed with later bulbs, like blue camassias and varicoloured Dutch irises, are a delight, and this is clearly the way to go for me. Big chunks of this garden are too labour-intensive, and also disappointing; as I have mentioned previously, the wet winters have rotted all my delphiniums and lupins, tulips won't stay, and the worst weeds invade beds which should be kept neat and tidy. So we need to go wilder. Big beds of herbaceous perennials are *Out*, and trees, shrubs, wild flowers and bulbs are *In*. Maybe we shall end up with not so much as country garden as just country, but that'll suit us both, as well as all the wildlife which regards this plot as its own - though please would someone tell the muntjac deer not to keep stripping the bark off little saplings with their prongs? Tell them to mark their territory boundaries with handwritten signs or something.

So what will be in flower for June 22nd? Lord only knows. The best I can promise with any certainty is cool green. I take encouragement from what I heard when I caught a brief snatch of a gardening programme on the radio recently, coming from the American Embassy garden, of all places, in which someone commented on our national obsession with grass and the fact that we can grow lawns in this country like nowhere else, due to our lousy - sorry, delightfully mild and moist - climate. They also pointed out that, if you consider your garden as an 'outdoor room' added onto the house, then the lawn is its carpet. And if you push the chairs back, chuck the kids' toys in the bin, and Hoover the carpet, your house will look terrifically smart, despite the dead spiders in the corners. So maybe that's the message for June 22nd; cut the grass, tidy the edges, and maybe no-one will bother about the goosegrass and greenfly, especially if the sun shines. Them's my sentiments, anyway.

Topical tip: buy annual bedding plants in those little styrofoam trays; plant them out carefully in rows; forget to water them every day; they will then trouble you no further!

Long may your mower hum. Roger Burt.



SWIG SUMMER PICNIC
Tuesday July 8th at 7.00 pm

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SOMERTON NEWS



**Come and join us at SWIG
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SOMERTON SOCIAL CLUB

As many of you know, Somerton's Social Club organises a range of events each year.

These are open to anyone, and generally involve food being served as well as the named event. Some are just-turn-up, some are ticketed events. Most levy a charge or ask for a donation. Although it's not obligatory, as a club we do ask people to become members - a year's membership is just £5 and as a "thank you" the Christmas Party in December is free to members.

This year we have mapped out in advance our programme for the remainder of 2014. We really hope that this early notice will mean more people will come along to help make these events a real success. Reminders and details will be sent out closer to each date - if you are not already on the distribution list, and would like to be, please tell David Jaques on jaques595@btinternet.com (cc Tony Callow on tony.callow@gmail.com).

In addition to the specific events listed below, the Hall is open for very reasonably priced drinks every Thursday evening (8.30-11.00pm). This year we hope to make one of these a special "Cocktail Evening" every few weeks - the first of these is 15th May. And about once a month, Pete Clark and David Jaques host a Film Night - big screen, and hot dogs and chili to boot

The dates of the next three are included in the list below. Finally, as it's a World Cup year, we are showing many of the matches - see below for dates. SO - please have a look through our Social Club Calendar. We hope to see you at some - and maybe many! - of our events.

Sat 7th June WINE TASTING

Fri 13th June Film Night

WORLD CUP: JUNE 14th, 19th, 24th, 28th, 29th. JULY 5th, 9th, 13th

Fri 4th July Film Night

Sat 26th July BBQ

Sat 6th Sept QUIZ NIGHT

Sat 20th Sept 80s NIGHT

Sat 25th Oct SKITTLES

Sat 8th Nov PUDDING CLUB

Sat 13th Dec CHRISTMAS PARTY

Weds 31st Dec NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



SOMERTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP THE GREAT WAR

In September, to coincide with Open Heritage Day and the Ride and Stride the History Group are mounting an exhibition to commemorate the young men of Somerton who died in the First World War. We would welcome any village who would like to participate to join us.

We are anxious to make this exhibition more personal to all those who now live in the area. Nearly everyone has a relative who took part in the conflict whether they died or survived and we are asking that if you or your family has any records, photos, documents, medals or stories that you would like to share to please let us know. Everything will be of interest no matter how small.

The exhibition will run for about a week, or longer if there is enough interest. It will be held in the church and will be manned at all times the church is open. However if you would prefer not to loan us any precious items we can photograph or scan them in.

We have had a very generous offer of help from an existing exhibition at Blenheim Palace for which we are exceedingly grateful and hope that in a much smaller way ours will be as good, but we do want it to be relevant to those in the Cherwell Valley.

So many young men and women were prepared to give their lives for our future and it is right and fitting that we should remember them.

If you would like to participate or wish for more information please contact:

Rosemary Arnold deddlib@hotmail.com 01869 345439

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FRACKING - We need to know more!

You may remember in October 2013 Craig Lord sent a mail informing us that he intended, at short notice, to show a documentary called Gasland. Gasland is a documentary that was nominated for an Academy Award, it's about Fracking, a subject that is topical at present

Mr Cameron has announced that a French company would very soon be starting exploration in England

FRACKING is BANNED IN FRANCE

Our government have stated that we in the UK will benefit from cheaper energy bills, we would all be very grateful for that and the local councils will also benefit financially from Fracking.

However, despite the very Large Carrot that is being dangled in front of our noses, I feel that we require much more information about this process of extracting gasses from Mother Earth. The fracking process involves pumping water and toxic chemicals at very high pressure to force the remaining gasses out.

Fracking has caused devastation across swathes of America, causing pollution to water tables in and around the areas where the gasses are being extracted. Companies that are doing the work are more than happy to supply vast amounts of bottled water to households for drinking, cooking and for other simple daily domestic tasks as they are unable to use their own water supply because of pollution. Farmers in those areas have suffered from sick cattle.

Before Fracking commenced in America an act was passed through Senate that after fracking had started that NO investigation would be allowed into the fracking process. This was passed by a senator called Dick Cheney, he has or has had financial involvement with Halliburton, one of the main fracking companies. How did he do that?

Having watched Gasland and done a little research into the process, I am horrified at the prospect of Fracking going ahead in our country. Sorry to sound cynical but the word profit/greed comes to mind.

Craig Lord was a very talented Surveyor, I think that we do as he suggested and find out ALL the facts before ALLOWING THIS TO GO AHEAD IN OUR COUNTRY.

Win Huddle

Please look at the following websites:- Time to end the Cheney/Halliburton loophole; Truth-out.org Fracking

We hope to be able to arrange a meeting, with an expert in attendance, so that the subject can be properly debated within our community, before the machines arrive!

SUMMER

The days grow longer with rain and sun in its various forms. It is a time of the romantic scented roses, the healing qualities of St. John's Wort, the calming fragrances of lavender, the luck bringing wild strawberries, the heart delights of Foxgloves, the spirit of enjoyment of the wild daisies, the body strengthening hyssop, the merry lemon balm and the fairy attracting wild primroses. The butterflies abound on the buddleia and the humming bird hawk moth tastes the sweet nectar of a wealth of flowers. Should we be in need of rain at anytime an old tradition was to burn fern bracken that would bring rain. Maybe not burning it will also bring sunshine.

There are two important festivals, the first being the solstice or St. John's day. This normally occurs on the eve of June 21st. Bonfires are lit at the sunset. As people jump over the fire they leave behind the old year and look into the new year. The bonfire itself helps the warmth of summer to light up the next six months until the winter solstice. St John's Wort helps protect the next year and made into oil is said to heal all wounds including snake bites. The second festival is around the first of august and is the festival of Lammass or the harvest festival. The first breads of the new grains of wheat were made and offered to the earth in thanks for all her bounty. Again it was a good time to divine for the future. Ladybugs were often consulted as well as the flights of birds. Normally it was a time of great feasting and merry making.

There are many ways of making refreshing herbal iced teas at this time of year but one of my favourites is orange mint tea although any mint will do. You need a handful of chopped orange mint, 6 borage flowers, 4 bergamot flowers, a handful of lemon balm leaves and the juice and grated ring of 2 or 3 lemons. Put these into a bowl and add a litre of boiling water. After about 20 minutes strain the mixture into a jug and add another litre of boiling water and 6 tablespoons of sugar. Then cool the mixture and drink. You may want to add it to some sparkling wine. Any herb iced tea is welcome at this time of year when the herbs are so fresh.

Another use of herbs is in making your own cough drops. Make a litre of tea with horehound, rosemary, thyme, lemon balm and rosehips. Leave it until it is quite strong. Strain the tea and add 2 cups sugar and a pinch of cream of tartar. Cook until the mixture forms a hard ball when dropped into water and then pour it into a shallow oblong tin greased with butter. When it is half cooled cut it into pieces. When it is cold break it into pieces that can be wrapped in waxed paper and stored for winter colds and coughs.

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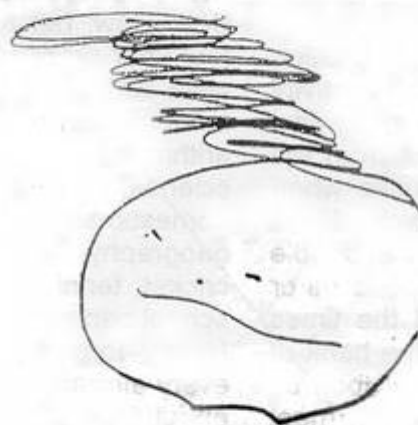
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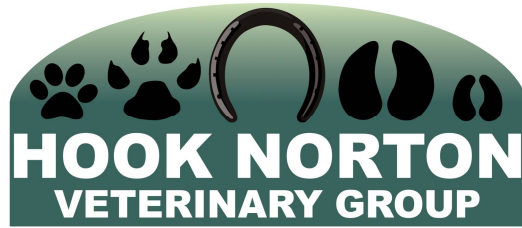


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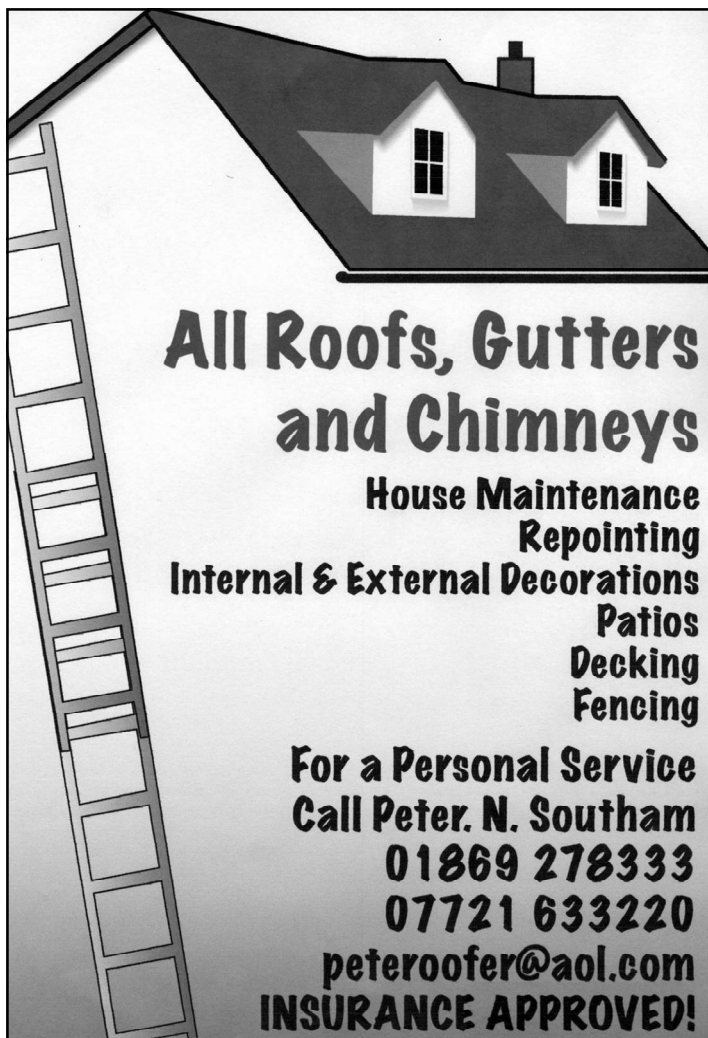
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Events Calendar - At a Glance

Friday 6 June	Bingo Upper Heyford Village Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 7 June	Somerton Social Club Wine tasting	
Tuesday 10 June	SWIG Evening Oxford Cheese Co Somerton Village Hall	7.30pm
Wednesday 11 June	Warreners, Upper Heyford Village Hall	2—4pm
Friday 13 June	Somerton Social Club Film Night	
Saturday 14 June	Upper Heyford Village Walk Meet at the village hall 10am	10—12 noon
Saturday 14 June	Heyford Park Residents Assoc OPEN MEETING at the Chapel	2—5pm
Saturday 14 June to 13 July	Somerton Social Club WORLD CUP FOOTBALL	
Wednesday 18 June	Heyfords WI Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
Saturday 21 June	Souldern Market at Village Hall	9—12 noon
Sunday 22 June	Upper Heyford Summer Festival	2—4.30pm
Friday 4 July	Somerton Social Club Film Night	
Friday 4 July	Bingo Upper Heyford Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 8 July	SWIG picnic at The Croft, Somerton	7pm
Wednesday 9 July	Warreners meal out at Harvester at Kidlington	12.30pm at The Harvester
Sunday 13 July	Cream Teas at the Reading Room Upper Heyford	2—4pm
Wednesday 16 July	Heyfords WI Upper Heyford Reading Room	7.30pm
Saturday 26 July	Somerton Social Club BBQ	
Sunday 27 July	Cream Teas at the Reading Room Upper Heyford	2-4pm
Monday 28 July to Friday 1 August	Holiday Club Heyford Park Chapel	10—12 noon