

Valley News

April 2011

No 194 News & Views from the Cherwell Valley



**Grand opening of Upper Heyford's refurbished
Reading Room and new children's play area**

7th May 2011

Official opening by our MP Mr Tony Baldry at 4pm

Thanks To:
Oxfordshire Rural Access Support Programme
The Trust for Oxfordshire Environment
Oxfordshire Community fund
Oxfordshire CC Community Support Fund
Upper Heyford Parish Council
Cherwell District Council
Smiths Ltd of Bletchington
AND
The People of Upper Heyford Parish

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Sadly we report the passing of Derek Bunce & Catherine Cowdy

Valley News is delivered FREE to every household in:

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

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

	Ardley St Mary	Fritwell St Olave	Lower Heyford & Caulcott St Mary	Somerton St James	Souldern St Mary	Upper Heyford St Mary	The Chapel
27-Mar	9:30 Family Worship	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Communion	9:30 Sung Holy Communion	10:30 Souldern Chapel Coffee & Christ	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship
3-Apr	10:30 Mothering Sunday Service Fritwell Chapel		11:00 Family Worship	9:30 Family Worship	08:30 1662 HC (10:30 Souldern Chapel)	9:30 CW Communion with Hymns	11:00 Contemporary Worship
10-Apr	9:30 Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Bears & Prayers	11:00 Sung Holy Communion	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contemporary Worship
17-Apr	9:30 Palm Sunday - Family Communion and the Blessing of Palms ~ Fritwell .						
18-Apr	7:00PM Night Prayer & Reflection - Ardley						
19-Apr	10:00am Holy Communion - Lower Heyford			7:00PM Night Prayer & Reflection - Somerton			
20-Apr	10:00am Holy Communion - Souldern			7:00PM Night Prayer & Reflection - Fritwell			
21-Apr	8:00 pm - Maundy Thursday (Jesus - Servant King) - Heyford Park Chapel						
22-Apr	10:00 - 12:00 Easter Workshop & Family Service Heyford Park Chapel				4:00 PM Good Friday Meditation		
24-Apr	6:00 am Sunrise Service & Easter Communion	11:00 Easter Communion	11:00 Easter Communion	9:30 Easter Communion	9:30 Easter Communion	9:30 Easter Communion	11:00 Contemporary Worship
1-May	9:30 CW Communion - Ardley						11:00 Contemporary Worship
8-May	9:30 Sung Holy Communion	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Family Worship	9:30 Bears & Prayers Family Worship	11:00 Sung Holy Communion	9:30 Matins	11:00 Contemporary Worship
15-May	9:30 Sung Holy Communion	11:00 Family Communion	08:30 1662 HC	09:30 Matins & HC	08:30 1662 HC	9:30 Family Worship	11:00 Contemporary Worship
22-May	9:30 Family Worship	18:00 Evensong	11:00 Sung Holy Communion	9:30 Sung Holy Communion	10:30 Souldern Chapel Coffee & Christ	08:30 1662 HC	11:00 Contemporary Worship
29-May	Rogation Walk - Watch for Details						11:00 Contemporary Worship

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

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

Getting Married?

We offer a special place for a special day. All you need to help you plan a personal, meaningful, spiritual and beautiful church wedding can be found on the new Church of England website www.yourchurchwedding.org, or try the new [ceremony planner](#)

If you are planning a wedding please contact a member of the [Ministry Team](#)



EXHIBITION

ST MARY'S CHURCH
SOULDERN

MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

(Sat April 30 - Mon May 2 10:00am - 4:00pm)

The Cherwell Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford

Rev Paul Hunt, 346739 paul@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk;
Rev Edward Green, 340562 edward@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk;
Rev Ian Biscoe, 232439 ian@cherwellvalleybenefice.org.uk
Mr John Hine (LLM) 350272;
Scott Goosen (YW) 233087 flockofgeese4@yahoo.com
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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Dear Friends,

As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, "The Lord has really risen!"



The story of the Road to Emmaus starts with two very ordinary followers of Jesus. They are not members of the Rabbi's inner circle of eleven, or among the many others who are named in the Gospels like Mary, Martha or Lazarus. They had left Jerusalem for Emmaus with rumours of resurrection but no real certainty.

Perhaps we can identify with this? The events of that first Easter may seem so long ago, so alien, so unbelievable. Even the disciples of that time struggled.

On the road they travel they meet with a stranger, but they did not recognize him as Christ. They spoke to him of the miracles they had seen and the teaching as they heard but they still were in confusion. When Jesus explained God's plan from the scriptures they still did not recognise him – even though their hearts burned within them.

Something was missing. It is perhaps the cry of the modern mind, perhaps our forbears were too busy to reflect on what was missing from life - or perhaps it is something we have forgotten?

When Jesus sat with those followers for dinner, as he had done at the last supper and broke the bread their eyes were opened and they recognised him.

As those first Christians did then so do we do today. As we gather together around bread and wine we partake in the same journey. We examine ourselves before God, listen to the Scriptures, recall the story of salvation and give thanks, before recognising the resurrected Christ in the breaking of bread. In that mystery we become one with Christ through the simple acts of eating and drinking.

This communion with God has sustained Christians through two thousand years of history. Despite the growing years between today and that first Easter we are all joined together by that deeply profound act. The resurrected Christ is as present with us now as he was with those first disciples with whom he walked, talked and shared the bread.

Easter is the greatest festival in the Christian year: A time of celebration and joy, of breaking the Lenten fast, embracing the coming spring, sharing treats and Chocolates. But at heart it is the resurrection of Christ, new life springing from death and sin defeated that we celebrate at Easter.

We are all warmly invited to recognise Jesus in the breaking of the bread on Easter Day.

God Bless,
Eddie

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Derek Bunce, Upper Heyford; and Catherine Cowdy, Caulcott

Derek's funeral is at St Mary's, Upper Heyford on Thursday 7th April at 1pm-Family Flowers only, donations to St Mary's Church. We send our condolences to Pat and family

Catherine's funeral took place on 31st March; we send our condolences to Michael and family

Tributes to Derek and Catherine will be in the June edition of Valley News

What's on in the Cherwell Valley

LOWER HEYFORD BOWLS CLUB

The Club is eagerly looking forward to the forthcoming season which is now almost upon us. Bowls is a most delightful and sociable sport, which unlike many others, can be played by those of all ages.



Spectators are very welcome to attend our home matches and our opening fixtures are as follows:

- Wed 4th May v Headington starting at 6.30pm
Sun 15th May v Banbury Ladies starting at 3.00pm
Wed 18th May v OBA President's Team starting at 6.15pm
Sat 21st May v Charlbury starting at 3.00pm
Wed 25th May v Banbury Borough starting at 6.15pm
Wed 1st June v Filkins starting at 6.30pm
Tue 7th June v Burma Star starting at 6.30pm

Club night is every Thursday commencing 28th April from around 6.00pm - why not drop in and perhaps have a go? You only need flat-soled shoes, we can provide the bowls and a helping hand! Otherwise, you could contact Roger Bowen (01869:340406 or rogerbowen@btinternet.com) if you have any questions or would prefer to make a more formal arrangement.



LOWER HEYFORD & CAULCOTT MAY DAY CELEBRATION SATURDAY 7th MAY 2011

MORRIS DANCERS **BOOK STALL**
RAFFLE **DOG SHOW**
KIDS RACES **WET SPONGE STOCKS**
SCALEXTRIC **BOTTLE STALL**
FIRE ENGINE **BEAT THE GOALIE**
BOUNCY CASTLE **ROUNDAABOUT**

AFTERNOON TEAS
BBQ - BAR

And lots of other activities, stalls and entertainment

LOWER HEYFORD SPORTS FIELD

PARADE 1pm - FETE 2- 5pm

FREE ENTRY TO FETE
A REALLY FUN FAMILY
AFTERNOON

OPEN GARDEN

TULIP TIME (WE HOPE) AT

THE WILLOWS, ALLENS LANE, UPPER HEYFORD



SUNDAY 17th APRIL, 2:30 - 4:30 pm

TEA, CAKE AND LIVE MUSIC FROM
THE ELASTIC BAND!

ADMISSION £3-00 (children free)

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE
VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT FUND

If raining, postponed until Sunday 24th, Easter Day.

KATHARINE HOUSE

MIDNIGHT WALK- NEW
VENUE! NEW ROUTE!

Our 5th Midnight Walk on

Saturday 9th July

will be held from Bodicote Cricket Club. Entry is £15 and includes a sponsor form, training guidance, t-shirt, medal, hot drink and bacon roll. The Walk will follow a new well lit and well marshalled 10.5 mile route. Forms available from the beginning of April. Please call Fundraising on (01295) 812161 (01295) 812161 or download a form at www.khh.org.uk

What's going on at Cherwell District Council?

Pickled I get a very odd feeling when I open the newspapers these days and see the constant attacks on local councils by the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles. Councils are accused of over-paying their top staff, cutting services to the public and keeping bureaucracy and buying too expensively. When I look at Cherwell, I see costs reduced by one third in five years, an active procurement team driving down purchase costs and the cost of its top team halved by sharing with South Northants. As to services, this year I am cutting costs by £2.7 million, but only £0.3 million of that has any impact on service delivery at all. Meanwhile residents' satisfaction goes up year on year and our service levels have moved up from merely Good to Excellent. OK, we are not perfect and never will be, but it would be nice if Pickles occasionally recognised councils that have plugged away doing sensible things. If councillors only ever get rubbished in public, how can we expect to get good people to stand for office?

Chief Executive We and South Northants have a new Chief Executive, Sue Smith, whose calibre is vital to make joint working successful by driving down costs without loss of quality. Her CV is on the internet and looks frighteningly high powered! Attracting someone so good should bring big benefits, but will no doubt lead to fears that we've overpaid...

Planning notices One economy we are making is in Planning, where we are cutting back on publicising new applications to do only what the law requires. This means that they will continue to be advertised, but only in the Bicester Advertiser and Banbury Guardian, and neighbour notification will be done by posting the notices on-street and no longer by writing to neighbours (which costs an awful lot of staff time). Consulting Parish Councils will be unaffected (and they are excellent at spreading the word) and all the details will still be available both on the Cherwell website and in Bodicote House. There is some concern around the neighbour letters so I think it is only fair to warn everyone to look carefully when you see a notice on a lamp post or telegraph pole near you so you are not taken by surprise.

Wind turbines Cherwell now has an approved policy on wind farms, albeit "informal (non statutory) planning guidance", but still a "material consideration" for the Planning Committee. It received a surprisingly positive response on consultation, with CPRE saying it should be tougher but without a furious response from the industry, so I hope we pitched it just right – some protection for homes without being so unreasonable as to be struck down on appeal.

Bus passes This is going to be quite confusing: responsibility for issuing bus passes shifts to the County Council from April but, to avoid disruption to the service, Cherwell will act as OCC's agent for the first year and continue to issue passes. However, OCC have made some changes. On the plus side, the passes will now start from 9.00 instead of 9.30, which I know will be valuable to some, but the down side is that tokens will no longer be issued to those who want them – about 4,000 people. Cherwell is gearing up to issue a rush of new passes.

Meanwhile, we continue to budget for Dial-a-Ride for the coming year although the cost per user is huge and other Districts pay far, far less, so further funding is uncertain.

Lies, damned lies and Demographics Having been freed of government-dictated housing numbers for future planning policy, we now have to decide our own. Independent demographers have reported their population forecasts, with growth of about 10% in the population by 2026. But, due to the changing age profile (a quarter more 80+ year olds, for instance) they suggested a 25% growth in housing numbers at 1.2 persons per home. After sending it back for another look last month, we finally approved the total of 12,751 extra homes they recommended, but with the important caveat that this was coupled with a population increase estimated at only 15,200. This makes a crucial difference, as it not only protects our countryside from unjustified sprawl of the wrong sort of housing but also skews what will be built to suit those who will actually need it, our increasing populations of older and younger households, where they need it, with access to amenities and jobs. I hope it will also remove the pressure on villages to accept unacceptably large numbers of new houses.

Snow trouble Scarcely have the first signs of Spring begun to show, than we've given a thorough going over to our performance in the snow, so as to do better next time. There is no dramatic stuff (most of that's down to the County Council, who are responsible for ploughing and gritting the roads) but working on improving access to prevent lost collections, revised shift patterns for collection catch up and priorities for car park and town centre clearance, in partnership with OCC, should make more efficient use of our resources and faster backlog clearance. I worry, though, that acting as if winter was over for this year is tempting fate...

What a waste I understand that the County Council have launched a consultation on their proposal to close household waste facilities, including the one at Ardley tip, which has caused a lot of concern locally. To influence the final decision, the more people and bodies that write in response, the better – details will be on their website.

H2S The proposed High Speed rail link just cuts into Cherwell for four miles, but in that distance will impact four villages directly. However, our area may be hit indirectly if it hurts Chiltern Railways by taking away passengers from the Midlands. So we have joined with many other councils along the route to oppose it, albeit making a far smaller contribution than those more seriously affected. Cherwell has a track record of supporting local communities – asylum centre, incinerator, wind farm – albeit not always successfully, which I have to remind myself when the money is being spent at the far end of the District and not on us!

In the money Eco Bicester celebrates another success with the award of some £6.5million in housing grants – dwarfing the sums given to other Oxfordshire districts, showing that the government is backing this to the hilt. As we would have had to build the same number of houses anyway, to be able to do it in a sustainable, eco-friendly manner and get pots of extra cash to improve Bicester's infrastructure and now for more affordable housing is a real win.

Election pressures Please bear with the operators if you get put "on hold" for too long over the next month or so. What with council tax bills, the census, the referendum and elections, Cherwell is sending out some 250,000 letters (most of them required by law, so we can't take short cuts) and therefore receiving a proportionate amount of queries back. We are preparing where possible, for instance by staggering the delivery and adjusting staffing, but you can imagine the huge volume of calls.

On top of that is organising up to three tiers of polling – the AV referendum everywhere, one third of District Councils seats and Parish Councils as well in some areas. In this ward, Luke Annaly is standing down at the end of his term, having sadly moved away from Fritwell, and Mike Kerford-Byrnes will be trying to take his place – at least he has the advantage of a memorable name you can't miss!

James Macnamara

HATHA YOGA



Would you be interested in joining an evening Yoga class in Upper Heyford? If so, please ring Jenny on 01993- 813592 or Jo 07734562028.

If there are any other classes that you would like to try please contact us.

14th May Workshops details on www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk

Extended Services - Community Learning



NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE CHERWELL VALLEY

Eric Raymond Glennie
8.7.1924 - 18.1.2011
Resident of Lower Heyford



As many of you know, sadly Eric passed away on the 18th January, after a period of declining health. I am Eric's niece from Australia, and I was able to come over to England for the funeral with my daughter Natalie. It was very heartening for us to see so many good friends of Eric's on the day.

My grandparents came to Lower Heyford in the 1930s, to the house that Eric had still lived in up until his hospitalisation. The family loved the house and the village, and the memories they held for them. But Eric didn't always live there in his younger years. He lived a very full and happy life, travelling all over the world, and working in many overseas locations. In fact he was able to travel extensively even into his later years. The house was filled with mementoes of his travels, and also his deep love of music, particularly opera.

He loved Australia too, having visited many times to see his sister Dorothy, my mother. Sadly Dorothy passed away two years ago.

On behalf of the family, we want to say thank you to all of Eric's very dear friends who have been so good to him over the years, and especially those who helped during his illness. Also, a big thank you to all of you who were so kind and supportive to Natalie and I.

The death of Eric Glennie at the age of 86 has robbed not only Lower Heyford but a much wider community of a man of singular character and many passions. His interests were legion: an accomplished dancer, war-time "disc jockey" in the Sweat Box which was our village hall during the second war, service as a civilian electrical engineer alongside the British army in overseas crisis situations and, later after retirement, an unquenchable appetite for world travel.

Yet Eric always remained devoted to his rustic roots, the 16th century thatched cottage in the village market square where he had lived since the early 1930s. He was fiercely determined that this was where he would end his days, among his many treasures – not least some 1500 gramophone records and several paintings of Lower Heyford by Mrs Busby, the teacher who with Miss Dew, in the village school a few paces from his front door, had instilled in him such a love of life.

Eric Raymond Glennie was a native of Rugby, brought to our valley at the age of four by his parents. His father Alexander was looking for work during the economic depression of the late 20s and found a job at the air base.

With Eric's younger sister, Dorothy, the family first lived at The Willows in Upper Heyford but in about 1934 moved down the hill to Lower Heyford. Glebe Cottage then belonged to the church and they may have been given the tenancy because his father was organist at three local churches – Upper and Lower Heyford and Rousham.

He left school at 14 and worked in stores in Oxford but after being deemed unfit for medical service took up employment helping the war effort at local bases. Eric's love of music and dance soon brought him friends among the American service personnel stationed at Upper Heyford and he ran weekly 'hops' down the hill at the village hall, where he supplied the sound system, chose the music and fronted the microphone as announcer.

Eric recalled taxis overflowing with servicemen rolling down to the village hall on music nights and the colossal level of heat which was generated inside by hundreds of bodies in close contact!

He worked in both Cyprus and Aden for the British military at moments of political upheaval and on each occasion had to be brought home precipitously with our troops when matters became too dangerous. It was in Aden while working alongside powerful machinery that his hearing was damaged, a source of some concern to a man so bound up in music.

Eric's grace was much admired – and much in demand from lady partners – in whatever form of dancing he turned to: line, square, country or barn. In later years he was a member of the Friendly Folk group which visited residential homes throughout the valley to entertain the inhabitants, and loved to play the role of a benign Santa at Christmas 'mummers' performances.

He was above all a traditionalist and when St Mary's embraced a female member of the clergy, Eric showed his displeasure by removing his attendance to Rousham, despite by then being in some physical discomfort. It was there at his request his burial service was held.

How typical it was of the man that he asked for it to be a Celebration of his Life and that the front of the Order of Service – which he had himself assiduously compiled – should show him surrounded by kangeroos on a visit to his beloved Australia.

Peter Deeley

AN APPEAL TO ALL DOG OWNERS

Hi, My name is Nuala, I am a member of the Heyford Park Residents Association. I have obtained a box of disposable doggy bags from the CDC dog warden. Could you please let people know through the Valley News that they will be available every Tuesday afternoon at the Heyford Park Community Centre, one pack per household. We are fed up to the teeth of lazy people letting their dogs foul our environment and leaving it be trodden in or even worse small children getting this foul faeces on their hands.

I am not against dogs as I own one myself but it does annoy me to see it left on pavements etc

Swifts are Disappearing



Perhaps you can help!

According to the British Trust for Ornithology, the Swift population in the UK declined by up to 40% in the 15 years up to 2007.

One cause of this decline is the loss of nest sites. Swifts will nest in the same space in the same building for many years. So when buildings are renovated, repaired or demolished, nest sites can be lost. If they can't find an alternative nesting place quickly, Swifts may fail to breed and eventually can disappear from a village altogether. There are many places where this has already happened.

Fortunately there are still good numbers of Swifts in the Heyfords and Somerton, and I'm sure many residents will enjoy their wonderful aerial displays this summer.

But do you know where Swifts actually nest?

All I want to do is to ensure that the nest sites we still have are cared for. Even if work has to be done on a building used by Swifts it is relatively easy to make sure that the nest site itself is not lost.

I am a volunteer and with a lot of help have already collected information from most of the villages in the Cherwell District – but very little from the Heyfords or Somerton.

Can you help please? It would be great to have the support of one or two people in the villages who might 'look out for' the Heyfords and Somerton Swifts so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy them too. We could even organise an evening's Swift walk if anyone is interested and cares to contact me.

Chris Mason, 01869 350518
mason@cando.eclipse.co.uk

The Heyfords WI

The Heyfords WI held the Annual Meeting on Wednesday 16 March at Upper Heyford Village Hall, at which a new committee was elected and the President was re-elected. The Institute has enjoyed a high standard of speakers this year, and the coming years programme looks equally interesting. The programme will be publicised on the village notice-boards in Upper and Lower Heyford and Caulcott, so please take a moment to read it and consider if you would like to join us either as a member or as a visitor to one or two of the talks, whichever you choose, you can be certain of a warm welcome and a pleasant social evening among friends. The speaker on April 13 at 7.30 pm at Upper Heyford will be Richard Middleton and his subject is Women in the Colonial Period of American History.

The meeting in May will be held at the Upper Heyford Reading Room, an event to which we are all looking forward, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers who have made such a wonderful job of the refurbishment of the Reading Room, it is just the perfect size and venue for the Womens Institute meetings. P.S. So far as I know Richard Middleton is no relation to you know who. But I could be wrong!

Janet Lawrance

Thames Valley Police

Here is the latest Bicester Rural Neighbourhood update from WPC Caroline Brown.

Crimes

There were several burglaries on the area, two canal boats were broken into at Lower Heyford, Upper Heyford village hall was broken into and a secure box stolen. Also in Upper Heyford a Red Rover car was stolen from outside an address. There were no reported crimes in Somerton or Caulcott.

Neighbourhood Action Group

There was no meeting in January, however there was a meeting in February when it was agreed to keep monitoring the previously identified speed sites. It was also agreed the NAG would identify specific issues within the rural area to address. It was agreed that for the next two months we would target oil and fuel thefts. There has been an increase in theft of heating oil from dwellings in particular. We are asking all residents to be extra vigilant and if you see any suspicious vehicles or tankers in the villages to report them to the police on 0845 8505505 and in particular the index numbers of the vehicles. It is not known how these thefts are taking place whether a tanker is being used or vans with large containers in are used to transport the oil.

In relation to Neighbourhood priorities the following speed checks have been carried out.

Camp Road Upper Heyford

24/1/11 between 11am and 1130am when 40 vehicles drove through the check, 3 were speeding with 2 from Heyford Business Park.

24/1/11 between 330pm and 4pm when 71 vehicles drove through the check, 10 were speeding and one was from the village.

26/1/11 between 815am and 940am when 68 vehicles drove through the check and 19 were speeding, with 3 each from Somerton and Fritwell.

26/1/11 between 920am and 940am when 11 vehicles drove through the check and 7 were speeding, with 2 from Somerton, and 1 each from Upper Heyford and Fritwell.

27/1/11 between 310pm and 340pm, 67 vehicles drove through the check and 5 were speeding, 1 from the village.

Station Road Lower Heyford

19/1/11 between 320pm and 350pm when 35 vehicles drove through the check and 5 were speeding

25/1/11 between 205pm and 235pm, 59 vehicles drove through the check and 7 were speeding with 1 each from Somerton and Steeple Aston.

Arrests

A prolific offender from the Northants area has been arrested and is currently under investigation for the burglaries on the canal boats and numerous other offences.

Crime mapping

As you may be aware from the news recently on 1st February 2011 Thames Valley Police joined other Police forces in England and Wales to publish street level crime information including, burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, violence and anti social behaviour. You can access this information through www.police.uk

Once on the site you either, enter a postcode or the name of a village or town and then select crime maps from the top of the page. You can also access contact details for the team and local police meetings along with other information. The data on the site is updated monthly and the information provided will always be a minimum of 23 days old to protect people's privacy.

The Poetry Corner

The Upper Heyford Poetry Group has had some wonderful meetings this term: we've shared love poetry, with all its rich resonances; been introduced to the remarkable poetry of Michaelangelo (no, most of us didn't know that he wrote poetry, either); and swooned over Rupert Brooke (at least his photo, if not his innocent glorification of war).

When we met at Bunny End (we actually squeezed a dozen eager readers into our sitting room, which for those who know the cottage, will find as amazing as the fact that there is such a thriving poetry reading group in the village), we looked at some of the poetry of D.H.Lawrence (1885 – 1930). I had originally chosen Lawrence for nostalgic reasons, stretching back to university days in Toronto, but ended up reading on, enthralled by his sheer energy and variety.



Lawrence is perhaps better known as a novelist, and certainly not all of his poetry is wonderful but when he is on form, his poems are fresh and fearless and written from the heart. We were, in turns, amused, horrified and moved by his often autobiographical poems, three of which I've included here.

Discord in Childhood

Outside the house an ash-tree hung its terrible whips,
And at night when the wind arose, the lash of the tree
Shrieked and slashed the wind, as a ship's
Weird rigging in a storm shrieks hideously.

Within the house two voices in anger, a slender lash
Whistling delirious rage, and the dreadful sound
Of a thick lash booming and bruising, until it drowned
The other voice in a silence of blood, 'neath the noise of the ash.

A Baby Running Barefoot

When the bare feet of the baby beat across the grass
The little white feet nod like white flowers in the wind,
They poise and run like ripples lapping across the water;
And the sight of their white play among the grass
Is like a little robin's song, winsome,
Or as two white butterflies settle in the cup of one flower
For a moment, then away with a flutter of wings.
Like a wind-shadow wandering over the water,
So that she can stand on my knee
With her little bare feet in my hands,
Cool like syringa buds,
Firm and silken like pink young paeony flowers.

Lizard

A lizard ran out on a rock and looked up, listening
no doubt to the sounding of the spheres.
And what a dandy fellow! the right toss of a chin for you
and swirl of a tail!

If men were as much men as lizards are lizards
they'd be worth looking at.

The poetry reading group meets fortnightly in Upper Heyford, and everyone is welcome to join us. For up-to-date information on dates and venues, please contact Heather and Roger Burt, 232770.

'Hay over the Ford'

Is the title of a book written by Albert (Bert) Edmunds on life in Upper Heyford in the 1920s & 30s

Bert was born in the village in 1919 and lived in the family home, South View, until he was called up in 1939. Those first 20 years of his life are vividly recalled in this book; his family, the hardships and friendships, school, church, and especially the chapel, which played such a large part in his early life, and the characters that had such an influence on his upbringing.

Anyone interested in the history of the village or social history generally, will find this book fascinating.

Copies available from the Historical Society £8

Please contact Mary Goodman 232722
Ian Lough-Scott 232788



Your local air ambulance for Oxfordshire, Berkshire & Buckinghamshire is a charity that relies on the support of the public. It is not often that its vital work is seen at first hand; however, on 17 March the helicopter landed on the tow path by Allens Lock to pick up a walker who had been taken ill and required urgent medical care.

This is not the first time that we have had reason to be thankful for the air ambulance, just a few years' ago a local farmer was airlifted to hospital from a remote field following an accident.

Please consider making a donation in support of this essential life saving service

**Look it up on Google
or email info@tvacaa.org
or telephone: 0300 999 0135**

Rose Williams

Rosie was born in Birmingham in 1931. Her parents had separated when she was 14 and she lived with her father.

Rosie went to work in the Bird's custard factory as soon as she was able but the dusty atmosphere did not agree with her so she moved to the Typhoo tea factory unpacking tea chests which had been delivered by canal.

After work Rosie would use an old pram to collect coal in from the coal yard and purchase a few bones from the butchers in the hope they may contain a little meat.

Rosie was then expected to do all the housework and do the weekly wash in the wash house, a place that was shared between six other houses.

At the age of sixteen they left Birmingham and her father brought her to his birthplace, Lower Heyford. This is when Rosie went to work for the MOD at Arcott and where she soon caught the eye of a certain Brian Williams.

One of Brian and Rosie's favourite courting venues was the picture house at Middle Barton. The only problem was Rosie's father would always come along to act as a chaperone. But I am reliably informed they did manage to hold hands when he wasn't looking.

It wasn't until after he died in 1963 that they were finally able to get married.

There soon followed four children, first Darren then Garry, sadly Sharon did not survive infancy but Karen completed the family.

Not content with just bringing up her children, Rosie also acted as a home help for the some of the elderly in the village.

Rosie got on with all generations and enjoyed having a laugh and playing darts with Karen's friends. Rosie had a wicked sense of humour and always had a mischievous twinkle in her eye. She enjoyed watching Garry play football for the village, and supporting her favourite football team, Manchester United.

She loved her Bingo and never missed a good jumble or car boot sale and heaven forbid if you called when Coronation Street was on.

Her greatest passion was her garden and her summer flowers. She would spend hours weeding, watering and tending her flowers and it was always a pleasure to receive a bunch of sweet peas from her, it meant that summer was really here.

Rosie never had a holiday, but once a year we were able to take her and Brian for a day's trip on our narrowboat, not the same as a holiday I know, but she always said she felt like a queen for the day. That was enough for us.

Rosie was much loved in the village, and always ready for a chat, she loved making people laugh.

She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who in return was adored by her husband, children and six grandchildren, Luke, Jamie, Tom, Abbey, Olivia and Lewis. Rosie will be sadly missed by all those who knew her.

Richard Greening

SOMERTON NEWS



NEWS FROM SWIG

February was the Members meeting when the committee took a well earned rest and the members took over. We were treated to a short talk by three Somerton residents who spoke about their work.

First was Gill Rowe, a senior administrator for Oxford University. Gill and her team are responsible for negotiating and agreeing the contractual terms associated with the funding and undertaking of the University's clinical medical research. Huge sums of money involved so it is important to get things right. This is a big responsibility which Gill faces every day.

Next we heard from Dorothy Faint a musician and former music teacher who had brought along her beautiful double bass. Several people were persuaded to come and have a go as she explained the intricacies of playing such a large instrument. Perhaps one day when there is more time she will come along and play for us herself.

Finally Mary Hall-Craggs told of her time as a pathologist in the U.S.A. We were fascinated by her descriptions of procedures and although no-one fainted she had probably toned down some of the more gory details. Forget Silent Witness this was the real thing.

I think we were all amazed by the talent that we have in the village and look forward to more such talks. As usual the refreshments were excellent. The committee would like to express their thanks for a very interesting evening.

In **March** we decided to show a film using the brilliant new facilities in the Village Hall. The film we chose was Very Annie Mary, a little known gem that was alternately funny and sad and it was enjoyed by those who came.

All our meetings are open to non members but on these two occasions we also invited the menfolk to come along and it was very good to see them.

Our next meeting on **April 12th** will be our AGM when we elect a new committee and we are hoping for some new faces to represent us. When the election is concluded Tracy Clark will talk to us about hairdressing. With the help of a willing volunteer she will explain the intricacies of cutting and styling and give us, hopefully, some tips on how to improve our hair.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. and a warm welcome awaits you.

How to get in touch with Tony Baldry

I am always keen to help any individual constituent who has a problem and to meet and listen to the views of any group. I hold regular constituency "surgeries" in both Banbury and Bicester, and anyone wanting to see me simply has to telephone my office in Alexandra House, Banbury – 01295-673-873 – and they will arrange an appointment.

Otherwise, it is very straight forward getting in touch with me, either by writing to me here at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, or by emailing me at tony.baldry.mp@parliament.uk.



LOWER HEYFORD NEWS

Marion Ann Fray



Marion died on 16th February 2011 at the age of 66 years. She had bravely battled against cancer for nearly two years and always believed she would beat the disease. It, sadly, was not to be. The memorial service to celebrate her life was held at St Mary's, Lower Heyford on February 28th.

On behalf of all the family, I would like to thank everyone who attended. The church was full and I know Marion would have been staggered by the large number of friends who were there. Thank you all.

Marion and I bought the barn in Church Lane in 1978 and, after the conversion was started, moved from Banbury in 1979. We carried on with the conversion whilst using our landing as a living room. Marion worked tirelessly alongside me and became an expert in preparing the perfect plaster mix. She displayed the agility of a gymnast as she scampered up and down the scaffolding. This energy and enthusiasm was always evident in everything she did, and was always coupled with a ready sense of humour. Our two sons, Curtis and Russell, both attended the local primary school in Lower Heyford and Marion met and chatted with most of the moms

in the village when dropping off or collecting the boys from school. Whilst helping me with the conversion, looking after the two boys (and me!) she worked at the Hopcroft Hotel as Housekeeper. She then moved to The Bear Hotel in Woodstock and eventually decided that she deserved a rest from the continual pressure and responsibility that came with the post of housekeeper at a busy hotel.

It was a great tribute to Marion that ex colleagues from the two Hotels attended her Memorial Service.

The last years of her working life were spent as a cleaner at Middle Aston House. She loved her workmates and it was very clear from the turnout, and the tributes paid at the service, that this love and affection was very much a two way process. What shone through was her tremendous sense of humour coupled with boundless energy and singular determination. She was a very formidable lady, as many a senior manager found out. And, as her husband, I can bear witness to all her wonderful attributes.

When asked what her hobbies were, Marion would reply that she was a "homemaker". That is exactly what she was – and there could never be any better. She loved to be at home and felt no need to travel very far. She loved the village. Our eldest son, Curtis, married in October last year and it was Marion's dearest wish that she could be present when Curtis married Carolyn. She was and, despite being in pain and unable to walk unaided, thoroughly enjoyed the day. She had fought the disease with sufficient determination to be able to fulfil that wish – a determination she had always displayed throughout our 48 years together.

During her last days Marion wrote a note. Part of it was addressed to Eddie Green and asked for a joyous service. She also asked that any donations should be for St Mary's. I believe that we could not have held a more joyous memorial service and, thanks to all the generous donations, raised over £1,762 for the church. Marion will be pleased to know that we are one step nearer getting a toilet at the church thus alleviating the need for nervous brides to knock at our door – although we never minded.

Laurie Fray, Varoy Lodge, Church Lane, Lower Heyford

**LOWER HEYFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING**

WILL BE HELD ON

THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 2011

AT 7PM

IN THE CHURCH

DOORS OPEN 6.30

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

ALL WELCOME

Minutes of the meeting of the Lower Heyford Parish Council held on

Thursday 24th March 2011 at 7 pm in the Church

Present: Mrs Hepworth (Chair), Mrs. Ball, Mr Mortimore, Miss Wagstaff. Two members of the public, Mr Humberstone and Mrs Clough **In attendance:** Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Mr Dare, Mr Osborne-MacKay and Mr. MacNamara

Declarations of Interest : Mrs Ball declared an interest in the Timber Yard

Minutes of the last meeting held on 20th January 2011 were read and it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

Public Participation : Mr Humberstone expressed an interest in the Planning Application at 13 Church lane

03/11/01 Highways/Footpaths - The Clerk reported that all highways issues had been reported to OCC with the following reference numbers: South Street 389041, Freehold Street 389045, 404891, 404894, Station Road 389047, 404901, Mill Lane 408093, Church Lane 404896. Some of the issues have been addressed but many are still outstanding and Mrs. Hepworth read out a prepared draft letter to be sent to Mr Rodney Rose which was approved and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should send it immediately. **ACTION : CLERK**

03/11/02 Meetings - No meetings had been attended

03/11/03 Correspondence - Clerk had received a letter from Quality Solicitors regarding an alleged accident in 2009 when a child was injured by a slate falling from the bus shelter. Clerk had responded asking for more details.

03/11/04 Annual Meeting - The date for the Annual meeting was set as Thursday 28th April at 7pm. Doors open at 6.30 and refreshments will be provided. Clerk to place notice in Valley News and on Noticeboards. **ACTION : CLERK**

03/11/05 Election - Nomination papers are required by CDC by 4th April and it was agreed that all would try and encourage parishioners to stand for nomination to avoid the necessity to co-opt.

03/11/06 King George Field - Bowermans solicitors have declined to act on behalf of the PC . Clerk and Mr Dare had attended a meeting with Mr Cantelli of Cantelli & Co, Solicitors in Bicester and had instructed him to prepare a draft lease. All documentation has been handed to him and Clerk is awaiting a progress report.

03/11/07 Timber Yard - The drain has been cleared and work continues to be carried out.

03/11/08 Sale of War Bonds - The original Certificate has been traced as being held by Bowermans and returned to Clerk. However, Computershare had registered it as being lost and require an Indemnity in order to proceed with the sale. A fee of £24 is required which was approved by all present. Clerk to complete paperwork. **ACTION : CLERK**

03/11/09 Amalgamation of charities - Ongoing

03/11/10 Snow clearance clarification - The matter of the snow plough is in abeyance. Following Clerk's letter to the builders regarding the removal of grit, the builders have promised to refill the grit bins.

03/11/11 Clerk's Review - It was agreed to postpone this item until after the Election.

03/11/12 Parish Plan - No further progress. Clerk to ascertain from ORCC where the plan is to be sent and inform Mrs. Boxall **ACTION : CLERK**

03/11/13 Affordable Housing - Tom McCulloch of ORCC had emailed Mr MacNamara and it had been agreed that Mr MacNamara arrange a meeting with Corpus Christi and the Agents in an attempt to progress the matter. **ACTION : JJ**

03/11/14 Website - No further progress has been made with the strategy prepared by Miss Wagstaff. It was agreed that Miss Wagstaff and Clerk should meet with Graham Wilson to discuss the way forward, possibly after the Annual Meeting. **ACTION : CLERK**

03/11/15 Planning - The following Planning applications have been received :

11/00023/tca	Mr N Crawley	Felling of trees at Kingsclere Cottage, Station Road	04/02/2011 Approval received
11/00034TCA	Mr N Smith	Crown reduction of Yew tree 32 Freehold Street	28/02/2011
11/00042tca	Mrs Brooke-Little	Felling of chestnut tree at 13 Church Lane	28/11/2002
11/00137/F	Mrs Bushen	Variation of condition 7 of CHS742/89 Town House, Freehold Street	09/03/2011

03/11/16 Finance - It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Accounts for payment :

03/11/17 AOB - Graffiti in the bus shelter . Clerk to speak to Steward of Steeple Aston to see if he has any cleaning fluid and if he would be prepared to clean the graffiti from the bus shelter. **ACTION : CLERK**

Vote of thanks - Mr Humberstone proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Hepworth who will be standing down as Chairman after 36 years on the Parish Council. This was seconded by all.

Date of next meeting :
19th May 2011

UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

January and February, 2011 Floodlighting St. Mary's Church Tower

January 17 th	In loving memory of Mark D. Peterson: March 1953 – November 2010. 'My first American boss and good friend.' From Madge Beere.
January 18 th	In celebration of the 49 th birthday of Elaine Beere. 'With love from her father,' Bob Beere.
6 th February	In loving memory of the late Chris Halek who died in 2010. 'With love' from Janet Lince
10 th February	In celebration of the birthdays of Ann Woski and Jacqui Dynes by Mary and Jack Goodman.
14 th February	In memory of those who fell in the Burmese Campaign of WW11 by Joan Warner.
16 th February	In celebration of the birthdays of Aisling and Eleanor Dynes by Mary and Jack Goodman, their grandparents.
18 th February	In celebration of the birthday of the late Matthew James by Maureen and Peter James.

Flower Show: Upper Heyford, 2011

As promised there follows some information on this year's Flower Show to be held Saturday, 3rd September. It has been decided the Show will roughly follow last year's format with a few added attractions. (We hope they will prove to be attractions and not distractions!) Firstly, anyone living within a 5 mile radius of Upper Heyford may stage entries to be judged at the Show. Also there will be a Dog Show, a Car Boot sale, some trophies for winners, cash prizes of £1- first place; 50p - second place and 25p - third place. In addition there will a charge of 25p for each entry to be judged, and finally an entry fee of £1 for adults and 50p for children aged 2 - 16 years, on the gate, on the day of the Show.

Based on last year's experience we know we need a great deal of help in order for the show to run smoothly. The suggestion is that for each one of us we need to be backed up by about 5 more people. In the coming months we will be calling on you to ask for your assistance. It is our wish you will be encouraged and enthused by the list of sections and classes that follow to enter into some friendly competition come September. Good luck with your planning, growing and creating.

See back cover for classes

Reading Room Project Report, 17 Mar. 11

The renovation of the Reading Room is approaching completion. The floor will be sanded and sealed next week. Following that, the electrics will be completed and the kitchen installed. It is anticipated that all work will be completed by the end of April. A formal "Grand Opening" is planned in conjunction with a Spring BBQ on the 7th of May. The Right Honourable Tony Baldry, MP, has agreed to officially open the Reading Room. A Spring BBQ is planned on the Green in conjunction with the official opening of the Reading Room on the 7th of May. There will be several stalls and a raffle in addition to the best hamburgers in the valley. Proceeds will be donated to the Village Hall extension and renovation project. Donations for the cake stall, plant sale and raffle will be gratefully received by any member of the Reading Room Committee. A tombola will also be run, please pass donations for this to Ann Woski or Mary Goodman.

The Warreners

At the February meeting we were entertained by Cherwell District Council's free film show, 'Calendar Girls', which was enjoyed by most members, and this was followed by a tasty tea.

Our members always look forward to Fish & Chips at the Barley Mow, and there was a good turn out on 23 February when Sonia again provided a meal of the usual high standard which was enjoyed by everyone. Thank you, Sonia.

Our March meeting was an emotional occasion as Barbara handed over the reigns to the committee and everyone thanked Barbara for her wonderful service on behalf of the club and its members. Thank you again Barbara.

Trevor (accompanied by Carole and Win) serenaded us with a sing-along and friendly banter.

Our next meeting is on 13 April will be a purely social get together and with bingo.

At our meeting on 11 May Dr Massey will be giving a talk entitled 'spare parts' which will be an amusing and enlightening discourse on the many bits and pieces often installed in humans to keep them going (or sometimes just for vanity!). Dr Massey has given a talk to the WI and comes thoroughly recommended; as always visitors are most welcome, just £2 for tea.

To all my friends at Warreners,

Words cannot express my thanks for all the lovely gifts I was presented with on standing down as your leader. The bouquet has long gone, the chocolates all eaten, the beautiful orchid is in full bloom, the card signed by you all I will keep forever, and I am booked in at Debenhams to spend my £50 gift treat with my own personal shopper! Wow! I thought you would never stop giving.

I so enjoyed my time at club with you all and I honestly didn't expect this generosity. Once more thank you from the bottom of my heart, and we will come along to meetings when we are able. Barbara.

UPPER HEYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Village Hall

Thursday 12 May

7 for 7.30pm

Your chance to discuss all issues regarding the parish, not just the Parish Council

UPPER HEYFORD NEWS

Join our village celebrations on the 29th of April

To celebrate the royal wedding (or if you just want to celebrate the extra bank holiday ?!) we are having a village get together and party in the village hall/marquee on Friday the 29th of April. All are welcome to enjoy the day and or to help. The details are -

On Thursday the 28th we will be putting up the marquee next to the village hall. Anybody who can help please contact:

Chris Coe (chris.coe4@btinternet.com or 232598) or Ian Lough-Scott

(ianloughscott@btinternet.com or 232788)

or Jo Allen (Allenjoke@aol.com or 232291)

On Friday the 29th the details are -

- 10am - children and parents are invited to help to decorate the hall and marquee (we have applied for a grant that will cover the cost of the children making the decorations and also the cost of party activities later in the day; the children will receive a memento of the day). Contact Alison Graham if you can help with this (alison_a_graham@hotmail.com or 233696)

- 11am+ - courtesy of the technical wizardry of Craig Lord, the wedding will be shown on a screen in the village hall. Bring your own means of celebration and/or drinks and a picnic to have in the marquee or outside if you're not so interested in the wedding

- 3pm+ - party games for children and adults. Contact Alison if you would like to help with the children's games or Duncan if you would like to help with the adult games (duncster2011@hotmail.co.uk or 232931)

- 4pm+ - village tea

The only charge maybe for a face-painter and the only contribution requested for the event is for the village tea and for tombola/raffle tickets if you wish to buy them. The cost of the tea will be £2.50 for adults, £1 for children or £6 for a family (2 adults and 3 children). Information on how to buy the tickets is on the enclosed leaflet or please contact any of the organisers.

All the money from ticket sales, the tombola and raffle will be given to Save the Children. It will help to fund their "No child Born to Die" campaign and their life saving work in the U.K. and around the world.

If you can contribute by making sandwiches and cakes, or providing tombola and raffle prizes please contact any of the organisers.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on the 29th.

Macmillan Walk Sunday, 8th May, 2011



Mr Michael Loveland of the Dorchester Group has kindly agreed for us to hold this year's Macmillan sponsored walk on the old base on Sunday, 8th May. As there is a restriction on the number of people permitted to attend, and as some people have already booked a place please phone Ann Woski, 232976 or Mary Goodman, 232722 to secure your place.

Because the aim of this exercise is raise money as much money as we can for this very worthwhile charity, while we enjoy the day ;and although it is not a requirement to be sponsored for this walk we encourage you to ask friends and family to do this.

Sponsor sheets are available from us.

The walk can be viewed in two parts: meet at Heyford House (old base headquarters) by 2.p.m. where your name will be crossed off the list and your entry fee (£5, children free) will be collected along with any sponsor money. (Please return any unused sponsor sheets). There is disabled access in this building.

The first 40 people, when seated, will view a 15 minute video of a brief history of the base while the next 40 people will tour the museum. When the video ends the two crowds will change places. Then all will walk the short distance to the command post. It is best to allow 45 mins to an hour for this part of the day after which time you may want to leave the base and go the Village Hall for refreshments. Or you may walk for approximately an hour on the old flightline and exit through gate 7 (the gate at the top of hill on Camp Road) and make your way to the Village Hall.

There is parking available on the base; at the main gate you will be given directions to these spaces. For those who park there and walk the flightline, please remember you will have to walk back to the base to collect your vehicle; an additional 10 – 15 mins. Alternately you may wish to leave your car at the Village Hall and walk to the base and back, which will take about 15 – 20 mins each way.

Our hosts state that children are most welcome but must be supervised by an adult at all times and that no animals are allowed.

Throughout the tour narration and commentary will be given by Michael Loveland, our host from Dorchester Group, Ian Lough – Scott, of the Historical Society and a native of Upper Heyford and Jack Goodman, a retired USAF officer who was stationed at RAF Upper Heyford in the 1980s.

If you wish to contribute refreshments please contact Ann Woski at the above phone number.

Finally, if you can spare a small donation towards the cost of hiring the Village Hall it will be very much appreciated. We thank you for supporting this worthwhile charity and hope you enjoy your day.

Coarse Gardening.

I have been reading one of my Christmas presents, *Thoughtful Gardening* by Robin Lane Fox, the Oxford don who began writing a weekly gardening column in the *Financial Times* in 1970 and has continued to do so for forty years! And that's in his spare time - his real day job is Tutor in Ancient History at New College, where he is a Fellow, with a role as Garden Master of the college on the side. (Christopher Lloyd was another of these indefatigable garden writers - a weekly column in *Country Life* for four decades). I thought his writing might show me how it's done. The book is brilliant, clear, stylish, anecdotal, chatty and erudite (doesn't it make you spit) and the gardens at New College are internationally renowned. As far as I can see, the difference between the Thoughtful and the Coarse gardener is that the former considers, ruminates and weighs things up, in



an informed manner, before acting, and the latter just does it and regrets it afterwards: as will become clear to all, later this year, when my chaotically planted bulbs come up, the ones the mice haven't eaten. It is a very thought-provoking book, especially the chapter where he gives recipes for cooking grey squirrels. I must tell you, however, that I had only got to page 4 when Lane Fox shocked me. Truly. He recounts how, in more than thirty five years of teaching Oxford students of Ancient History, he has never encountered one who knew 'what a primrose is like.' He points out that they may have read about them in poetry or other literature, but 'not one of them has ever known a primrose'. They should have come to see St Mary's churchyard in March. He came close with one boy, who said of course he knew it '... a pretty flower that appeared in spring', but he then went on to say it was 'sort of rounded and purple, like a cup', which he outlined with his big hands. Lane Fox moaned about this at dinner to Oxford's Professor of Logic, who eventually confessed that he didn't know what a primrose looked like, either. Oh, dear. And these are Britain's intellectual finest. The students I taught, back in the day, were not necessarily all of them the brightest and best of the sons of the morning, but at least they knew what a primrose was. Or they did after a couple of field trips to North Wales or Cornwall. Mind you, they were not studying Ancient History, and you may object that anyone who is, and is capable of getting into Oxford to do it, has no good reason to be bothered about primroses or any other minor aspect of botany. Their blythe ignorance leaves me sad, though - regretful; dismayed; at something of a loss; in fact, it raises a whole complex of emotions so profound, inarticulate and complex as to defeat analysis. William Wordsworth possibly felt something similar when he wrote, of Peter Bell the potter, *A primrose by a river's brim/ A yellow primrose was to him/ And it was nothing more.* He was making the point (I think) that Bell was an ignorant, insensitive fellow, impervious to the appeal of the natural world - although at least he knew the thing was yellow and not purple. The lines do catch very nicely the way I feel about the sort of person who tramps unseeingly across the crocuses whilst talking loudly into a mobile. By the way, I Googled this quote to find the reference. The poem is very long - 1135 lines! - and pretty bad, in my humble opinion. Wordsworth could write some stonkingly awful verse when the mood took him - see, for instance, in 'The Thorn', the lines *I've measured it from side to side/ 'Twas three feet long and two feet wide.* Now, that's real poetry! Anyway, the primrose bit in 'Peter Bell' is the only quotable quote in the whole shooting match. If you put it into Safari you can find the whole thing. Just read the first verse and you will see what I mean. And another thing: the quote also comes up on a site, among many others, from Princeton University, which starts www.cs.princeton.edu. If you find it, do look. It gives the lines, illustrated with a large photograph of what the Ivy League imagines an English primrose looks like. Oh ye gods and little fishes. Don't show it to poor old Lane Fox. He would go pop.

I have been counting the cost of the bad weather in this past winter. Snow and ice damaged the guttering on our conservatory and entirely crushed our big greenhouse, but apart from these major concerns there has been the regrettable loss of quite a few good plants which have proved to be less than fully hardy. My snobby white Banksian rose is no more: the final Heyford Hack has been applied; not sorry, but I do mourn the two lovely, vigorous potato vines (*Solanum crispum* and *S. jasminoides*) and various young, beautifully blue-green eucalyptuses, grown from seed, none of which survived. Tree mallows have died and even buddleias look most unhappy. There are other things whose status is as yet unclear. They may or may not make fresh shoots later, if left alone. For instance, I had thought that Pampas grass was completely bomb-proof, but our large clumps do look good and dead. I bought them by mistake - they were on the bargain bench, having lost their labels, and I thought they were something else. I wouldn't ordinarily have planted Pampas grass, in case the Style Police came to arrest me for being suburban, but we have grown to love them in their spot overlooking the canal, where they made a bold statement and a home for hedgehogs, but also where they copped all the worst of the weather. Now we shall just have to wait and see. This garden is exposed to all the cutting winter winds that the valley can offer, so I am learning the hard way that only seriously tough, robust plants will survive in the long term. When it says in the catalogue 'hardy to minus 10 C' it actually means 'will die'.

We are proposing to hold an Open Garden here at The Willows, on Sunday 17th April, as you may see from the ad elsewhere in this edition. All proceeds will go to the fund for the refurbishment of the Village Hall. We hope there will be plenty of tulips this year, as well as other things of interest, although the primroses will have finished... Opening the garden is always a risk: the flowers may be over, or not yet out; the weather might be horrible; visitors will not want to have tea and cakes in a sea of mud. In an ideal world, we would wait for a warm and sunny day without a cloud in the sky, butterflies and irises everywhere and tulips wide open, basking, and just shout out "Come on in, everyone!" Of course, you can't do that, you have to plan ahead and give notice and the odds are that the weather gods will be listening and might decide to open the taps. Well, if they do, if it is decidedly raining on the day, don't come - we will postpone until Easter Sunday, 21st April, and try again.

All the best to you. Enjoy the spring sunshine/showers/frost. And morning mists, gales, thunderstorms. Hail, torrential rain, sleet. Cold drought, heat waves and mini-tornados of dust. Flooding. 1987-style hurricanes. April, in other words. Come and disparage my tulips!

Roger Burt

UPPER HEYFORD FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

Sections and Classes

Section 1 - Vegetables: Open to all:

Class no.	Type	Number to be shown
1.	Celery	2
2.	Onions - globe	3
3.	Onions - flat	3
4.	Onions, 75 mm diameter (3") - no tops	3
5.	Carrots - long	3
6.	Carrots - stump rooted	3
7.	Peas	5
8.	Runner Beans	6
9.	Dwarf Beans	6
10.	Beetroot - maximum 7.5 cm (3") tops	3
11.	Cucumber	2
12.	Leeks	2
13.	Lettuce	2
14.	Tomatoes - calyx showing	5
15.	Potatoes - white	5
16.	Potatoes - coloured	5
17.	Marrow - matching pair	2
18.	Cauliflower with 5 cm (2") stalk	2
19.	Shallots - exhibition	9
	<i>The Eric Hudson memorial trophy</i>	
20.	Shallots - pickling, not to exceed 3cm dia	9
21.	Collection of 6 varieties of vegetables: numbers as per individual classes	
22.	Longest runner bean	
23.	Heavyweight marrow - Grant memorial trophy	
24.	Heavyweight potato	
25.	Heavyweight onion	
26.	Heavyweight pumpkin	

27. Upper Heyford Village residents only.

Collection of 5 vegetables from list below: Number to be shown

Tomatoes	3
Potatoes	3
Carrots	3
Onions	3
Runner Beans	4
Cucumbers	1
Courgettes	3
Cabbage	1
Beetroot	3

Winner to receive Grant International Trophy unless they have won this trophy before

Section 2 - Fruit

Class no.	Type	Number to be shown
28.	Apples - dessert	4
29.	Apples - cooking	4
30.	Pears - culinary or dessert	3
31.	Plumbs - any variety	5
32.	Dish of blackberries; <i>dish not to exceed 13cm (5")</i>	
33.	Dish of fresh fruit - any other variety	3

Section 3 - Flowers

34.	Dahlias	3
35.	Chrysanthemums	3
36.	Asters	3
37.	Sweet Peas	5
38.	Trio of Roses ; Grant International Trophy	3
39.	Roses arranged in a vase - any type and colour - No more than 7— <i>Heyfordian Cup</i>	
40.	Flower arrangement with any red/brown flowers and foliage	
41.	Flower arrangement with foliage and seed heads only	
42.	Miniature flower or foliage arrangement, <i>not to exceed 10cm (4")</i> in any direction	

Container Plants

43.	Geranium - Patrick and Iris Quinn Memorial Cup
44.	Fuchsia - Grant International Trophy
45.	Cactus or other succulent
46.	Pot plant - foliage
47.	Pot plant - flowering

Section 4 - Cookery and Wine 1 clear glass jar, any size*

48.	Marmalade*
49.	Jam - any*
50.	Jelly - any*
51.	Chutney/pickle*
52.	Victoria Sandwich - see recipe*

Section 4 - Cookery and Wine continued

53.	Sausage rolls	5
54.	Cake - any flavour; home - made and labelled	
55.	Loaf of bread - any size - any type; labelled	
56.	Fruit cake - own recipe	
57.	Fruit Pie - home - made - top and bottom crust	
58.	Chocolate Cake <i>made by a man</i>	
59.	Bottle of wine with glass - labelled	
60.	Bottle of cordial with glass - labelled	

Section 5 - Handicrafts

61.	Needle work piece - <i>not to exceed 36 x 36cm (14x14")</i> : cross stitch, crochet, embroidery, tapestry or needlepoint depicting flora or fauna
62.	A painting of a rural scene (<i>Maximum size A4</i>)
63.	A custom made card to mark any occasion depicting flora or fauna - <i>use of pre - made materials/kits not accepted</i>
64.	A piece of folk art -on any surface - <i>not to exceed 36 x 36cm (14 x14")</i>

Section 6 - Photography

Maximum size of 13 x 18cm (5 x 7") unframed

65.	A local scene - within the Cherwell Valley - without snow
66.	A local scene - within the Cherwell Valley - with snow
67.	A bird/ plant/ flower/insect

Section 7 - Young People's Classes

Nursery/ Pre - school

68.	A decorated pebble
69.	A garden on a plate or in a small dish
70.	A sunflower
71.	A home for creepy crawlers made from natural materials

5 - 7 Years

72.	A pasta or legume picture of any vegetable, fruit, plant or flower
73.	A decorated Wellington or Flip Flop
74.	A garden on a plate or dish to include a pond
75.	A robot/model made from recycled materials
76.	A home for creepy crawlers made from natural materials (<i>not to exceed 20cm x 14cm (8"x5 1/2")</i>)

8 - 11 Years

77.	A painting or drawing of one or more vegetables, fruit, flowers, plants, birds or insects or combination of all of these
78.	A garden on a plate or dish to include a shed
79.	3 Home made fairy cakes
80.	A small pot of herbs of one kind (<i>not to exceed 10cm (4")</i>)
81.	A home for creepy crawlers made of natural materials (<i>not to exceed 20cm x 14cm (8"x5 1/2")</i>)

12 - 16 Years

82.	A painting or drawing of a tree in the Cherwell Valley
83.	A collage, using photographs, to reflect wildlife in your garden (<i>Maximum size A3</i>)
84.	A picture of your friend looking like a vegetable/ flower/fruit
85.	A home - made bread pudding
86.	A home for creepy crawlers made from natural materials (<i>not to exceed 20cm x 14cm (8"x5 1/2")</i>)

Section 8 - Any age

87.	A scarecrow
88.	The most misshapen vegetable
89.	A Limerick beginning...' There was a small plant in a pot...'
90.	A photograph of a previous Upper Heyford Flower Show

Victoria Sandwich Recipe - Class 52

225 g / 8 oz unsalted butter, very soft; 225 g / 8 oz caster sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract; 4 large eggs
225 g / 8 oz self - raising flour
1 teaspoon baking powder (if using a food processor)
3 - 4 tablespoons milk

2 x 21 cm / 8" sandwich tins about 5 cm deep, buttered and lined
Put all the ingredients into a food processor, except the milk, and process until you've got a smooth batter. Pulse, pouring the milk through the funnel of the processor till your mixture is a soft dropping consistency.

Alternately, cream together the butter and sugar; add the vanilla and the eggs, one at a time, adding a spoonful of flour between each. Fold the rest of the flour, omitting the baking powder, and add a little milk as necessary.

Put the mixture in the tins and bake for about 25 minutes at gas mark 4 / 180degC until springy to touch on the top and a cake tester comes out clean. Leave to cool in their tins on wire racks for 10 minutes and then turn out.

Spread one layer of cake with raspberry or strawberry jam, put the other layer on top and sprinkle with caster sugar.