

South Leigh & High Cogges News

Update From The Parish Council Chair

Our annual Parish Meeting is on 15th September. This is the time that we present to you the annual reports and accounts (2021/22) for the Parish Council and its subcommittees and elect a chair and vice chair for the coming year. It is an opportunity for you to question your Parish Council on any matters relating to the parish whether it be to do with the accounts (copies can be found on village webpage) or anything else. It's helpful if we can have notification of any questions – then we can ensure that we can answer them fully but this is not essential.

This meeting will be followed by our regular meeting

A40 Planning Application

We are still in discussion with the County Council about both the schemes and are pushing hard to get our point of view heard and acted upon. The main planning applications have been submitted but no decision has been taken. Even once the outline plans have been passed, we will continue to have discussions with the council as it's the more detailed plans that hold the key for noise/pollution reduction.

As you know the County Council have said that they agree that traffic calming measures throughout the village would be beneficial. It will start with any area in the village with a 30mph speed limit dropping to 20mph and follow on with more physical calming measures if that is what we want. Within the next couple of months we will be canvassing everyone in the Parish as to whether and what sort of traffic calming measures would be acceptable. As a Parish we may have to take a view as whether we would rather have the annoyance of traffic calming bumps/humps etc with slower traffic or better leaving well alone?

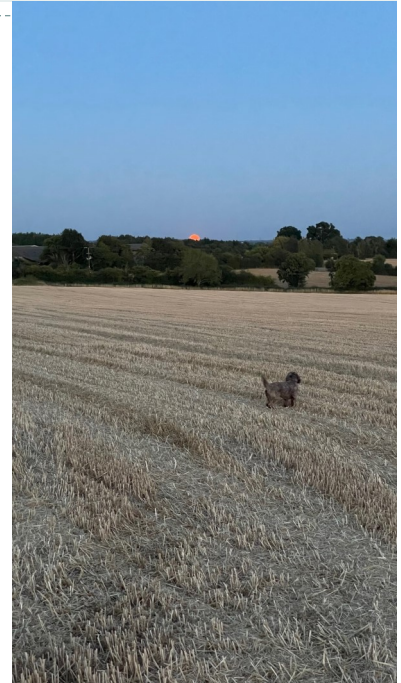
Queen's Platinum Jubilee

I think we can all agree this was a marvellous 4 days organised by Martin Spurrier and his team – our sincere thanks go to them. You will have received a wonderful book full of great photos so we can remember the day. You will be pleased to hear that copies and letters of thanks have been sent to the Queen, the Lord Lieutenant and the Chair of the National Lottery that contributed to the funding.

Volunteering

Please if you have any spare time and would like to get involved with anything going on in the Parish or set up something new please get in touch – help is always needed.

West Oxfordshire District Council are looking for ideas that you think will enhance the district – please go to yourvoicecounts.commonplace.is and make any comments you feel applicable. *Nicky Brooks*



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INTRODUCING YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

My wife Teresa and I are among the newest newcomers to South Leigh – we’ve been here for just under a year in our bungalow in Chapel Road. She’s a retired nursery teacher, and I’m an equally retired reporter for BBC Radio News. We came to Oxfordshire when I joined Radio Oxford in the late Seventies, and we’ve been here ever since. Both our sons were born and raised in the county – one even supports Oxford United! (We’ve suffered together at the old Manor Ground, and now at the Stadium.) Whilst with Radio Oxford I specialised in military matters (I come from an army family), and I continued this when I moved to London. I also found myself going to the places most other people avoided. Northern Ireland was home-from-home for years. I was in Kosovo with the NATO forces in ’99. In 2003, I was embedded with the U.S. army for the invasion of Iraq. I returned to that country frequently over the next six years. 2006 added Afghanistan to my itinerary – standing in the snow in Royal Wootton Bassett for yet another repatriation merely underlined what I already knew too well about the human consequences of this intervention. Throw in

the aftermath of 9/11, the London bombings, Hurricane Katrina and the Pakistan earthquake (along with hearing the Last Post sounded on old battlefields from Ypres to Alamein to the Falklands) and you’ll understand why I’ve quickly come to love our new(ish) home with its friendly people, its walks, its dark skies and – thanks to Brize Norton – its regular overhead reminders of times past.

I joined the Parish Council last month and I am looking forward to meeting you all representing your views as a Parish Councillor.

Peter Grant, peter@southleighandhighcogges.gov.uk



THAMES WATER & GOODWILL PAYMENT Dick Pears

The goodwill payment of £25,000 from Thames Water was received on 26th August.

The Parish Council in line with its decision will be organising the payments to individual households in Lymbrook Close itself starting from the left hand mouth of the Close to the right hand mouth.

The Parish Council will be in touch.

Going forward the Parish Council are trying to work with Thames Water in the future to ensure (1) smells from the treatment plant are reduced or eliminated and (2) water quality after discharge into the brook is improved and monitored.

One of the good things that has come out of all this is that we now have direct lines of communication with the management and in relation to a recent spillage near the pub the speed and reaction of Thames Water indicated that we were very firmly on their radar.

View From The Vicar

What a summer we are having this year in South Leigh! The sun has been blazing and we've had some very hot spells and not much rain either. I hope you've been able to have some fun enjoying the sunny weather. Nationally the previous highest temperature recorded was exceeded across much of England and it was the driest July for 111 years. As I write, the roadsides and countryside are looking very yellow and there is the talk of impending drought conditions and hosepipe bans. Although having just visited the Lake District in a tent, I can tell you that some parts of the country are considerably wetter than here!

In times of extreme heat life slows down – we become lethargic and a bit dazed. Focused on finding a cool spot or a cold drink. But I think that sense of dazed lethargy runs deeper. Gasping for life and freedom after the pandemic, we've emerged into... a war in Ukraine... a massive hike in fuel costs... a resulting cost of living crisis... a heatwave that reminds us of the environmental peril we find ourselves in as a world. What's next?

And each new thing that comes down the road requires us to respond and change. How do I keep myself safe from COVID? How are we going to save on our energy bills? How do we keep cool? And it's not just about how we personally respond, but how we respond as a community. Many of our responses have brought out the best in our community. It has been wonderful to see how people in South Leigh and Witney have responded to the war in the Ukraine through inviting people to find a home amongst us, while others have offered their help in wider support networks.

But talking to people, I think there is a great sense of weariness and burden from constantly needing to adjust and respond. And then on top of that there are all the normal stresses to respond to in our families, work, and homes.

It was exactly to us who are weary and burdened that Jesus made his most glorious invitation:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Here is a promise of deep soul rest within the troubles and stresses of life. It's not an offer to wave a wand and make it all disappear, but the offer of rest, peace, and joy deep in our hearts to anchor us in the storms. Jesus has just been claiming that he uniquely reveals God, that he is himself God. It's through knowing the Creator God through Jesus we find this rest for our souls. We know this God who is both good and great. He is great – holding the world in his hand, powerful enough to bring us through the storms of life to an eternity with him. But also good and loving. Notice how Jesus reveals God's heart here – he is gentle and humble. When God sees us in our pain and troubles and distress, he has deep compassion. Many of us are running away from God, not seeking him or his care, but he longs for us to come to him for this rest and peace. A peace won by Jesus through his own death – facing the depths of evil and its effects so that he can offer us protection for our hearts.

Ultimately, God has a promise and a plan to address the seemingly unassailable issues which surround us in this world. And near the heart of it is this invitation to us, to come and find his gentle and humble heart. And then for him to grow a gentle and humble heart in us. And as the world is filled more and more with the gentle and humble, the world will too be transformed into a place where peace and justice reign.

I encourage you to take Jesus up on this offer, when life is crowding in and you are wearied and burdened, come to him and bring your needs to him in prayer. Discover the joy of this invitation:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

David Spence





SOUTH LEIGH STROLLERS

Our walk in July was postponed due to the heat and we have rescheduled it for Monday September 12th. It is a lovely 2-hour walk in the Evenlode Valley starting at East End North Leigh and returning there via the Roman Villa. As a bonus attraction, Matthew Lee has kindly agreed to arrange for the mosaics to be opened for us to enjoy.

We will meet at the Village Hall at 1.30 with cars and ar-range transport to East End.

Please let us know by the end of August if you are planning to come to give us a rough idea of numbers.

Hope to see you then.

David

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BELLRINGERS' REPORT AUGUST 22 EVADNE VALLANCE

Summer bell ringing. How lovely it is at a Wednesday evening practice at St. James. The west doors of the ringing room are wide open to the churchyard and the wildflower area. The sun pours in until, if lucky towards the end, we get a spectacular sunset. It's a step out of the world.

Our numbers continue to grow, so that recently we have had nine ringers from South Leigh and beyond. Ruth and Dan frequently come all the way from Crawley on a tandem, Carol, Debbie and Dave from Witney. It might be nice to think that they come for our fine bells, because fine they are, but in truth it may be more for the relaxed, fun and supportive ringing atmosphere. The lack of a ringing teacher means that we each take turns to be ringing master and plan the order of the evening. It might also be that they come for Heather's delicious cakes and Ruth and Dan's coffee, enjoyed perched on boxes in the churchyard at half time.

We are all either beginners or improvers. We improvers strive to improve further by taking part in wider ringing community events. A striking competition for the Witney and Woodstock branch in June was one such opportunity. Two of us joined St Mary's, Witney ringers to

take part in showcasing the accuracy or otherwise of our striking (the correct positioning of the sounding of our bells). Competing against some of the best ringers in the branch, needless to say we didn't win the competition, but at least we know what to aspire to.

Another such event was a ringing outing that two of us went on in July to four different churches: Bledington, Kingham, Churchill and Chastleton. Plenty of experience of handling bells of different weights and temperaments is fundamental to good ringing.

As two of our beginners are very new to bell ringing, if you fancy a pull, now is a good time. Join us at 7.30 on either the first or third Wednesday of the month.



South Leigh Flower & Produce Show Returns!

South Leigh Flower & Produce Show will resume this year on **Saturday 10th September**. Please make a note of the date in your diaries. You will find details elsewhere in this newsletter. There is something for everyone, so we hope there will be a bumper number of entries.

Liz Ashwell/Richard Law

TAKE NOTICE!

Martin Spurrier

Marking the new, more inclusive name of our Parish, we have modified and refurbished the old notice board by the pub and made an additional one for High Cogges. At going to press we are still finalising the exact location for the new one but we are hoping to have a suitable location in High Cogges. The cases will not be locked so, if you have something of interest to residents, please feel free to use them. The 'T' keys will be attached at the back.

If in doubt, please contact Parish Councillor, Rita Sawrey-Woodwards. 07969919745.



Let there be light!

Bad news and good news...

The bad news is that the Parish's electricity supply from SSE keeps failing. The good news is that, since the last blackout, we have applied to SSE and have just heard that we have been successful in a grant application to buy a 10-kw emergency generator of our own and install the appropriate wiring.

Until the utility company's supply becomes reliable, and learning from the last extended breakdown, we shall set up the Village Hall and have it wired so that it can be used as our Parish emergency centre if/when the need regrettably arises. Alongside this, Lysette has pulled together an Emergency Plan document which will detail all the procedures if the worst happens which, sadly, seems likely.

The Emergency Electricity Plan: The Plan will allocate key volunteers who have agreed to take on certain responsibilities, their contact numbers etc, and various other processes so that if/ when the power goes out again, it can swing into action quickly and things should run a bit smoother than last time.

All these details will be published on the website asap but you should print out a personal copy because when you need it, there will be no power. Each Parish Councillor will also hold a printed copy.

The Parish Council took advice from Dean Jarvis and others in this task and the generator will provide enough power to run everything in the hall including the heating. The only thing it won't power is the oven which consumes a huge amount of electricity, but the gas hob will be available.

Help needed: Although bulky, the generator will be movable and stored off site. It will, however, need to be started briefly and checked once every 10 days or so to ensure that when it is needed, it bursts into life. *If there's anyone who would take on this responsibility please get in touch.* We will keep you posted as to progress.

Nicky Brooks



A recent discussion about roadside verges at the July Parish Council meeting prompted me to explore and understand more about their features and their importance to local wildlife. What I have discovered, I would like to share with you.

First some alarming facts...Did you know...

...that the UK has lost 97% of its natural meadows since the 1930s?

...that the UK is now considered one of the most nature depleted countries in the world?

...that intensive farming post World War II with its associated use of pesticides, inevitable habitat destruction and introduction of non-native species has led to an alarming decline in populations of wild plants and animals?

So, what does this have to do with roadside verges in South Leigh?

Well, you only have to walk the fields surrounding South Leigh to see at first hand the proportion of fields dedicated to intensive farming and the paucity of natural meadows.

Roadside verges are really mini-meadows if they are allowed to grow naturally, with minimal human interference, something that South Leigh desperately needs more of.

Their importance to wildlife should not be underestimated.

They have the potential to accommodate many plants and wild flowers, some of which are quite rare. They are largely undisturbed by humans and the soil is generally nutrient-poor, which is ideal for wild flowers. Did you know... that 700 wild flower species grow in our roadside verges in the UK, which is about 45% of our total flora, and... that 29/52 species of wild orchids in the UK grow successfully in roadside verges? In South Leigh we are fortunate to have three types of wild orchid which have been observed growing locally, the pyramidal orchid (classified as 'Threatened'), the spotted orchid and the bee orchid. Natural verges would encourage these to grow and flourish in our village.

Wild flowers attract pollinators, mostly insects, which in turn provide food for the higher animal orders. Butterflies are key in this process but did you know that butterfly populations have seen a 76% decline in their numbers over the last 40 years through loss of habitat and food sources i.e. wild flowers?



If you are in the South Leigh Nature WhatsApp group you will have seen recently- posted photographs of many species of butterflies seen in our meadows this year. These include ringlets, small blues, meadow browns, gatekeepers, marbled whites, painted ladies, small tortoiseshells, peacocks, commas, red admirals, brimstones, large whites, orange tips and skippers. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the JNCC) have included all of these on their red list, fortunately of 'Least Concern', a descriptor that is relative to other species that are 'Vulnerable', 'Near Threatened', or 'Critically Endangered'. We need to encourage them by increasing the availability of

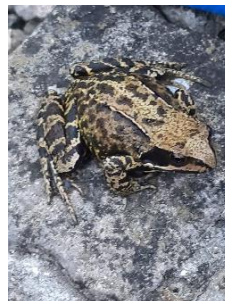


wild flowers as food sources by naturalising our verges to avoid their situation deteriorating; verges are an ideal environment for these flowers.



The abundance of wild flowers and plants creates important habitats for many of the UK's threatened animal species, particularly grassland species including butterflies, frogs, toads, adders, lizards, slow worms, shrews, hedgehogs (whose population has plummeted from 36 million in the 1950s to 1 million in 2022), badgers, moles, field voles, water voles and otters. Those underlined are already in South Leigh, and we need to support their population growth by extending their range and increasing their habitats.

Roadside verges are valuable in providing physical links from one habitat to another...corridors for animals to move safely and easily from place to place, which leads to more opportunity to find food, more opportunity for mixed breeding creating a healthier gene pool and for re-population of new areas. Without these corridors, populations become isolated, they are weaker genetically and more vulnerable to sudden changes in their environment e.g. pollution incidents.



This leads on to considering the management of these verges...what is the most successful practice to encourage wildlife to flourish in them and how do we balance that with the human expectation for them to be neat and tidy?

Their management involves removal of invasive species such as nettles, brambles and grasses which would otherwise overwhelm other rarer species, controlling plant pests and diseases, and maintaining human safety with regard to clear road visibility at junctions and around corners.

If verges are mown too early in the season, it means that flowering plants have no chance to flower so there is no pollination and no seed formation. If the mowings are left on the surface of the verges, it leads to enrichment of the soil on which wild flowers do not flourish, and a dense covering layer of cut plant material which could prevent seeds from germinating.

The recommendations for good management of our verges include:

- cutting them less frequently and cutting them later in the year after flowering and seed formation
- removing the mowings
- using yellow rattle to control the grasses that compete with the flowering plants
- removing invasive species to encourage others to grow



Managing the 'neat-and tidy' versus the 'wild with high biodiversity' question is more complex. Individuals in our community will have differing opinions about this. Neat-and-tidy may look more appealing, but is this because we are of the generation that grew up with the expectation that grass verges, like lawns, should be cut short because that was expected of people who cared about the appearance of our outside spaces?

With the global crisis unfolding with regard to the depletion of the natural world in favour of man's overpopulation and exploitation of our planet Earth, our perception of what caring people do is slowly changing. Leaving grass verges to naturalise is becoming more common and more acceptable; the move to help nature recover alongside man's existence is gaining momentum. I feel that both preferences can be accommodated. Take a look at the photos of grass verges which I have found locally. Several incorporate both mown and natural areas, some are completely mown, some are completely natural. Surely the compromise is to have a proportion of both. I would hope that that would be acceptable to all regardless of divergent opinions.



I would be very interested to hear your views on this issue. Please email me on rita@southleighandhighcogges-pc.gov.uk and participate in this discussion...it is your village and its verges; your opinion counts.

My thanks to those whose photographs I have included here from the South Leigh WhatsAppNature.

The Limb Brook...where do we go from here?

Our very dry summer has had a profound effect on the Limb Brook, with the bed completely dry in places. This has impacted on the chemical testing that I was hoping to continue now that the work on the sewage plant is completed. It will be interesting to see if phosphate and nitrate levels are reduced downstream of the discharge from the sewage treatment plant as a result of the work done. Testing will resume once the water returns.

Likewise, my investigations into the invertebrate populations that inhabit the Brook, part of the Riverfly Project, have been put on hold because of the lack of water in the Brook. This testing will also re-start once we have some water back in the Brook. Nationally, this hugely detrimental effect of the drought and dry waterways on invertebrate populations was highlighted on the BBC news on 10 August. Invertebrates are at the bottom of the food chain so everything that depends on them higher up the food chain will be affected by the massive reduction in their populations.

Graham Soame and his youngsters have successfully cleared the section of the Brook opposite the pub resulting in a vast improvement in the amount of light that now is available to enable water plants to thrive, and to give the Brook the freedom to flow unobstructed.

Moving forward from this very positive start, the idea of tackling the clearing the Brook from its source to where it leaves South Leigh on its way to Eynsham, is now beginning to move forward in our drive to re-establish the biodiversity that the Brook once had by addressing the issues that are currently contributing to making it less than a healthy watercourse.



It is always beneficial to have guidance from those who have done something similar before, and myself and Martin Spurrier met up Mike Chadwick from the Watlington Environment Group Water Sources Project in July to discuss and share ideas about how they tackled a similar project with their stream in Watlington. It was a very useful meeting and we have come away with some very positive ideas to move forward with.



Pictures in Watlington (L to R): 1. Signs reminding the public not to flush poisons down street drains. 2. Watercourse management. 3. Choked canalised stream.

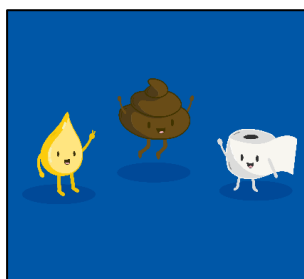
Martin is currently busy applying for grants to help us proceed with this project. I will be contacting the Environment Agency Catchment Coordinator with the intention of inviting him/her to give a talk to the village about the best ways forward to create a healthy stream and how each of us can play a part in making this happen. I do hope many of you will be able to attend, especially those of you who enjoy the Brook flowing through your land. This is a community project and we would like as many of you to want to be involved as possible. Watch this space!

...and not forgetting pollution

The work on the South Leigh sewage plant has now been completed. The aerated activated sludge tank was completely renovated and it is predicted to remain in service for 25 years according to Thames Water.

But some little reminders to us all...Many of the blockage problems and odour problems experienced by South Leigh sewage plant, as with many others, are caused by the residents flushing anything and everything down the loo. Thames Water request that we encourage everyone to only flush down the loo the **3Ps**. They are: **P**ee, **P**oo and **P**aper (toilet tissue).

*Wet wipes are particularly detrimental to the system...please put them in the bin **NOT** down the loo.*



Images courtesy of freepic.com and flush3p.org

...Run-off from rain on our roads goes into the drains and straight to the waterways i.e. brooks, streams and rivers, without any treatment. For example, people washing their cars with detergents in their driveway or on the roadside means that detergents are leaching straight into the Brook, and could account for the high phosphate levels detected last year. Also, excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides in our gardens will leach directly into our stream when it rains. Please be very aware of what contribution you may be making to unwanted pollutants in our Limb Brook. We want it clean and healthy so that wildlife can thrive.

I will resume my monthly chemical testing of the Limb Brook to check its quality once water levels return to normal.

Rita

SOUTH LEIGH FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

EVERYONE PLEASE SUPPORT THE SHOW

To be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 10th September 2022
Entries to be brought to the Hall between **9.30am** and **10.30am**

ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT 01993 703534

ENTRY FEE 20p. Not more than one exhibit per person per class.

CLASSES FOR YOUNG PARTICIPANTS (age to be stated)

- 1C An animal made from silver foil (aged 8 and under)
- 2C A painted stone (aged 8 and under)
- 3C Any plant, vegetable or flower grown by someone aged 16 and under living in South Leigh.
- 4C A sea creature - any medium (aged 16 and under)
- 5C Four biscuits (aged 16 and under)

OPEN CLASSES (all ages)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Specimen Rose | 22 Longest Runner bean |
| 2 Best Perfumed Rose | 23 A vegetable that has gone wrong |
| 3 Vase of three Perennials (1 variety) | 24 Heaviest Potato |
| 4 Vase of three Dahlias (1 variety) | 25 6 Eggs |
| 5 Vase of six sweet peas | 26 Jar of Home-made Chutney |
| 6 Foliage Pot Plant | 27 Jar of Home-made Jam |
| 7 Indoor Flowering Pot Plant | 28 Lemon crunch cake – recipe given |
| 8 A home-grown Cook's basket min 6 items | 29 A loaf of bread |
| 9 Cucumber | |
| 10 Three Carrots | 30 Flower Arrangement - |
| 11 Three Potatoes | “The NHS” - max size - 18”x18”x18” |
| 12 Three Onions | |
| 13 Six Tomatoes | 31 Photograph un-mounted - |
| 14 Six Cherry Tomatoes | “Covid” - max size - 5” x 7” |
| 15 Six Runner Beans | To be judged by the public |
| 16 Six French Beans | |
| 17 Three Beetroot | 32 A picture or sculpture - any medium - |
| 18 Three Courgettes | completed in the last 12 months |
| 19 Two Squash | To be judged by the public |
| 20 3 Cooking Apples | |
| 21 3 Dessert Apples | |

Name	1c	2c	3c	4c	5c	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32			
20p per entry																					

Please fill in your name and tick box for each class you wish to enter. Tear off and submit along with payment to the stewards on arrival at the hall. Thank you.

Total money

PRIZES (all trophies are competed for annually)

The Noble Challenge Cup (donated by the late Major Noble) will be awarded to the competitor gaining the most points overall.

A Cup presented in memory of the late Ron Miles will be awarded to the competitor gaining most points in classes 9 to 21.

A Vase presented in memory of the late Mary Miles will be awarded to the winner of class 1.

The Challenge Plate will be awarded to the competitor gaining the most points in classes 26 - 30.

The Competition Cup will be awarded to the competitor under 21 gaining the most points overall.

The Joan Lee Trophy will be awarded to the competitor gaining most points in classes 2 - 5.

The SLUG Mug will be awarded to the member of South Leigh United Gardeners gaining most points in classes 2 – 5 and 9 – 21.

1st Prize 50p and 4 points towards the cups (Voucher prizes for the younger classes)

2nd Prize 25p and 2 points towards the cups

3rd Prize 15p and 1 point towards the cups

2nd Prize will be awarded only if there are four or more entries in class

3rd Prize will be awarded only if there are seven or more entries in class

CLASS 28 - RECIPE: LEMON CRUNCH CAKE

Ingredients

Cake

4 oz/115g soft margarine

Finely grated rind of one lemon

6 oz/170g caster sugar

2 fl oz/60 ml milk

2 eggs

6 oz/170g self-raising flour

Topping

4 oz/115g granulated sugar

Juice of one lemon

Method

1. Grease and line a 2lb loaf tin and set oven to 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4.
2. Beat the margarine and caster sugar together until light and fluffy.
3. Gradually beat in the eggs, then stir in the finely grated lemon rind.
4. Fold in the sifted flour alternating with the milk.
5. Turn mixture into the prepared tin and level the surface.
6. Bake in the oven for approx. 50 minutes until well risen.
7. While cake is baking, make topping: in a bowl, mix together lemon juice and sugar.
8. When cooked, spoon topping over the hot cake. Leave in tin until completely cold.

SHOW OPENS FOR VIEWING AT 2.30PM

TEAS

RAFFLE

PRIZE GIVING AND AUCTION OF PRODUCE AT 3.30PM

Seasonal South Leigh Recipes

As we transition from the intense days of summer sunshine into autumn we can look forward to slightly more warming dishes - especially those that can make use of the inevitable glut of late summer vegetables. This Catalan-inspired stew is just the job and great for a quick midweek supper or meal with friends. Celeriac has a delicate, celery-like flavour and Remoulade is one of my favourite salads - perfect with anything from left over Sunday roast to a crispy fish cake. Happy Cooking! EL

Spanish Fish Stew

Serves 4

Much of this stew can be prepared in advance. Get everything up to the point of adding the potatoes, beans and fish to the tomato and pepper sauce then, when ready to eat, reheat the sauce and add the vegetables and fish. Finish cooking the dish as usual. This is a meal in itself but I like to serve it with focaccia or some nice crusty bread to mop up the sauce. Feel free to adapt - I love potatoes but butter beans are equally delicious in this stew. If you have lots of courgettes or runner beans, use them instead of the French beans. Use peeled and diced fresh tomatoes instead of canned - you will need about six medium sized tomatoes. Finally, enjoy with a cold glass of Rioja Blanco!

900g waxy or new potatoes, peeled and cubed
200g green beans, trimmed
50ml olive oil
2 onions, thinly sliced
6 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
2 tsp smoked paprika
75g chorizo, diced
1 large green pepper (or 150g padron peppers), de-seeded and sliced
150ml dry white wine
300ml water
2 tblsp tomato paste (I use *La Bomba*)
1 x 400g can chopped tomatoes
a pinch of chilli flakes
600g mixed fish, e.g. cod, haddock, hake, salmon, cut into similar size pieces
200g raw prawns, shelled and de-veined
salt and pepper
juice of ½-1 lemon
chopped parsley, to finish





Steam the potatoes until they are just cooked. Remove from the heat and set aside. Bring a pan of water to the boil and plunge in the beans. Cook for 2 minutes, then drain and refresh in cold water. Drain again and set the beans aside.

Heat the oil in a shallow, flameproof, lidded pan. Add the onions and garlic and fry gently until softened but not brown. Add the paprika, stir well, then add the chorizo and green pepper. Stir in the wine, water, tomato paste, chopped tomatoes and chilli flakes. Season with salt and pepper and simmer gently for a few minutes.

Add the potatoes and beans to the pan, then gently incorporate the fish and prawns. Cover and simmer for a further 8-10 minutes or until everything is piping hot and the fish and prawns are fully cooked. Remove from the heat, drizzle over the lemon juice and sprinkle with parsley before serving in deep dishes.

Note: Use 2 x 235g cans / or 1 x 660g jar of butter beans, drained, instead of potatoes.

Celeriac Remoulade

I am growing celeriac this year and even though they are currently only the size of a tennis ball I have high hopes of making this delicious salad as the season progresses. Remoulade is traditionally made with celeriac but can be made with beetroot for a vibrant, colourful variation.



Peel, then shred a medium-sized (450g) celeriac - a mandolin is helpful for this, but watch your fingers! For a perfect celeriac remoulade, the shreds should not be too fine, neither should they be thicker than a matchstick. Toss the shredded



celeriace in the juice of half a lemon - this will prevent it from discolouring. In a large bowl, mix together 4 heaped tblsp of good mayonnaise, 2 tblsp of smooth Dijon mustard, 2 tblsp of double cream or crème fraîche and 2 tblsp of finely chopped parsley. Season with salt and black pepper, then fold into the shredded celeriac. Best eaten the same day!



CHIMNEY MEADOWS, DUXFORD, LONGWORTH & THE THAMES WALK

A gentle walk of 8 miles (including ½ mile return walk to 2 hides), with pub en route,& option to extend walk to 10 miles. No stiles!

PARKING/START : Chimney Meadows Nature Reserve Car Park, reached by lanes from Cote or Aston. G.R. SP 353012. Avoid in flood conditions. Wear stout footwear. Binoculars useful.

N.B. (i) Dogs on leads between Car Park & Thames due to sensibility of Nature Reserve.

(ii) Check opening/food service times at Blue Boar PH, Longworth for day of walk.

Allow 4 hours (incl. visit to hides), or 5 hours for extended walk, excluding stops.

Familiarise yourself with 1st section as far as end of Shifford Lock Cut, as this is return route also. Cross footbridge opposite car park & go immediately L on permissive path alongside lane. When re-join lane at sharp R bend go R & at T-junction go L through gate (S.P. Duxford). To visit hides go L at waymarker just before sharp R bend ; the hides contain helpful information incl. sightings.

Continue along lane & after passing picnic tables & information board on R go straight ahead to cross arched bridge over Thames then soon go L (S.P. Thames Path) to follow alongside Shifford Lock Cut—constructed end C19 to avoid a very meandering stretch of the Thames (see map), thus improving navigation. At end, with gate to lock on L, bear R to cross footbridge over the original Thames navigation.

Now go R alongside river (1st section now moved back from river bank after erosion/collapse in recent years). When reach bridleway at information board go R just a short way to reach river at Duxford Ford & another information board. This is the only purpose built ford left on the Thames, & once Duxford had a ferry point & a busy wharf. Re-trace your steps & continue on bridleway to join lane beyond 2 thatched cottages, with the fine Walnut Tree Cottage seen off to R ; this is the hamlet of Duxford.

Go L here along lane, to later climb gently & bear L as you approach Hinton Waldrist. On L before sharp R bend is the extension graveyard, where Airey Neave (M.P. for Abingdon, killed by I.R.A. bomb at Westminster in 1979—who lived here) is buried. Continue on lane, passing The Old Rectory (a Grade II listed building, part C14) to reach church (from mid C13),

which has several monuments inside—incl. 1 dedicated to the memory of Airey Neave.

Go along lane opposite church, & go straight ahead on bridleway at sharp R bend (S.P. Longworth). Pass Longworth Manor on L, & to visit the Grade I listed church (from C13) go L beyond pond & large wrought iron gates. The novelist R.D. Blackmore, author of Lorna Doone, was born at The Old Rectory, Longworth. Continue along road through village & after sharp R bend go L at junction, along High Street. Further along bear L to The Blue Boar.

The Blue Boar dates from 1606. The white boar & white rose shown on the pub sign represent symbols of Richard III, whereas the blue boar was the personal badge of the de Vere family, as Earls of Oxford. According to legend, when the King was killed at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 any White Boar pub was hastily repainted as Blue Boars, to acknowledge that the white boar was dead & the blue boar was now dominant.

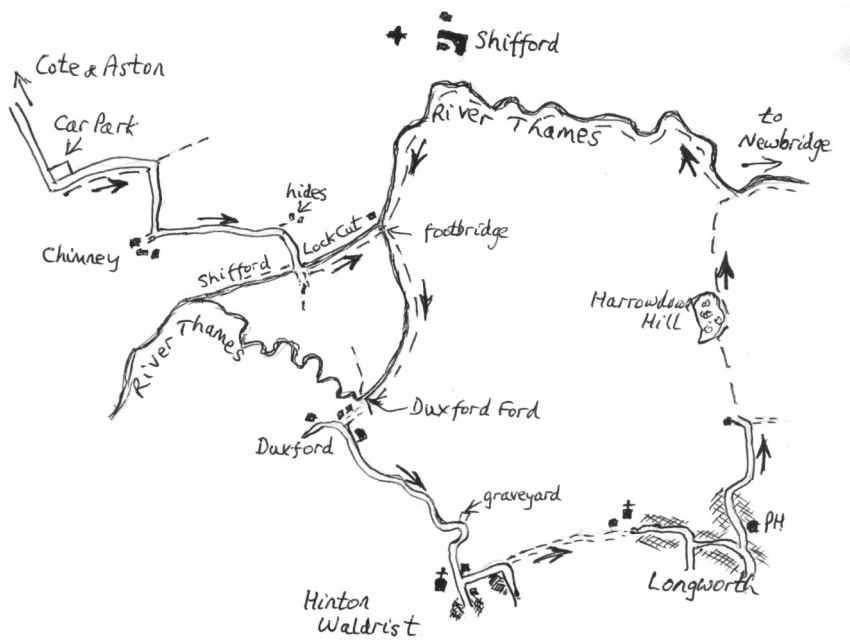
Continue past pub, bearing R down lane & stay on lane at sharp L for around 40 yds, then go R on footpath (S.P. River Thames), which later climbs gently to skirt round tree-topped Harrowdown Hill. When reach open field go straight on, & pass through kissing gate to join Thames Path at guide post to R. Just across river, straight ahead where pylons cross trees, are the series of gravel lakes near Standlake.

To extend walk to 10 miles go R here, staying on Thames Path to Newbridge (Maybush & Rose Revived pubs), returning by same route. Otherwise go L, & after passing through gateway at end of this long field be sure to follow path close to the Thames. When river gets closest to line of pylons the buildings of Shifford (“sheep ford”) are seen, with the church off to L. In the C9 Shifford was an important township, bigger than Oxford, & it is reported that King Alfred held a meeting of the English Parliament here.

You soon pass through an avenue of well- established willow trees to return you to the bridge over the river by Shifford Lock, but you will no doubt hear the weir’s rushing water before you see the bridge! Now re-trace your earlier route back to the Car Park.

RC

CHIMNEY MEADOWS, DUXFORD, LONGWORTH & THE THAMES WALK MAP



PATH WARDENS UPDATE D'Arcy & Evadne Vallance

The fact that our parish's 34 footpaths and bridleways are in such good condition compared to those in many other areas is mainly thanks to the work of Russell and Anne Cherry. After many years of patrolling the paths, cutting back overgrowth and undergrowth, reporting problems and hazards, cajoling landowners and authorities and martialling volunteers, Russell and Anne have recently handed over the job to us. So first, a big 'thank you' for all your work up to now, Russell and Anne!

Keeping our rights of way unobstructed and conveniently usable is the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council and local landowners. In practice, however, a community effort is also needed. So if you enjoy our wonderful footpaths, please help by occasionally taking with you a pair of secateurs for encroaching brambles.

There are limits to what can be achieved with secateurs, so we'd like to thank those who have volunteered with heavier weaponry, especially Martin Spurrier with his ancient but trusty tractor that overcame the aggressive vegetation growth in both Moor Lane and Bonds Lane this summer.

Fourteen other issues were reported to OCC in August, including hazardous or broken stiles, damaged bridges, broken waymark posts, paths blocked by vegetation and 'Surface improvement requests'. That last one refers mainly to cross-field paths that are left obstructed by crops throughout most of the summer despite the statutory requirement for landowners to reinstate paths immediately after sowing. This problem was reported last year as well, so we will be putting pressure on OCC to enforce early reinstatement next year.

Walkers should take particular care on the stile opposite Green Farm, which is hazardous until repaired.

Any problems with rights of way in the parish can be reported to us by emailing vallance@clara.net so that we can pass them on to OCC.

Photo Right: Clearing the lanes

VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall Committee

Dorothy Carden – Noad
(Secretary)
703840
John Ashwell (Treasurer)
703534
Debi Diacon (Bookings)
773314
David Brown
703765
Sue Washington
775574
Caroline Auger
834899

Club 100 Winners

May - Remy Martin and David Brown

June - Matilda Murphy and Keith Hawton

July - Debi Diacon and Caroline Auger

August—Russell Cherry and Greg Murphy

The Friends of South Leigh

If you know of anyone who needs support of any kind, please get in touch with one of the following. The Friends have wide powers to help in many ways.

John Ashwell (01993 703534),
Richard Law (773355),
Rita Sawrey-Woodwards, Sue
Washington (775574) and
Karen Wilson.





Love South Leigh & High Cogges

Conservation Area application status, August 2022 From the Conservation Area Steering Group

On 11th August 2022 the Parish Council (PC) agreed the terms of a draft application for Conservation Area status which will be put to the village for a poll; the result of which will then be considered by the PC before any application is made to West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC).

In advance of the poll, you will be advised of how and where you will be able to read the full draft application, plus a note from the Steering Group.

We on the Steering Group are very clear that an application needs to be made but ultimately it will be the PC's decision who will bear in mind the results of the poll.

Our Parish is under threat: In formulating the draft application, we have been conscious of the increasing threats to our Parish:

- The Eynsham Park Estate's option with Gladman Developments Ltd. is subject to renewal.
- One of our District Councillors at least feels that Eynsham has suffered enough from housing and that it is our turn.
- The PC, in dealing with Oxfordshire County Council over the Shore's Green junction and the A40 at Barnard Gate, is constantly looking over its shoulder to prevent an increase in the risk of development.
- The WODC Plan and our Neighbourhood Plan expire in 2031.
- The PC learnt on 11th August 2022 that the new administration at WODC is already working to "revise" the Local Plan and there is also going to be a new County Plan.
- You will be aware of the plans for housing to the West of Eynsham – the West Eynsham Strategic Development Area and housing to the East of Witney – so building is approaching from both directions – from Witney and from Eynsham.
- What happens if Cotswold Garden Village (Salt Cross Garden Village) does not happen?

Of course, some restrictions within a Conservation Area are irritating but irritation is better than being swamped by houses, more solar farms etc.

The advantages are clear: Conservation Area status gives us statutory protection independent of and superior to Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. CA status is enshrined in law and provides permanent protection.

We believe that all the Parish will benefit directly or indirectly from the proposed CA, if approved, and we do not believe that the areas outside it will become significantly more vulnerable. That is because we have included areas which, our market intelligence tells us, landowners have already earmarked for development, and because the problems that we will face come not from individual buildings in and around the village (which we believe are reasonably unlikely to be successful) but from developments of larger size that we will have to fight off using a combination of resources including Conservation Area, proximity to Conservation Area, proximity to Listed Buildings, Neighbourhood Plan etc., depending on the location of the application.

You will receive further information in due course. Please don't hesitate to contact the CA Steering Group if you have questions.

CA Steering Group: Gary Nicholls 7920771897, Martin Spurrier 07799368464, Dick Pears 07850175929

Love South Leigh & High Cogges. Let's preserve & enhance it.



Fun and sunshine in Station Road!

On the evening of Sunday, 31st July, a spontaneous celebration broke out at the Station Road bus shelter to celebrate its 11th edition, *Club Tropicana*.



Sadly, WHAM! Could not attend, but more than 20 residents bringing their own tippie did. Maybe they came to *'brush shoulders with the stars, and take strangers by the hand'*, so the lyrics of the hit record go. And while this was a BYO event, it was understandable because, at the real Club Tropicana video location, Hotel Pikes in Ibiza, the song tells us, *'Drinks are free, Fun and sunshine, there's enough for everyone. All that's missing is the sea. But don't worry, you can sun tan. Cool, cool, cool'*.

That's South Leigh on a summer's Sunday evening... Says it all, really!



(Above): The real Pikes Hotel, Ibiza



South Leigh's version!



The Queen's 70th Jubilee Celebrations

We have not covered the fabulous four days of celebrations in the Parish in this edition of South Leigh News because we delivered a souvenir booklet to every household in the Parish. That contained over 160 photographs that captures every moment. More than 60 residents attend virtually all of the events and parties!



HOGWATCH

by Ally Urquart



Despite the shenanigans with the local moggies trashing the feeding station and trail cameras playing up, there have been positive things happening with the Chapel Road 'array' of hedgehogs.

In mid March the lovely lady from Minster Hedgies contacted me with the news that she was sadly closing the rescue centre, but that it was a warm weekend, Badger was a healthy weight (a whopping 700g) which meant she was ready for release into our garden. Just to recap, Badger had been found in October 2021 on a road in Witney, she was a tiny hoglet weighing approximately 50g and Minster Hedgies had cared for her over winter.

We collected her, she looked amazing, so healthy and such a good size, she stayed in the feeding station with lots of straw overnight, ate and drank, then the next evening we released her. Fingers crossed for little Badger!



I rearranged the feeding station using some concrete blocks to limit the entrance size and it seems to have stopped the cats pushing through to eat the food, the hoggies get through easily

and so far it has been a big success. Whilst out one evening I also spotted a hedgehog in my dove and pigeon aviary. Two big adult hoggies squeeze under the dove loft every night for refreshments and the local cats can't access it. So.. that's now two feeding stations.



The addition of a new wildlife camera and memory card has been very successful, photographs, videos and sound too. What it has shown me is that hedgehogs are very noisy eaters and both feeding stations are very much used. The hedgehogs come back repeatedly during the night to eat and they have been drinking copious amounts of water during the hot summer months.

As I mentioned previously, two big hedgehogs use the station within the aviary and at least one uses the original feeding station. Next step is to buy an additional camera to keep watch on both stations at the same time, I think they are different hoggies but time will tell.

A little hedgehog trivia,

- There are 15 different species of hedgehogs, the UK has just one native species, the European hedgehog whose scientific name is *Erinaceus Europaeus*.
- They are extremely promiscuous and sometimes a litter of hoglets will have more than 1 father!
- Hedgehogs weren't always called Hedgehogs, they were previously known as Urchins.
- Their eyesight is not very good but they can see quite well in darkness, however, they primarily use their hearing and sense of smell for hunting.
- They like their sleep and can spend up to 18 hours a day snoozing.
- They have between 5 -7,000 spines on them which are made of keratin.
- On their nightly forage, they can travel for up to 2 miles.

HOGWATCH

by Ally Urquart



Just to add to the excitement of the regular sight of adults pottering around the garden, just after sundown mid August I spotted a tiny dark lump on the grass, sadly I didn't have my phone to grab a discreet photo but I soon realised it was a hoglet, which was just amazing! August is the time when

they leave their nest to go it alone and fend for themselves. I can only hope Badger is working her hoggie magic to boost the South Leigh hedgehog community.

Tips for encouraging hedgehogs and making a hedgehog friendly garden;

- Make a hole in the fence or wall (5x5") to enable easy access to other gardens.
- Ensure ponds or pools have a ramp to allow hoggies an escape route if they fall in.
- Keep a small wild area of the garden, this will be rich in insects in the summer and uncut plants could provide a nesting site in the winter time.
- Tie up any garden netting or store safely when not in use, hedgehogs are prone to getting tangled.
- Provide clean water and meaty cat or dog food as supplementary nutrition.
- Provide a hedgehog house or shelter for them to nest or hibernate in, preferably site it as early as possible, giving the hedgehogs time to get used to seeing it.
- Log piles, leaf piles and long grasses are much needed for breeding and hibernation sites.
- Lawn treatments and pesticides are toxic to hedgehogs.
- Check before strimming.
- Check log piles or bonfires before lighting them.

If you see a hedgehog out in the daytime and you are concerned, using a pair of gardening gloves place it in a strong high-sided cardboard box with newspaper and a folded towel for it to hide under, keep the patient somewhere quiet, dark and warm then call one of the hedgehog helplines below. Tiggywinkles is open 24 hrs and will take wildlife casualties at any time without pre-calling.

British Hedgehog Preservation Society - 01584 890801

Tiggywinkles - 01844 292292

QUIZ

The answers to these cryptic clues are all trees. Having solved them, take the first letters of the answers to numbers 14 to 20 (use number 20 twice) and unravel them to reveal 2 tree connections! Answers appear elsewhere here.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Bearer of berry and prickly (5) | 11 Sounds like policeman on sea shore (6,5) |
| 2 Flog (5) | 12 Headless backbone (4) |
| 3 Makes bat to hit the leather (6) | 13 Hunt in Samoa reveals this tree (8,3) |
| 4 Harm bone ; re-set it (8) | 14 Military town with no shot (5) |
| 5 Measure of land turned over (4) | 15 Street station near the Mersey (4) |
| 6 Capital flyer (6,5) | 16 Tree that emerges from yams core (8) |
| 7 A thousand leap about (5) | 17 Sing around this tree for drenching (3) |
| 8 Smashed centre (3) | 18 First, but no saint (3) |
| 9 Tree seen in a row and a clump (5) | 19 Tree found amongst medlar, cherry & plum (5) |
| 10 Popular, but heartless (6) | 20 Senior (5) |

DISCLAIMER

ANY OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE EDITORS.

Please keep up to date by looking at the Facebook page or the web-site:

www.southleighandhighcogges-pc.gov.uk

If you are not currently on the residents' circulatory list please contact Nicky Brooks to receive important updates.

newsletter@[southleighandhighcogges-pc.gov.uk](mailto:newsletter@southleighandhighcogges-pc.gov.uk)

COPY Deadlines South Leigh News

November 18th 2022

The South Leigh News Photograph Requests

South Leigh and High Cogges News would like to publish photos taken by villagers in each edition capturing our Parish.

We won't be able to publish everyone's, however we shall choose photos that are best suited to the edition.

A star photo will be selected to go on the front page of the newsletter. Please can you email any photos to : newsletter@southleighandhighcogges-pc.gov.uk

QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Holly 2 Birch 3 Willow 4 Hornbeam 5 Acer 6 London Plane
7 Maple 8 Ash 9 Rowan 10 Poplar 11 Copper Beech 12 Pine
13 Mountain Ash 14 Alder 15 Lime 16 Sycamore 17 Oak 18 Fir
19 Larch 20 Elder

.....and the tree 'connections'!----Leaf & Sloe

JOHN LONG REMEMBERED

My husband John Long died on 29th July after many years of ill health. Some of you may remember his poems printed in the South Leigh magazine. I want to say thank you to those who encouraged John in writing his poems and to those who came to the harvest suppers and enjoyed some of the entertaining sketches he wrote. We give thanks for the kind and supportive people living in this lovely village and enclose one last poem,

Many Blessings to you.

Sheila Long.

The Last Weed of Summer

You're the last weed of the summer
And it's time that you were dead,
Each time I've tried to kill you
Is a pleasure I don't dread.

In July I chopped you with a hoe,
Then stood back satisfied.
Against all odds you grew again!
But you are supposed to die.

In the paper was an advert,
FOR SALE. A handy little tool,
It's a wand for burning weeds down,
This really was quite cool.

It burns the weeds down to the roots,
And sterilised the soil
So the weed would die and shrivel up
With hardly any toil.

Self-ignition got it started
And soon the flame was hot.
So I started burning your thick stem,
I gave it all I got,

You sat there very bravely,
You didn't make a sound,
Just a shadow of a tiny smile
As my house burnt to the ground.

John Long