

ST SWITHIN'S NEWS

*News and views for Lower & Upper
Quinton, Admington and Meon Vale*

Harvest 2021



August & September

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and what is happening in your community*

Late news extra – Bishop's visit to Quinton – page 29

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St Swithin's News

Harvest 2021



As we take yet another step away from lockdown towards a ‘new normal’, for some this is going to present new challenges. However we are affected by the return to busy lives again, we can, as the Revd Yvette writes, all benefit from finding stillness after pandemic (page 4).

While our minds have been concentrated on surviving covid the state of the Church tower and spire have been steadily deteriorating, as the **Churchwardens report (page 5)** spells out in fairly stark terms. But as the **history of St Swithin's tower reveals (page 16)** this is not the first time that the spire has been a cause for alarm.

If you are in need of refreshment, thanks to much hard work and cooperation between Quinton and Marston Sicca parish councils, the **community coffee shop at Meon Vale is open (page 6)** and, by all accounts, serving an excellent brew.

While much of the production and distribution of St Swithin's News is carried out by volunteers, the cost of printing still has to be met. It is thanks to the support of Quinton Parish Council and advertisers that this is possible and we are able to include community information and news.

You may notice a few changes to this issue, not least that it is thicker than usual. As well as three pages carrying advertisements by **local businesses and traders (page 20)** we have introduced pages on **cookery (page 23)** and **gardening (page 25)**. Also, with the steady return of activity in the community, a somewhat reduced **Village Diary (page 28)** has been reintroduced. Hopefully it will be expanding to its previous full page of events before too long.

We are looking at other topics that may be of interest, for future inclusion, and we would like to know what you, our readers, would like to see more (or less) of on these pages. Your feedback would be welcome – please e-mail any comments or ideas to the editor.

Cover picture: The floating duck-house on Lower Quinton village pond (page 12)

St Swithin's News (in colour) on the web: www.quintonpc.org.uk/community

Contributions from individuals and organisations in our parish welcomed

Copy deadline for the Autumn issue is Monday 6th September 2021

Contact the editor: nicholas.bond@farming.me.uk or phone 01789 721311

Finding stillness after pandemic

Letter from the Revd Yvette Grundy



Hello there!

I do not know what the situation will be when you read this, but as I write, we are in the process of re-discovering some of the freedoms we have missed due to the recent pandemic, and we are hopeful of the possibility of even further freedom from restrictions on what is being referred to as ‘Freedom Day’ on July 19th. And with increasing freedom comes increasing activity. Life for many is getting busy again.

For some of us who like being busy this may well be a welcome relief. For others it may bring less positive feelings, maybe anxiety, even fear. For some, who have been working throughout the pandemic it may not make a huge difference.

However we are feeling about our changing situation, I would suggest that there is something we can all do that may help us.

The positive benefits of taking time to be still are widely acknowledged. Whether we recognise this as meditation, prayer, resting or something else, we can all benefit from it.

Perhaps we would do well to include ‘being still’ alongside all the other activities we may be doing more of in the days and weeks to come, after all, this is something we can engage with whatever the changing circumstances and however we find ourselves reacting to them.

There is more to a full life than just activity. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to show the fullness of life that comes with the knowledge and experience of God’s love and forgiveness. If we want to know and experience more of this, whether we are looking for respite from the ‘busyness’ of life, or strength and courage to re-engage with it, being still may well be a good place to start.

The writers of the Psalms certainly seem to think so...

‘Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him’ Psalm 37, verse 7

‘Be still and know that I am God’ Psalm 46, verse 10

‘Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him’ Psalm 62, verses 1 & 5

May we, like those who have done so before us, discover the in the stillness what we need to find.

Yvette Grundy (Assistant Curate of Quinton, Welford, Weston and Marston Sicca)

St Swithin's Churchwardens' Report

As many of you will have seen, "Wall Walkers" visited our church to assess the damage to the spire – see page 16. A summary of the report makes for sobering reading.

Most of the corner spires and columns have significant areas of weakness with cracks and pieces of stone breaking away. There are many cracks, open joints, signs of iron cramps breaking up the stone, shattered stone and many water traps.

Bells silenced

Until repairs are able to be carried out unfortunately the bells are unable to be rung. This is a major project with significant financial implications along with repairs needed to the church floor.

May we remind everyone that they must not go behind the fencing at the bottom of the tower for their own safety.

Fundraising

As we get back to normality, fundraising will be so very important. Please look out for details and support us; the preservation of our church is the responsibility of us all. Thanks must go to everyone who already gives freely of their time to look after our church.

200 Club. The winning ticket numbers in the monthly draws for June and July were: June 1st (£30) 99; 2nd (£20) 137; 3rd (£10) 110
July 1st (£30) 122; 2nd (£20) 20; 3rd (£10) 181

The winners have been informed.

Baby and Toddlers group

The Baby and Toddler group needs your help to be able to reopen in September. Many of the helpers have retired which leaves a gap, hopefully, for those who use this service to fill. It is not an arduous task if there are enough on the rota. Please do get in touch for further information; it is only a couple of hours on a Monday morning. The group is free to attend, funded by the church, but this means volunteers are needed.

See diary dates on the back cover for forthcoming services and events

Wishing you all a very happy summer.

***Jane & Judi (Churchwardens)** see page 2 for contact details*

How about - Rather than give Christmas Cards to your friends in the village this year - add your name to a page in St Swithin's News Christmas issue and make a donation to the church. Watch out for details in the autumn issue.



The Pavilion Coffee Shop at Meon Vale is OPEN.

It has taken a huge effort to sort it on the administrative front along with much physical work and magnificent help from very generous companies.

Coffee is sourced locally (e.g. Origin Eden) as are most cakes. There is outside seating under a canopy looking out over the sports field and indoor seating as well. One of the admin issues has been getting broadband but we hope to be able to offer free WiFi in the near future.

It is run by a manager and volunteers with more of those needed to allow the hours to increase. You will be trained on using the coffee machine and the other aspects of running it. To volunteer please contact Steph at marstoneditor@yahoo.com or phone/text her on 07720 975023. Right now the opening times and days are being assessed around demand so please watch out on social media.

This is a community project with the profits funding itself (we have bills to pay!) and community projects we are looking to run.

Vegetation – This annual issue is with us again. Just who has responsibility for the vegetation, hedgerows and trees that border private property and public space?" A Parish Councillor has taken on the role of looking into this.

The new path parallel to the Campden Road quickly became overgrown and is outside the normal area for the Parish Council to deal with. Whilst our County Councillor, Izzie Seccombe, is looking into whether it can be formally adopted as a path for them to maintain, the PC voted to pay to have it cut back.

Defibrillator - We all watched in horror when Danish footballer Christian Eriksen, 29 years old, collapsed on the pitch recently during the European Championships.

Eriksen suffered a cardiac arrest, which is when the heart stops pumping blood, causing someone to lose consciousness and stop breathing. His life was saved by a combination of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a defibrillator (a device that delivers an electric shock to the heart).

Twelve people under the age of 35 die **each week** in the UK due to sudden cardiac arrest.



The defibrillator outside the entrance to Quinton & Admington Village Hall

In Quinton and Meon Vale, we are lucky enough to have three defibrillators - one outside the Medical Centre, one outside Quinton Village Hall and one on the wall to the left of the leisure centre entrance in Meon Vale. Both the Quinton ones are able to treat adults and children via separate pads.

All the defibrillators give voice step by step instructions. Once you call 999, the emergency services will give you the code to access the defibrillator and they will talk you through how to perform CPR.

If everyone could please take the time to look at the following training videos: - <https://www.resus.org.uk/public-resource/how-we-save-lives/lifesaver-learning> - **by being prepared you could save a life!**

Robert Spooner Chair Quinton Parish Council

Parish Council meetings are held in Quinton and Admington Village Hall and are open for members of the public who have the opportunity to ask questions or raise any concerns. The next meetings are scheduled for 7th September, 19th October and 30th November, starting at 7.30pm. Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on the Quinton website – www.quintonpc



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

As we near the end of the school year, we have a lot to reflect on and be thankful for. Although we have had to make many changes to the 'normal' running of things this year, we have seen absolute determination and commitment from all the Quinton family: staff, students and parents alike. This week at school, children have met with their new teachers and teaching assistants and have visited their new classrooms – we have so much to be excited about moving forwards! We will soon be bidding farewell to our current Year 6s and wish them the best of luck in their new schools - many adventures await!



their trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park



School Trips

A few weeks ago, our year 6s spent three days on a residential trip in Kidderminster. We were so happy that this could still go ahead safely despite restrictions. The children had a fantastic time and challenged themselves to take part in activities such as rock climbing, abseiling, rafting and zip wire.

Just last week, our Nursery children visited the Cotswold Wildlife Park where they had the opportunity to get close up to a whole range of animals from giraffes and rhinos to lions and tigers. The penguins also performed brilliantly and were a firm favourite. It's a long day for a four year old and many of them slept for the journey home – bless! They were an absolute asset to the school and it was fantastic that many members of the public commented on their excellent behaviour. Reception class will be visiting next week and we then have lots of extra-curricular experiences planned in for next academic year – our rich and

varied knowledge-based curriculum ensures that all children are completely immersed in their learning. Find out more about this at

From all of us here at Quinton, we wish you the sunniest, loveliest and safest of Summers. See you in the Autumn term when we hope to be able to involve the extended community in our school life again!

Kind regards,

The Quinton Primary School Team.

District Councillor appointed Chairman

Congratulations to Quinton District Councillor, Edward Fitter, on his appointment as Chairman of Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

As his Chairman's charity for the year, Edward has chosen Lifespace, Stratford-upon-Avon, a charity mentoring young people and helping them to achieve more. He will also be supporting the Heart of England Forest to help take care of our woodland and to plant more trees.

Edward said: "I am looking forward to having the opportunity to meet with residents and fundraising for two local charities. I would also like to thank the Rev Jim Edie of St. Swithin's for his guidance as Chaplain for the District Council."

You can follow Cllr Fitter's appointment as Chairman of the District Council via the Instagram account – SDC Chairman.

County Councillor's report

It is now some weeks since the local County Council elections and I am delighted to have been returned to support residents again over the next four years.

As I promised in my election leaflet, we have agreed to create a Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund (WRIF). This is a £140million fund, available over five years, to help businesses recover, and to attract new businesses into the County. It is anticipated that we will be able to protect or create up to 5,000 jobs over that period, which will be so important as we start to move out of lockdown. If you believe this will be helpful to your business, or to someone you know, please do get in touch with me, or enquire through the website at Warwickshire County Council. By building this fund, through our own ability to borrow at beneficial rates, we believe this will give an added advantage to the Warwickshire economy which will in turn help our residents to find secure employment more quickly, and will help to bring new careers to our next generations.

The fund is especially targeted at known sectors, such as automotive technology, digital and creative industries, future mobility and low carbon technologies.

The Green Shoots fund has been a huge success and was oversubscribed with the number of interesting schemes that put in for funding. Meon Vale was one of these and I am hopeful that their bid, which will enable the planting and rewilding of identified area, is successful.

County Cllr Izzi Seccombe

Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

Thank you to those who provided comments on the draft Plan and attended our open day on 12th June. We also received some valuable input from Severn Trent Water and Historic England which will help to strengthen our proposals on flood protection, water management and the preservation of local archaeology.

All input will be considered before the Parish Council is asked to agree a final draft which will then be forwarded to Stratford District Council. They will then co-ordinate the remaining consultation, review and approval processes before Quinton residents are asked to vote on the Plan in a local referendum. We hope this will take place before the end of the year.

Please visit our webpage for further information: www.quinton-plan.org

Paul Milliken, Parish Councillor

Village Voices



Sitting and singing comfortably by the oak tree on Upper Quinton Green

Unable to meet during lockdown, members of Village Voices were quick to take advantage of the easing of regulations in June, gathering to sing outdoors.

The first few weekly meetings were held on the village green at Upper Quinton, then more recently on the playing field by Quinton Village Hall, to where they hope to be returning before too long to singing indoors once again.

Following their summer break in August they will be reassessing the situation in September.

New voices are always welcome. Anyone who would like to join them should watch this space in the next issue of *St Swithin's News*.



We Farm, We Butcher, We Cook, You Enjoy

THE CAFE

Whether you're catching up with friends for coffee and cake or bringing the whole family together for breakfast or lunch, our café is the ideal place to sit down, relax and fill up on some delicious, cooked to order food.

Everything is made on-site using local, fresh ingredients that we also sell in the farm shop.



Opening Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 9.00am – 4.00pm

Saturday, 8.30am – 4.00pm

Breakfast is served from opening time until 12:00pm

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Hot Drink with this coupon

Valid until 30th September

Desirable six-entrance floating residence added to the Village pond

A new floating duck-house has been launched on the Lower Quinton village pond. Kindly donated by Axel Lord, who lives adjacent to the pond and has also provided most of the ducks over recent years, it was designed and manufactured by his company, All Sofas Ltd, at their factory at nearby Goldicote Business Park.

Quinton Parish Councillor Andy Smith, who helped launch the duck-house, explained: “I recently started investigating pond improvements and suppliers and contractors are being asked to tender proposals to enhance the pond. I approached Axel, who shares the parish council’s enthusiasm for enhancing the pond, and the duck-house is the first of several planned improvements.”

The launch



*The hinged roof goes on!
Andy Smith (left) passes a heavy wood screw to Alex (kneeling, who designed and built the duck-house) while his All Sofas colleagues Jaap, Nick and Axel help by providing witty commentary, and by later consuming bacon butties provided by Axel’s wife Anna*

Axel Lord (towing the new duck-house into place, with his colleague Jaap having a ride to test its buoyancy!





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Meon Vale

Residents' Association Update

Keep your fingers crossed – we have applied for some grants to support activities in our village. The Residents' Association is working with Meon Vale Leisure Centre and with support from Warwickshire CAVA for funding taster sessions for sporting activities, including table tennis, badminton and walking football.

The aim is to make activities more accessible to a wider range of residents and to help improve health and wellbeing. We have also applied for Green Shoots funding from Warwickshire County Council for community initiatives to improve sustainability and our environment.

If you have ideas or suggestions for community initiatives for Meon Vale, do please get in touch. We would love to hear your thoughts. Even better, if you have time to spare to help support new initiatives and community activities. We need more helpers and committee members too.

We are also making plans for two summer events in the village – Meon Fun Fest on 14th August and a BBQ on 30th August.

Please register to join our mailing list via <http://eepurl.com/hrl34T> to keep up-to-date with news and relevant information and if you are a resident, please do join the Association to show support for what we do.

Children's events

Future events in Meon Vale with provisional dates include:

Children's Hallowe'en Disco - 29th October

Hot Chocolate and Treats outside Londis – 31st October

Father Christmas Visit – 11th December

Look out for posters and Facebook information on the above.

Your feedback wanted

Please tell us what you like or dislike about St Swithin's News

What would you like to see more or less of – how can we make it more interesting for our readers?

Please e-mail any comments to the editor – nicholas.bond@farming.me.uk

Nosh and Natter Group

Luncheons, Trips4U, Meon Tea & Chatter; 3M's Café + **NEW Nosh on Wheels**

Hello everyone and hope that you are adjusting to the new circumstances and keeping safe.

Following Government announcements and the gradual easing of Covid-19, we are hoping that if everything goes to plan our **lunches will be back on Wednesday 21st July** (see advertisement below). The lunch dates for the next two months are **11th August and 8th September**.

Trips4U

Day Trips for 2021

Weston-super-Mare A favourite day out and this year will include afternoon Tea on the way home
Monday 6th September Cost £25 per person, a minimum number of 12 is required for this day trip.

Hereford day out for Festive

Shopping: Including an early festive lunch on **Monday 15th November**
Cost £35 per person, a minimum of 12 is required for this day trip.

Both day trips will depart from Lower Quinton

Turkey Tinsel Holiday – Potters

Resort – Hopton on Sea Norfolk
5th – 9th December This holiday is now closed - bookings so far have been confirmed but the resort is now full.

Nosh on Wheels is still going ahead. The team of volunteers and Isobel Slatter want to thank everyone for all the messages of gratitude and praise.

We will continue offering this service alongside our luncheons for those of you who would still like to have the meals delivered.



The advertisement graphic features a blue background with a white banner at the top containing the text 'Nosh & Natter' in red and blue. To the right of the banner is a small illustration of a person in a wheelchair. Below the banner, the text 'Nosh On Wheels' is written in a blue, curved font. The main text of the advertisement is in red and black, starting with 'BACK AGAIN!' in large red letters, followed by 'Starting Wednesday 21st July at Long Marston Village Hall'. A list of details follows, including 'LUNCHEONS: for Over 50's', 'DISABLED: people welcome', 'STARTS: 11.30am with welcome hot drink', '2-COURSE: Lunch with cold drink', 'COST: £10.00 – in advance', 'RAFFLE TICKET: included', and 'FINISH: 2.00pm with another hot drink'. Below this list, it states 'We will comply with all COVID 19 Regulations ensuring attendees safety'. At the bottom, there is a small illustration of a wheelchair and the text 'Nosh On Wheels available for those who would still prefer to have meals delivered £8.00', along with a mobile phone icon and the phone number '07771 708 151'.

For more details on the above please contact Barbara 07771708151

Surmounting St Swithin's Spire

If you were passing St Swithin's Church on a couple of days in early June you could be forgiven for thinking it had become the location for the next Spiderman film.

Scaling the tower and the spire to carry out a structural survey, with the aid of just ropes, was a highly-skilled team of historic buildings conservationists, *Wall Walkers*. Similar work has been carried out on a number of occasions in the past, but not without the aid of scaffolding and ladders to reach the top of the 127 foot spire.

A queen among steeples

Described in a 1920s guide to the area as being a "*beautifully proportioned tower and spire a very queen among the steeples of the rich Vale of Evesham*", the tower dates back to the 14th century, when work on its base began. However, building work was halted for some considerable time due, it is believed, to a lack of funds. As a result it was built with two different types of stone, with that for the base possibly having been extracted from local quarries on Meon Hill. Work was resumed in the 15th century when the spire was also added.



A history of major repairs

Over the years the spire has suffered a considerable amount of damage, some believed to have been caused by a lightning strike in the 18th century and some by industrial pollution in the early 20th century. Church records show that the tower and spire have undergone major repairs on at least five occasions

In 1711 an agreement between Richard Gisbourne and William Underhill (churchwardens) and Thomas Woodward, Mason of Chipping Campden, for work to be undertaken on the Church, includes the following: “*The first day of May ... to pull and take down or make to be pulled down the top of the spire or steeple of the Parish Church of Quinton aforesaid to the length of five yards of wood required and shall and with well and substantially new parts rebuild the said spire or steeple according to the present Modell and fforme thereof*”

The same Thomas Woodward also carried out a considerable amount of work on the church roof and the tower some years later, in 1738/39, when according to a copy of the memorandum of agreement, stones from the tower had fallen through the roof of the North Aisle.

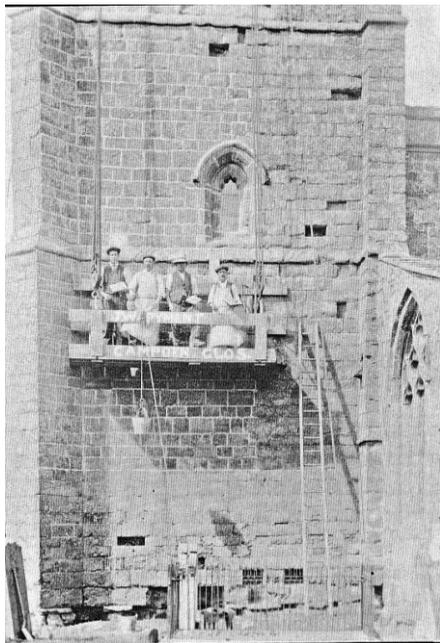
An entry in the Church Register (according to John Hughes to whom there is a memorial stone in the Church) states: “*The top of Quinton Church spire was took down and with fast works built again in 1793 On the bar of the weather cock was a piece of lead and on this lead was this: ‘This spire was repaired in 1712 by T. Woodward and under it was ‘Hon. Brighton Howard, Earl of County, Sep 22 1712’. The lead was put on the bar again with this: ‘that this spire was repaired in 1793’*”.

Spire in a dangerous condition

More recently, in 1906, at the Easter Vestry Meeting, the Vicar reported that steps had been taken to make the tower and spire safe. That the work of taking down 14 feet of the spire and re-building it had been undertaken by Messrs. Furze & Co. of Nottingham and that the pinnacle and the louvres of the bells had also been made safe.

Five years later, in 1911, major restoration work was undertaken out on the base of the tower by J W Pyments of Chipping Campden.

In 1952, “after an inspection of the tower by an expert”, the PCC was informed that the church spire was rapidly crumbling and that the spire was in a dangerous condition, due to fumes in the atmosphere from foundries in South Wales which were setting up an effervescence in the limestone. This resulted in major restoration work. Lydia Stowe remembers, as a young girl, being smaller than the weather cock,



Restoration work being carried out by Pyments of Chipping Campden in 1911

... which had been removed and stored by the lychgate.

Work was also carried out in 1972 and, in 1979 the vicar, the Revd Cecil Alway, was pictured in the *Stratford-upon-Avon Herald* inspecting restoration work on the tower with a stonemason, known only as “Bill”. During the restoration at that time, the paper reported that “*the pinnacles and other ornamental features were made to look like new again*”.

Since then weather and pollution have taken their toll (*see page 5*) and it will take time and considerable expense to make the tower safe again and restore it to its former glory.



Our thanks to Richard Ledwidge for the historical information which he researched for his history of The Parish Church of St Swithin, Quinton

SUDUKO challenge

Sudoku can be a fun way of filling in those odd moments to keep your brain active while you are waiting for something to happen!

If you have never tried it, all you have to do is fill each box and each line (vertical and horizontal) with the numbers 1 to 9 with each number appearing only once in each box or line.

Solution on page 24

			2	4		6		
9								3
1					3		4	5
5	6			7		1		
		4	8		5	9		
		1		6			5	2
6	9		5					1
4								9
		8		9	6			

Quinton House

NURSING HOME



Step inside Quinton House Nursing Home and Quinton Gardens Specialist Dementia Unit and you will know you've arrived somewhere special. Over the years, we have given each resident a home from home family life.

Quinton House is a family-owned home and has been for over 20 years. This continuity coupled to our team's dedication enables us to deliver even more impressive levels of compassionate care: the best Warwickshire has to offer, recently been awarded the GOLD STANDARD FRAMEWORK for compassion and care for end of life.

At Quinton House, we are passionate about what we do and how we care for the older people we work with. We understand the value of maintaining our residents independence and that privacy and choice. Our dedicated and highly trained staff knows that no 2 people are not the same. We are committed to providing all of our residents, with exactly the level of care and support, where and when is required.



Top 20 Small Care Home Groups 2020

We are pleased to announce that we have won this award for the second consecutive year and we couldn't be any happier. Our staff have worked hard over the year to not only make a difference to our residents but, to also assure families that they loved ones are in safe hands. The carehome.co.uk Group Award 2020 highlights the most recommended Care Home Groups in the UK. The Awards are based on over 120,000 reviews from care home residents as well as their friends and family

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'Which' magazine Trusted Trader

Home cooking

By popular request St Swithin's News is introducing a cookery page with a seasonable recipe from "*Quinton's Foodlover*".

In anticipation of the hot weather we are looking forward to in August, *Foodlover's* first recipe is for a refreshing summer favourite.

RASPBERRY ICE-CREAM

Serves 4 – 6

INGREDIENTS

200g raspberries, fresh or frozen

25g caster sugar

350ml double cream

200ml condensed milk

Lemon juice



METHOD

1. Put raspberries and sugar into a small saucepan. Cook over a low heat until the sugar is dissolved and the fruit has broken down into a liquid.
2. Transfer the mixture to a bowl and put in the fridge until it is completely cold – at least 2 hours.
3. Using an electric whisk whip the cream until it forms stiff peaks.
4. Fold the condensed milk into the double cream. Keep as much air as you can in the cream while you fold in the condensed milk. Keep going until fully amalgamated.
5. Add lemon juice to taste; it should give enough sharpness to balance the sweetness.
6. Repeat this process with the fruit mixture, folding it into the cream mixture whilst keeping as much of the air in the cream as possible.
7. Transfer the mix to a freezer-friendly container. Check after 5-6 hours when it should be ready to serve.
8. Once the ice-cream is frozen it will keep for 2 weeks. Remember to transfer it to the fridge at least one hour before serving to allow it to soften.
9. Enjoy!

Admington Hall Garden's open day



The extensive and beautifully designed gardens at Admington Hall were open to the public on 26th June as one of the National Garden Scheme open gardens for charity. Some 250 visitors enjoyed the diverse formal, kitchen and wild meadow gardens, as well as the lake and woodland walks.

The day raised more than £2,500 for various charities. If you missed it this time there should hopefully be a chance to enjoy it next June.

Introducing the gardening page

As the number of properties in the parish continues to increase so do the number of gardeners, many discovering the joys of growing their own for the first time.

To help both those who already have green fingers and those are new to the to the delights and frustrations of gardening, *St Swithin's News* is introducing a regular gardening page with hints and reminders of what to do when.

Compiled by Wendy Smith, the first one appears opposite and includes seasonal tips for August and September as well as some ideas when it comes to future planning.

Suduko solution – see page18

8	5	3	2	4	1	6	9	7
9	4	2	6	5	7	8	1	3
1	7	6	9	8	3	2	4	5
5	6	9	4	7	2	1	3	8
2	3	4	8	1	5	9	7	6
7	8	1	3	6	9	4	5	2
6	9	7	5	2	4	3	8	1
4	2	5	1	3	8	7	6	9
3	1	8	7	9	6	5	2	4

Quinton gardening enthusiasts

As an enthusiastic gardener I was asked to contribute an article dedicated to gardening. I hasten to add, I am by no means an expert! However, I really do like the idea of sharing information and tips between enthusiastic gardeners such as myself, so here goes.

I have a very small (but 'bijou', I think!) garden in Lower Quinton that I endeavour to make as attractive and interesting as I can. I'm always on the lookout for plants and low-cost ideas to keep the garden looking welcoming through the seasons. The pandemic, with its lockdowns and the challenges it brought to so many, has shown the importance of being outdoors and in our gardens, so now is a great time to share this interest with each other.

The months of August and September are when we hope to be sitting in the sunshine admiring the beauty of the plants we have nurtured, and harvesting our fruit and vegetables. Of course, there are always jobs to be done too, and here are a few I would suggest if you haven't already done them:

- * **Deadhead flowers** as soon as they have gone over, so they will keep producing more flowers. Pick sweet peas for flower arranging every week to encourage more flowering.
- * **Cut lavender** and other herbs for drying - hang them somewhere warm and dry.
- * **Feed your garden** regularly, especially hanging baskets and tubs.
- * **Vegetable growers-keep sowing** salad crops to give you a supply in autumn.
- * **Save seeds** from perennial plants to use next year, storing them in paper bags or envelopes.

Importantly, this month is a really good time to take a good long look at your garden space while it is in full bloom. Observe what has grown well and not so well, and why this might be. Have plants grown as hoped? Would it be a good idea to move them to a better position next year? Consider planting you might like to do for autumn, such as autumn flowering bulbs, and winter colour. Allow yourself time to think about changes you might like to make next year, and make a few notes as a reminder. Over the last few years I have made small changes the following year, to see plants thrive, and get closer to having the garden I imagined at the very start.

Looking forward to future articles, if any keen gardeners have tips and ideas to share, I'd love to hear from you by email (smith.wa@yahoo.com).

Let's hope the weather will be kind for the rest of the summer so we can really enjoy the fruits of our labours. *Happy gardening!*

Opposite the school ...

... were cottages standing sideways-on to the road, with another cottage opposite to them. The row of cottages is still there. In one lived Bob Hughes. As a child, I thought he looked just like Father Christmas, lacking only a beard. He had twinkling eyes and rosy, rounded cheeks and was always smiling. Mrs Sanders lived in another, never seen without her wrap-around apron.

In another, larger house, opposite to the main school gates at the entrance to Back Lane, lived Miss Elsie Higgins, a friend of my mother's. In her garden was a small dovecote and when we visited, Miss Higgins sometimes gave us fresh dove eggs.

Whenever a fete was held, my mother made a fancy dress outfit for me, always something pretty. On one occasion, when I was about eight, Miss Higgins lent me a beautiful, delicately patterned lilac-coloured calf-length dress with an old-fashioned bonnet to match. I carried a basketful of little bunches of lavender, tied with ribbon. After the fancy dress competition, I sold the lavender at a few pence per bunch.

Moving on up the main street, just past the school, there had been a tiny cottage. I have no memory of it, but have seen pictures on old postcards. I ...

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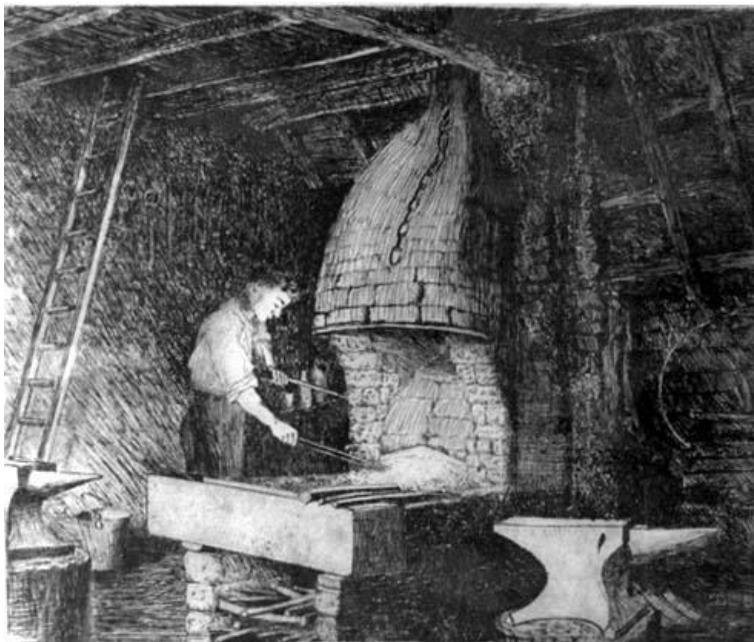
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... wonder whether it was still standing in my childhood? Situated next to this was one of the village taps. A larger house next door housed Mr and Miss Bedford and their niece, Mary. Beyond this stood 'Sunnyside' and between this and the College Arms still runs a narrow alley, leading through to Back Lane.

My grandfather, Will Gilks, was a blacksmith and farrier. His original forge, when the family moved from Oxhill, was in the attractive stone building by the church gate. At the time of which I write, his Smithy was a square brick building



Will Gilks working at his forge from an original etching dating from the early 1900s .

just to the right of the alley, in Back Lane. On the ground in front of this lay several large, roughly square cast-iron 'patterns'. Each had strange shapes all along each outside edge and holes of different shapes and sizes in the middle. I don't recall seeing these used, but often watched horses being shod with shoes forged by my grandfather.

Alongside the forge were open cart hovels belonging to Mr Higgins' farm. Next to these was a tiny brick built shed, only a few feet deep and just wide enough for one chair. A man of many talents, Will Gilks cut the local male population's hair in this tiny space. Short back and sides being the only choice! Later on a man called Dan came weekly in his little caravan and parked near Higgins' big barn. He carried on the tradition of local haircuts - 'One size fits all'!

Marguerite

VILLAGE DIARY

August

- 8th Holy Communion, St Swithin's Church, 10.30am
- 11th Nosh & Natter Lunch (see page 15)
- 14th Meon Fun Fest (see page 14)
- 22nd Family Communion, St Swithin's Church, 10.30am
- 29th United Benefice Service at Welford, 10.30am
- 30th Meon Vale BBQ (see page 14)

September

- 5th Breakfast Service for all the family (tbc), St Swithin's Church, 10.30am
- 6th Trips4U, visit to Weston-super-Mare (see page 15)
- 7th Quinton Parish Council Meeting, Quinton Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8th Nosh & Natter Lunch (see page 15)
- 12th Holy Communion, St Swithin's Church, 10.30am
- 26th Harvest Festival Service, St Swithin's Church, 10.30am

October

- 1st Harvest Supper, Quinton Village Hall (Two-course hot meal, bar, entertainment £10 per ticket. Get your friends together for tables of 8. Tickets available shortly)

Future dates for your diary

- November 19th Christmas Pudding Party
- December 4th Christmas Craft Fair
- December 11th & 12th Christmas Tree Festival

To include a date send to e-mail: nicholas.bond@farming.me.uk, or phone 721311

Exciting News for Toddlers and their parents

St Swithin's Baby and Toddler Group will be resuming in September, in Quinton & Admington Village Hall on Monday mornings, with the start date and time of the first session to be confirmed.

Watch out for announcements on Facebook and village notice boards

Volunteers are needed to help - anyone free on a Monday morning (not necessarily every week) would be very welcome. For details please contact Clara Byrd on 01789 721018.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again and especially to meeting the "lockdown babies".

St Swithin's News Extra

(since the Harvest issue went to press)

On Sunday 25th July the Bishop of Gloucester, The Right Revd Rachel Treweek, celebrated communion in St Swithin's Church.



Bishop Rachel with Revd Ros in St Swithin's and greeting members of the congregation after the service



The Bishop also met District Council Chairman Edward Fitter, Chairman's Consort Laura Harcourt and the Council Chaplain Revd Jim Edie before joined a



picnic on the playing field with parishioners from all four Avonvale Churches, where



they were entertained to a lively performance by Villages Voices; enjoyed tea and



home-made cakes (organised by Jane Spooner and her helpers); and games - before the afternoon was rounded with an impromptu 1960s folk songs sing-along!



*Bishop Rachel (centre)
with the benefice
clergy (from left) –
Andrew Goy;
Ros Greenhalgh;
Jim Edie;
Yvette Grundy*



Update from Revd Ros

Thankyou - to everyone who made Bishop Rachel's visit such a wonderful event. It was great to see around 90 people in church and singing for the first time in 16 months! The picnic afterwards was a lovely time of fellowship and fun for all. Bishop Rachel rang me in the evening to thank us for welcoming her so warmly and to say what a fantastic day she had. So well done everyone!

Lifting of Legal restrictions - You no longer have to book for services but if you require a 'COVID secure seat,' i.e. one that maintains social distancing of 2m and the wearing of face coverings, please contact Ros on revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com or 01789 751546.

Everyone else is encouraged to be aware of others personal space, wear a face covering when moving around the church (including coming forward to take communion) and when singing.

August Church Services

Sunday 1 st August	9am	Holy Communion at Long Marston
	10.30am	Family Communion at Welford
Sunday 8 th August	9am	Holy Communion at Weston (BCP)
	10.30am	Holy Communion at Quinton
	10.30am	Prayer and share to prepare for Contemporary service at Welford
Sunday 15 th August	9am	Holy Communion at Welford
	10.30am	Breakfast and Pet Service at Long Marston
Sunday 22 nd August	9am	Holy Communion at Weston (BCP)
	10.30am	Family Communion at Quinton
Sunday 29 th August	10.30am	United Service for all churches at Welford

Zoom Morning Prayer - do join us for Morning Prayer on zoom at 9.10am to 9.30am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It is a great way to start the day. We read a passage of scripture together followed by prayers including a time for open prayer. Following Morning Prayer on Wednesday at 9.30am we share coffee and chat.

Login details and further information about zoom events are available from Ros on revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com or 01789 751546.



Opportunities for Basses, Baritones and Tenors

Over twenty Meon Singers continued Zoom rehearsals between January and Easter. Whilst not the same as normal choir rehearsals, electronics and the enthusiasm of our Music Director Rebecca Mills have kept us going. When Covid relaxations allowed we held a really enjoyable outdoor social event in late June (thanks so much to the vineyard committee for providing us with a very necessary marquee!) when our Zoom images returned to life-size. Since then, and thanks to St Lawrence's church and the weather, we have held three outdoor rehearsals in the churchyard and it's great that we have attracted new members and new singers wanting to try us out.

We wait now in July with thousands of other singers nationwide to hear how indoor rehearsals are to be treated after further relaxation of Covid rules but we're still unsure whether these can be without masks. Nevertheless we are planning to restart live rehearsals at the start of September somehow and will announce details both on our website and locally as soon as we know them.

Meanwhile we have a relative surfeit of sopranos and altos versus tenors, baritones and basses and so we would like to invite anyone who ventures routinely below middle C to think about sampling a rehearsal or three then with a really friendly group of amateur singers. There are no auditions and no commitments. Come and listen, stand within the choir, or stand within and sing, it doesn't matter. You'd receive a warm welcome.

So if you fit our target group, our website - www.meonsingers.co.uk - will give you an idea of the kind of group we are, what we do and how much we enjoy doing it. You will also find contact details there for our Chairman, Jonathan Collins. Please contact him and we'll see you in September.