

CHRONICLE SMALL ADS £5 per small ad

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HILLTOP GARDEN CENTRE, Witney Road, Ramsden. Time to get your hanging baskets and planted tubs out!

The Charlbury Police Office at the Spendlove Centre will now be open at the following times :-

Mondays 12 noon - 3:00pm
Wednesdays 12 noon - 3:00pm
Fridays 9am - 12 noon

New volunteers are needed, please call into the office for details. Thank you.

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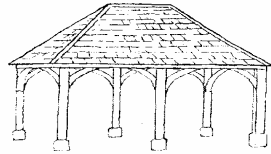
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The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 9 Number 2

June 2005

Over the nearly nine years of its life the *Chronicle's* editorials have often carried pleas for help from a host of different clubs and societies — and this issue is going to be no different. One of Charlbury's strengths is its remarkable diversity of interests. It is a matter of concern that fewer and fewer people are coming forward to offer to take an active part in the running of our various clubs and societies. Several important groups are facing closure for lack of a leader. As we know we have already lost our Women's Institute, our Red Cross group and others. There will be no Arts Festival this year, for example (although happily the Riverside Festival will continue). It is understandable that most of the work is done by the retired brigade, as they have the time to devote to these things. It is worrying, however, that there are not more people interested in becoming involved. A solution to this dilemma might be for people to offer to become officers of clubs for only a specified period. This might get over the problem of chairmen, secretaries, treasurers and others serving for year upon year because no one will offer to take over. If someone knew they would only be taking a position for a year, or two at the most, they might think seriously about offering to help out.

The Thomas Gifford Charity is still asking for volunteers to serve as Trustees to take the Charity forward during the important years that lie ahead, when we shall hope to see a fine new Community Centre finally come into being.

The environment is a matter of great concern these days, and we are glad to have an article from a new young contributor on page 26 and an article submitted by the local Waste Action Group on page 27. There is also a report on page 13 of a recent visit to Dix Pit by some CPRE members. Together these articles should certainly raise our awareness of this increasingly important issue.

Please note that the deadline for copy for the September *Charlbury Chronicle* is August 5th. We are always glad to receive contributions - just ring the editor on 810549 for a chat.

Lynette Murphy

NEWSBYTES

OPENING OF CHARLBURY FREESTYLE AREA The skateboard park was officially opened by Nick Potter, Chairman of the Town Council, on April 9th at 11 am. A good crowd watched the thrilling display by Team SS20 but gradually local youngsters also began to show their prowess. Some had come from as far away as Oxford and were very proficient. The older generations enjoyed watching the fun but were not tempted to give it a try.

CHARLBURY'S ANSWER TO FAME ACADEMY!

The Talent Night is back – by popular request. Last year's hit event was so popular that both performers and audience have been clammering for more. Charlbury's leading impresario, Alison Pritchard, is once again on the look out for all the town's undiscovered stars to give them their 5 minutes of fame. The Memorial Hall is booked for the first weekend in October, chef Gary Walsh is dreaming up another delicious menu, and the compere, lighting and stage hands have all been primed. So all we need is the talent – if you have a secret penchant for playing the spoons, fire eating or have been busy fine tuning that side-splitting comedy sketch or showstopping dance routine, contact Alison on 810533.

NEW CINEMA CLUB

Charlbury's Own Cinema (ChOC) opened in May with a showing of 'Ladies in Lavender'.

NEXT FARMERS MARKET June 11th, Playing Close, 9-1pm

ELECTION RESULTS

At the General Election on May 5th 2005 the sitting MP for the Witney constituency was re-elected with an increased majority as follows:

David Cameron (Con) 26, 571; Liz Leffman (Lib/Dem) 12,415; Tony Gray (Lab) 11,845; R D-Davies (Green) 1,682; Paul Wesson (UKIP) 1,356

Electorate: 78,053; Turnout 69.2%

At the same time there was an election for an Oxfordshire County Councillor for Charlbury with the following results: Sue Haffenden (Con) 2022; Brian Hodgson (Lab) 1760; Gordon Cutting (L/D) 1136; Lilia Patterson (Green) 287

CHARLBURY GARDENS OPENED FOR THE NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

The gardens at The Priory, Heathfield (Browns Lane), 11 Lees Heights and Lydbrook (Crawborough), were open for the NGS on Sunday June 19th.

BOUNDARIES & BLUEBELLS The custom of 'Beating the Bounds', to ensure that everyone knew the limits of their parish, evolved from the early Christian practice of blessing the crops. In modern times, however it has become an excuse to enjoy a walk in the countryside, partly in places normally 'off limits'. In Charlbury we hold the annual walk on Rogation Sunday, true to the tradition that the crops were blessed on one of the 'Rogation Days' preceding Ascension Day.

This year Rogation Sunday fell on a Bank Holiday weekend, which usually means a lower turnout. Nevertheless, a party of 18 walkers started from the old oak and increased to 22 at North Lodge. Overnight thunderstorms had, mercifully, cleared well before our 10.00 am start and, we enjoyed a fine day walking in warm sunshine. There was the usual warm welcome at Ditchley Model Farm where Robert and Maxine provided tea, coffee or cool water to wash down our packed lunches. Then a refreshed and slightly reduced number safely negotiated the awkward second part of the route to arrive back in Charlbury 'in time for tea'.

Tony Graeme

CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT – No. 35

The Charlbury Skateboard Park: This wheeled sports facility at Ticknell Piece was officially opened on 9 April. The event was attended by about 50 people and the Town Council held a small reception in the Bowls Club Clubhouse to thank all those who had been involved in bringing this project to fruition, particularly those who provided grants, including the District Council and WREN.

Thomas Gifford Charity: The Town Council held a public meeting on 8th April at the request of the trustees who wanted to provide an update to Charlbury residents on the proposed community centre and other matters concerning the Charity. About 100 people attended.

Annual Parish Meeting: This meeting took place on 22nd April. It is a requirement under the Local Government Act and is an opportunity for residents to raise issues with the Council. The meeting was attended by 44 people who raised a variety of questions. The Town Council would like to encourage a larger audience at this annual meeting, especially more younger people.

Best Kept Village Competition: The Council has decided not to enter the Town this year. The competition makes a lot of work for the clerk for very little return. Ideally the Council would like to see a group of residents take a lead in this matter and it will be kept under review with the intention of entering in 2006.

Home Zones: By the time this report is published work should have started on the Home Zone at Sturt and Hughes Closes.

Riverside Festival: The Town Council has made the Mill Field available for the Riverside Festival on 18 and 19 June free of charge. The Council also supports the festival with a grant. A Public Entertainments Licence has been granted by the District Council.

Overhanging Branches: As branches and other vegetation grow at this time of the year, please cut back where they create obstructions to pavements and other rights of way. It can be dangerous particularly for the elderly to be forced on to the road.

Rights of Way: Residents with gates opening on to Oxpens Allotments and Nine Acres Recreation Ground are reminded that this does not create a right of way.

Traffic: The Town Council continues to press the relevant County Council officers for a comprehensive set of measures to assist with traffic problems in the Town. A flashing speed limit indicator is being tested on the Slade in the next few weeks. It is also anticipated that a priority system will be introduced on a trial basis at the top of Park Street.

Town Clerk: Residents are reminded that the official contact for the Town Council is the Town Clerk, Roger Clarke, at 9, Hill Close, Charlbury, Oxfordshire OX7 3SY – telephone 01608 810608. There is no guarantee that letters dumped on the Corner House table will ever reach the Town Council!

Councillor Trevor Jones

On Fridays in term time, between 9 and 11 there is Family Friday, a limited numbers drop-in (booking necessary) which is usually a quieter session. The toy library is open from 11.30 to 2.30 on Fridays with toys to borrow for the under-5s.

In addition to the family drop-in sessions there are two groups run by parents on Tuesday afternoons in term time. From 1-2.30 there is 'first friends', a quiet group for babies from 0 to 2 years with treasure baskets, a weekly theme and some singing. From 2.30-4.00 is 'second friends', a group for toddlers, with room to explore and ride. On Saturday mornings, 10.30 -12.30 there is a Dad's Group for Dads and their children and a 'younger parents' group from 1-2.30 on Wednesdays. The family centre also run courses with a crèche. During June and July they are hosting a free five-week course on healthy cookery for the family tutored by Liz Jones. The course will be on Thursday afternoons from 1-2.30 starting on the 9th June and a free crèche will be available. Book a place by phoning 01608 644440 and asking to speak to Amy or Alison.

ANYONE FOR A TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

The ever popular pram-service Teddy Bear's Picnic takes place on the 20th July at 10.15. The Teddy Bear's Picnic is the culmination of the summer term's pram services – ecumenical stories, craft activities and singing with a biblical theme – that take place in St.Mary's church at 10.15 on alternate Wednesdays during term time. Dates for the rest of the summer term are 8th and 22nd of June and the 6th of July. All under fives and their are welcome.

New Totbits Editor

Finally, Good Luck — and many thanks - to the new Totbits editor, Kat Patrick, who has volunteered to take over Totbits from the September 2005 edition. Kat can be contacted on 811660.

The Editor would like to thank Alison very much for running the Totbits feature since March 2003.

AGE CONCERN OXFORDSHIRE

Age Concern Oxfordshire is looking for new volunteers and clients for its expanding befriending service. The befriending service reaches out to frail, isolated, housebound and lonely older people. This is covered in two ways. Firstly, through our Phone Link Service in which volunteers telephone older people on a regular basis between 2 - 4pm to have a chat. Secondly, through Personal Home Visits where volunteers provide both practical and emotional support.

If you know of an older person who may benefit from this service or if you are interested in volunteering for this service, please contact Laura Rowbotham: 0123 or email her: laurarowbotham@ageconcernoxon.org.uk

FRIDAY MORNINGS AT THE CORNER HOUSE - make sure you support the Friday Morning Coffee Shop at the Corner House. It is vital as a means of raising funds for the Corner House. Open every Friday 10 to 12 noon.

A more recent Charlbury Society 'tradition' is a 'Bluebell Walk' on the Mayday Bank Holiday. A gentle stroll compared with the 11 miles of the Parish Boundary, this walk visits Singe Wood, near Hailey, by kind permission of the owner, John Payne. In the past three years he has also led us through the wood and related a little of its history. Although there were less bluebells this year, colour was as good as ever, they still made an impressive display and we were fortunate to complete the walk with bright sunshine filtering through the trees.

Tony Graeme

Charlbury Horticultural Society — Best Kept Garden Competition

This year's judging took place in early May. The judges looked for gardens which were well cared for, usually colourful ones or with colour developing and with good lay-out.

A Large Gardens - Blandford Cup

1st The Priory, Church Lane; 2nd 16 Nineacres Close; 3rd Millbank, Dyers Hill

B Medium Gardens - Horticultural Society Trophy

1st Old Manor House, Church Street ; 2nd 1 Browns Lane; 3rd 6 Wychwood Paddocks

C Small Gardens - Chairman's Vase

1st 5 Ticknell Piece; 2nd 6 Hone Court - wall border; 3rd Stone Cottage, Pooles Lane

D Individual Tub/Basket/Window Box

1st Sunnyside Church St (mixed selection); 2nd 18 Sturt Road - yellow rhododendron
3rd 24 Jeffersons Piece - pansies

Congratulations to all our winners!

Prizes will be presented after the **Autumn Flower Show** in the Memorial Hall on September 3rd at 4.15 pm

John Moore, Oz Shayler, Julia Fletcher

CORNBURY FESTIVAL UPDATE

Plans are well advanced for this year's fashion festival with its star-studded line-up of Joe Cocker, Elvis Costello, Steve Harley, Amy Winehouse, Bonnie Tyler, Humphrey Lyttleton, Lucie Silvas, and the Ukelele Orchestra of Great Britain. Cornbury will be Joe Cocker's first UK festival appearance in over 20 years and Bonnie Tyler's first for over 15. Newcomers Amy Winehouse and Lucie Silvas will represent the under 30's, Steve Harley will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of 'Come Up And See Me & Make Me Smile' and Radio 2 and 4 favourite Humphrey Lyttleton will be showing the younger ones how it's done at 84!

(See The Charlbury Chronicle and the information)Charlbury website for more

CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2005

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS 'CARNIVAL'

OPEN GARDENS – Sunday 5th June from 2pm to 6pm - Charlbury Open Gardens including **Art in the Garden**. Tickets and route map on sale at the Corner House from 1.30 pm on the day. This is the 7th annual Open Gardens Day. At the time of writing we have 9 gardens open but a couple of others are still thinking about it! There are at least 4 new gardens to see and although some are slightly out of the centre of town there is easy parking for those who prefer not to walk the full circuit. We are also including **Art in the Garden** this year and will have displays by local artists, be able to watch an artist at work, and Charlbury Primary School children are busy making scarecrows which will be in several gardens or on route. There is a small maze for the children (and adults) to wander round, and as usual there will be a plant stall and teas at the Memorial Hall. (Any offers of cakes for the teas would be greatly appreciated). Tickets are £3 for entry to all the gardens. For more information please contact Pat Court 811031 or email pat.court@tesco.net

BEARS ON TOUR - Sam has been to Rhodes, Rome, San Francisco, Fuerteventura (it rained!) and has just come back from Mexico and the Panama Canal. In May Sam was going to Germany and then to Scotland for a Lotus Rally. One of the bears will be going to Spain in June but there are lots of dates to fill. Charlie has been to Canada (where he met another charity bear), Australia and is in America at the moment and his latest postcard says he has "done Las Vegas". Flossie has only been on one trip so far and that was a mini cruise to France and Guernsey – she needs to go on more holidays to catch up with her well travelled friends! If you can take Charlie, Sam or Flossie away for a day or longer please get in touch with Pat Court 811031 or email pat.court@tesco.net. See how far they have travelled at Street Fair on the 17th September.

CRICKET TICKET RAFFLE - We have been given 4 tickets to watch Warwickshire play at Edgbaston in any of the Totesport league matches. All monies go to Street Fair. Only 100 goes, £5 a go. For a chance to have a great day out, and support Street Fair at the same time, please contact Susie Finch at susanna_finch@hotmail.com or ring her on 01608 644744 (day) or 01608 810861 (eve). Will draw the raffle at the Open Gardens – come on let's sell all those tickets!

STREET FAIR FLOATS AND STALLS - Have you booked your stall yet? If not, please contact Teresa on 01608 811000 or by email at teresa@beeb.net. Don't forget this year's theme is **CARNIVAL**. To book your float, either contact Pat Court on 811031, or Teresa on 811000.

DON'T FORGET

STREET FAIR IS ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17th

We need more helpers on the day, so if you can spare an hour or two, please contact Sue Cooper on 01608 819139. See you all there!

TOTBITS

OUT AND ABOUT

Summer, and we are looking forward to sunny days cycling down to Nine Acres and playing outside with friends...but just in case the weather turns wet here are a few suggestions for indoor activities. Currently the times for the toddler sessions in the local swimming pools are 12.30-1.30 on Wednesdays in Chipping Norton (pool floor raised) and 11-12, Wednesdays and 1.45-2.45, Fridays at the Windrush leisure centre in Witney.

If you feel the need for some summer culture, Chipping Norton Theatre has a play suitable for ages three and over on Saturday 4th June at 2.30pm - "The Snow Dragon". There is also a Snow Dragon story telling workshop for 3-6 year olds at 4.15 on the same day. Tickets are available from the box office (01608 642350). Further afield, in Oxford, look out for the "cushion concerts" for the under-fives at the Jacqueline du Pré music building. In these short concerts a different instrument of the orchestra is introduced to the children each time and there is plenty of audience participation. The concerts take place a few times a term on Sunday mornings – 9.30 and 10.30 for the under fives and an 11.30 session for the five pluses. Dates for the rest of the summer term are June 12th and July 10th. Tickets are £5 for children, £3 for adults, and are available from the Oxford Playhouse.

CHARLBURY PRESCHOOL

Charlbury Preschool will be holding their Annual Summer Fair on Saturday, 4th June, 2-4pm on The Playing Close. This is the main fund-raising event of the year so please come and join us for a fantastic afternoon of fun, including majorettes, beer & BBQ, home-made goodies, grand prize draw and a selection of attractions, entertainment & activities for all the family. Volunteers are desperately needed to help us out on the day. If you think you can assist, please ring Louise Barnes on 01608 810978 or e-mail her louise_barnes@btinternet.com.

Charlbury Pre-School is a registered charity that relies on funds raised by volunteer parents. We are hoping to raise as much money as we can to replace the children's toilet block - please support your local Pre-School.

Our current Treasurer is moving abroad, so we are looking for someone to replace her. This is a voluntary position and we need help from the end of June to ensure a hand-over period.

CHARLBURY TODDLER GROUP

Charlbury Baby and Toddler Group meets on Monday mornings during term time from 9.30 till 11.30. It is an excellent chance to get out of the house for both parents/carers and the children. For many new parents it is an invaluable opportunity to discuss experiences and to meet other parents/carers of young children in the town. For the children there are plenty of toys and plenty of space to play, song time, craft activities and refreshments. The cost is £1.50 per family and all are welcome.

THE FAMILY CENTRE AT CHIPPING NORTON

The family centre at the ACE centre in Chipping Norton has a range of activities and groups available for families with small children. The family centre drop-in has lots of play activities and also music (Mondays), dance and cookery (Wednesdays) and soft play (Thursdays). The drop-ins cost just 50p per session, including a drink, and you can take your lunch. The drop-ins run from 9-12.30 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

INTRODUCING CHARLBURY'S OWN CINEMA

Charlbury's Own Cinema (ChOC) is a new initiative to screen films in Charlbury. ChOC is supported by Chipping Norton Theatre with EU money to bring cinema to the widest possible audience. We will be showing a wide range of films from blockbusters to classics and lesser known movies. We will be asking the people of Charlbury what they would like to see, so please let us know if you have any suggestions. This is a not-for-profit project and all proceeds will go back into ChOC to fund future events. Initially one film will be shown every two months, with the aim of making screenings more frequent as soon as possible. ChOC was launched on May 18th with Ladies in Lavender. The next film, during the school holidays, will be The Magic Roundabout (U). This is an animated version of the cult children's show, featuring the voices of Ian McKellen, Bill Nighy, Tom Baker, Joanna Lumley, Kylie Minogue and Robbie Williams. Venue: The Cornbury Suite (behind The Bell). Date: Saturday 30th July Time: A child-friendly time to be announced.

For further information please contact Russell Robson on 07760 148745
or Paul Dawsey on 01608 810416

CSA June Fair

The Charlbury School Association has this year decided to move its annual June Fair to 3.00 on Friday 17 June since Saturday mornings in Charlbury in the Summer are so busy it's impossible to avoid clashing with several other events! A similar move for the Christmas Craft Fair proved very successful and raised a lot of money in a short time for the school; it is hoped the June Fair will achieve the same.

There will be plenty of attractions for both children and adults and it is hoped that people from the town, not just those with children at the school, will make the short journey up Crawborough to the school to enjoy the big range of stalls and activities on offer. Stalls will include cakes, a massive plant stall with hundreds of bedding plants and perennials, Fathers' Day gifts and second hand toys. There'll be plenty of refreshments with teas, coffees and filled baguettes, as well as a barbecue, beer and Pimms on sale. Children from the school will also be providing entertainment in the form of drama and hopefully from the excellent school choir.

You can try your hand at the ancient sport of welly wanging, the buzzer game, a football shootout or just chance your luck on the bottle or soft toy tombolas. The swimming pool will be open for children and there'll also be facepainting, pebble and picture frame painting, tattoos and plenty of other activities to keep the younger ones amused.

Hopefully there'll be something for everybody to enjoy so make a date in your diary and come along and support the town's schoolchildren for a couple of hours.

Alison Holthouse

The Canadian students of the Atlantic Baptist University Oxford Study Programme are profoundly grateful to the Charlbury community for their support and kindness during their three month stay

"Wow, I am living in an old English painting! I will never forget the time I have spent living in my "English painting" and will never take this experience for granted. Thank you for everything you did to make our visit warm, welcoming and memorable. (Amy F)

From the day we first arrived in Charlbury, I have felt welcomed and privileged to be in the midst of such wonderful people. My time here has been one of fond memories and new friends, as well as a rekindling of my belief in how great people can be. This was all made possible by everyone I met in Charlbury. Thank you. (Tyson McG)

Your generosity and kindness really made this a home away from home for me! (Charlene D)

Thank you to everyone who works to preserve the vitality and the heritage of this beautiful country town. To the police, who allowed us to experiment with photography unimpeded by the letter of the law. (Jakob)

A special thank you to the Charlbury Baptist Church community who took wonderful care of all of us, also to the Anglican Church who welcomed me personally. To the staff at the Post Office who sent and delivered countless letters. To Karen Whitehead for "lending" us White Hart Cottage. To Betty Stokes, an extraordinary woman. To Marion Ackrill who is kind and elegant. And to everyone who smiled or said a friendly word to me in the street. I have enjoyed my time here in your beautiful town! (Natasha D)

Charlbury will forever be my Heaven. (Cory F)

To Banbury Hill Farm for providing us with a charming and peaceful accommodation - a place of great comfort during our studies away from home. What a splendid landscape backdrop for watching sunsets and stars! (Katie H)

To all at the Rose & Crown Pub and The Bell Hotel, for your Real English welcome. (Anon)

Thanks to everyone who cooked for us, invited us in, bought us pints and generally made our stay here enjoyable. A special thanks also to the staff at Charlbury Railway Station. (Amy B)

Thank you Freddie Jones and Charles Tyzack for inspiring us... And David Cameron for enlightening us and preparing us for our visit to the Houses of Parliament. (Robyn K)

To all the kind ladies who gave me lifts to the rail station when I was dashing down the hill to get a train...To First Great Western, who usually ensured that I wouldn't miss the train anyway.... To the Good Food Shop, for having nice peanut butter... To the people who "borrowed" the Canadian flag...and those who returned it. To George & Hilary, and Olive... (Melissa F)

Thank you Teresa for opening your home and heart, allowing me to feel so comfortable in a home away from home. (Melissa K)

For the kindness of one striking individual: Elizabeth Hardie. I learned so much from her generosity and shall never forget the stories she told me by the warmth of her inviting fire. (Rachel B)

We were able to spend a short time with Alan and Catherine Stevens and they are two of the most hospitable and generous people we have ever met. Thank you. (Cory and Tyson)

I would like to thank Eileen Mitchell and Fred & Val Harris for making me a part of their family. Charlbury is a wonderful place to live. Thank you (Marianne DJ)

The ABU-Oxford organizers are grateful to all those who offered homestay

accommodation: Marion Ackrill, Teresa Coghlan, Andy Faulkner, Hilary & George Gandy, Elizabeth Hardie, Eileen Mitchell, Andy Pickard, Frances Short, Alan & Catherine Stevens, Olive Woods, Karen & Simon Whitehead at White Hart Cottage and Banbury Hill Farm.

Also those who entertained our students for Sunday lunch: Marion Ackrill, Joan & Hugh Belshaw, Molly Chandler, Kay & Peter Colyer, Rachel & Brian Farr, Catherine Goyder, Sue & Neil Holliday, Hilda & Michael Jones, Joan & Michael Marsh, Eileen Mitchell, Patricia & Forbes Perry, Frances Short, Catherine & Alan Stevens, Betty Stokes.

Peter Colyer, Executive Director - ABU Oxford Programme (UK)
Madeleine Wheare, Coordinator

Elisabeth Dutton Academic Director
January - April 2005

At 6.15a.m I get up, feed the dogs and make a cup of tea and take it back to bed. My wife and I then discuss the day ahead. I shower and at 7.35a.m I take my son and two of his colleagues to get the Bloxham school bus in Chipping Norton. The younger labrador comes with us. My wife, Elizabeth, leaves at the same time for Oxford, where she is a lecturer on a post-degree course at the Oxford Institute for Legal Practice. After the boys have gone, I take Cleo, the lab for a walk on the Oxfordshire Way for about three quarters of an hour. When I return home, I feed the 6 chickens and 2 ducks; I also do a few jobs in the greenhouse. After a bowl of cereals and a little clearing up, I make my lunchtime sandwiches and it is time to get to work for ten o'clock. I run business Focus in Charlbury and my first task is to check my E-mails. Then I deal with customers coming in or process assignments I have been given. I offer a wide range of services – photo and colour copying, scanning, word processing and desktop publishing. I can help with presentations and also assist with the visual preparations of theses and assignments. I run an answer phone service and help people with E-mails. Charlbury is a diverse society and this is reflected in the services they need.

I came to what I am doing in a roundabout way. From the age of 8, although I was brought up in Birmingham, I wanted to be a farmer. It was probably in the blood as my grandfather on my father's side used to farm. So at 16 I decided to spend two years on a mixed farm at Droitwich. I did everything, milked cows, mucked out, fed the sheep and learned how to plough. I then did a basic course in agriculture at the Moreton Morrell Institute of Agriculture and decided I wanted to specialise in pig farming. I was lucky enough to get a job with Wall's at Tring and for 9 months here I experienced all aspects of pig husbandry. I then spent a further two years at Usk College of Agriculture improving my qualifications. I decided to spread my wings and went to South Africa, where I worked in Cape Province near a town called DeDoorns. I was an assistant manager on a pig farm belonging to Mr. Haak, the ex-minister of the Interior. After a year I began to get homesick and with a friend bought a pick-up truck and travelled north up through South Africa and Zimbabwe, sleeping in the back of the truck. When I returned, I got a job with the Pig Improvement Company in Fifield and after going through their training scheme, I was sent to France to run a couple of farms. Working for PIC was varied; I returned to England, only to be sent to Querétaro in Mexico, where the company was starting up. I was their production manager for four and a half years. When I came back on holiday I met my first wife; she came out to Mexico and our eldest son was born there. We then came back to start our own farm in Wales in Carmel near Llandeilo and we did that for four and half years. Our second son was born there but it was about this time that the pig industry went through one of its periodic down turns and so we gave up pig farming and moved to Oxfordshire, to Sutton Lane, Stanton Harcourt. I returned to PIC to run their pig equipment factory in Kingston Bagpuize. After 4 years the company sold the factory and my wife and I separated and I decided to give up farming. I now began to renovate properties and my first was in Islip in 1988. At this time I did most of the work myself but pigs came into my life again when a friend asked me to help him export pigs to Havana in Cuba. This occupied me for 3 months but I also got married to Elizabeth and started work as a training adviser for the Agricultural Training Board. In 1993 I was made redundant and I decided I needed a complete change from agriculture and started this business in 11 Sheep St. I chose Charlbury because it was a nice town, had a busy centre and very diverse people. Shortly I was able to move to my present premises.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Charlbury Farmers' Market was started in July 2001 as a result of a political initiative initiated by Chris Tatton who, at the time, was a District Councillor for the Charlbury Ward. The Market has continued successfully ever since, initially organised by West Oxfordshire District Council with support from Charlbury Town Council and for the last 16 months under the management of Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative Ltd who now coordinate all the Farmers' Markets in the West Oxfordshire District Council area.

As the Market approaches its fourth birthday and has been under the Co-operative's management for just over a year, it is felt that now is a good time for a review. As always in Charlbury there are extremes of opinion: some want the market shut down whilst others want one every week! The present group of farmer producers are content with the current programme and location: 4 times per year on the 2nd Saturday of the 3rd month on the Playing Close. Most, but not all, would support an increase to 6 times per year and some would support 10 or 12 per year. My personal inclination is to leave it as it is!

Charlbury Town Council, the Trustee of Thomas Gifford's Charity, (owner of the Playing Close) and Charlbury Chamber of Trade & Commerce have all been asked for their comments which are awaited. The purpose of this letter is to invite comments from the public. Is the market on the right day? Is it in the right place? Does it have the right products? Is it held too few or too many times per year? If you have anything to say about Charlbury Farmers' Market please could you do so in writing to TVFMC Ltd, c/o Studio One, Sheep Street, Charlbury Ox7 3RR or email rogerw@focus.co.uk by 30 June. Change, if any, will not come about until 2006.

Nick Potter for Chairman, Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative Ltd

Dear Editor,

I have served the local community for nearly eight years now and am very grateful for everyone's support. However, over the last twelve months trade has dropped to an all-time low. I cannot continue to run the shop as it is going at the moment, and the next six months will be a period of make or break for us. I have just signed a ten years' lease with my landlord and I am very keen to see it through. It is now a simple fact - 'Use us or lose us'. I hope I can count on everyone's support to keep us in Charlbury.

John Brain, John Brain & Sons, Family Butcher, Church Street

Dear Editor

Congratulations to Sue Haffenden on her victory in the Charlbury Division on May 5th. Sue lives in Chadlington and has also lived in Combe. Both villages are in this Division. Thank you for a highly enjoyable and fruitful twelve years as your representative. I hope to continue many of the campaigns I have helped to launch over the years, such as smaller class sizes, improved road safety, Home Zones, fairer local tax system, better public transport, more NHS dentists, better footpaths, awareness of deaf issues, clearance of minefields etc. The turnout for this election was 75% (the second highest of all this county's seats).

Ex-Councillor Brian Hodgson (Tel/fax 01993 891310) May 2005

(This article has been submitted to the *Charlbury Chronicle* on behalf of
Charlbury Waste Action Group)

Mindset article taken from Nada magazine issue 1 2004

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“**So what,**” he says with a wide grin. “I pay my council tax and I don’t see why it is anyone else’s business what I do with my possessions. I have paid for it, so it’s my right to bin it if I want.” **We are having an argument.** He doesn’t need to buy second-hand goods, because he can afford new things, he says, when I describe the Venetian mirror I proudly picked up from an antique fair last weekend. “I’m not sure I believe in recycling,” he says. *I ask him if he believes in Thursdays.* Non-recyclers cost our society more than cigarette smokers. The estimated grand total for waste management in the UK is over £3 billion. Every year, we pay £2 million to bury aluminium cans and foil to a value of £23 million. “The only reason this happens is because people like you ‘exercise their right’ to throw them away instead of recycling them,” I accuse him.

Packaging of the goods that we buy costs every man, woman and child in this country £457 per year. In addition, we each pay to collect and dispose of said rubbish via our council and income taxes. Ironically, over 30 per cent of everything we bin can be composted in our own back gardens, instead of draining the public purse. **And this is just scratching the surface.** “But most materials are just made from renewable sources anyway,” he says slightly less confidently. The cost to the environment of using virgin materials instead of recyclables is much higher. Yes, glass may be made out of sand, but the energy it takes to remould recycled glass is a fraction of what it takes to produce glass from its raw materials. The future cost to society of maintaining the landfill sites currently operated by private companies are unknown.

But there are also moral issues around waste. People in the developed world use 90 per cent of the world’s resources. According to the government’s Waste and Resources Action Programme nearly half (40 per cent) of everything we see on the supermarket shelves never gets consumed. How can we justify such a waste? *According to the recent Rethink Rubbish campaign, more than 60 per cent of our rubbish can be recycled, but the UK recycling rate stands at a measly 12 per cent, one of the lowest rates in Europe.* **How can we justify such a poor performance?** “Because people like you, see it as their right to throw things away.” **Well,** he says, sulkily, ‘I would recycle, but I have heard that they collect the recyclables and then they just dump it all in the same place.’ **Well,** that makes sense”, I say. “Do you know that it is cheaper to collect recyclables than it is to collect rubbish?” The councils actually get paid for the materials that they collect. Prices for different materials vary from £25 per tonne for glass to £700 per tonne for baled aluminium.

“**Do you realise,**” I say as I go in for the kill, “if we recycled and composted everything we could, waste management in this country would be completely self-funding.” **Anyway,** everyone is entitled to their own opinion” he retorts.

The next time I go round his house, there is a recycling bin in the front garden.

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I have an hour and a quarter lunch hour and either eat my sandwiches in the office or go into Witney to go to the bank or do other business. My afternoons are similar to the mornings but the variation comes in the work I am asked to do. Sometimes I may type out a report for someone or help another person put together a manual or thesis. At the moment I am working on a mailshot for the Farmers’ Market. There has been a change in the business. 2 or 3 years ago I was affected by the recession and also by the fact that many people are able to do what I offer on their own computers. However I have found that as I have bigger and more sophisticated equipment I can offer better quality work. I can provide a far quicker and efficient copying service. I also rent out desk space by the hour or day. At 4 o’clock I go home and have a cup of tea with some home-made cake and feed the dogs before taking Cleo out for another walk; our other 15 year old labrador would find it too energetic. I will also spend some time in the garden. It is about a third of an acre and I do anything that needs doing. The vegetables are particularly my responsibility – my wife looks after the shrubs and flowers. At 6.30 p.m. we prepare supper between us ready for our son’s return from school.

After supper I might watch football with my son or go to a Parish Meeting. I am a councillor for Milton-under-Wychwood and really enjoy the monthly meetings. It is good to live away from work and be involved in helping another village. I am also involved in the Charlbury Chamber of Trade and Commerce. In 1994 it had been dormant for some time. It had been a retail chamber mostly concerned with the shops and so the rules were changed to include businesses in Charlbury and Cornbury. I am secretary and have to do the minutes of seven meetings during the year. I organise speakers, develop business links and try to work with the Town Council and the WODC. It is a challenging time in Charlbury but shops and businesses must answer a need and provide a service. The Co-op and Farmers’ Market do have an effect on the shops but they bring more people into Charlbury. These people are encouraged to shop in the town with advertising boards in both venues. We support various activities; there are advertisements in local papers and the Chamber encourages Christmas trees and decorations to brighten the town. It would be good to have hanging baskets in the summer but watering is a problem. Another project is to improve the street furniture. Apart from these commitments I have other interests but usually am only able to do them at weekends. I like to take the dog for a really long walk and as I am a member of the RSPB I like to do some bird watching. I also play tennis very badly and am learning golf. At the end of the evening I watch the News and the Weather. By 10.30 p.m. I am ready to go to bed where I usually read a history book; I am not into fiction. At the moment I am reading a biography of Captain Cook. I drop off to sleep with no bother at all.

I have been in Charlbury for the longest I have been anywhere. I enjoy what I do, meeting different people and providing very varied services. I am the right age to be doing this rather than farming. I think I will be staying.

Roger Watts was interviewed by Diana Potten

CORNER HOUSE & MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Maintenance of the Corner House and Memorial Hall is a constant concern for the Committee and work is always being done to deal with all the problems which arise. The Committee would like to express appreciation of the work being done by the Caretaker Jane Parsons (and her husband Ian).

A project has been launched to create a restful paved area in the garden behind the library. A Coffee Morning will be held on June 18th to raise funds and it is hoped that people will 'Buy A Stone' and contribute towards other items for the terrace.

The Disabled Access plans are receiving careful attention.

The Committee was interested to hear about the proposal to have regular film shows in Charlbury and hopes the idea will be well supported.

The Committee is still in need of a permanent secretary. Anyone interested in this position should contact Steve Andrews on 811212 *Ann Gilbert*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE MEALS ON WHEELS?

Charlbury's Meals on Wheels service welcomes new customers, so please get in touch if you, or anyone you know, would like a hot meal delivered on Tuesdays and Thursdays midday. Ring Marjorie Glasgow on 810161

CHARLBURY MUSEUM

The Museum has re-opened for the season and remains open until the end of September. Opening hours are on Saturdays from 10 - 12 o'clock; and on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday afternoons from 2.30 - 4.30 pm. **When you have visitors to stay, please remember to show them our splendid Museum. It is always possible to make a special appointment to view by ringing the Curator on 810060.** The Museum's special Exhibition this year is based on 'Memories of World War Two'. Have you any memories of that time, or have your parents passed down their memories of life in the period of 1940-1945? Who remembers eating at the British Restaurant in the Corner House; do you remember the troops in Cornbury Park and the bombs lining the roadside? If you were not living in Charlbury in those years, what memories have you of where you were and what effect the war years had on you and your family? Have you some experiences of the Blitz perhaps; where you ever bombed out of your house? What effect did the absence of a father for some years have on your upbringing? Your written or photographic memories will be welcome.

Please contact Ron Prew (810060), Jennifer Bartlett (810312) or Celia Faulkner (810656) if you can help.

IN THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

The secret of Contact The Elderley's success is much more than just providing group outings for tea once a month. The charity aims to relieve loneliness amongst over 70s by creating small groups of voluntary drivers and hosts who organise group outings for Sunday tea at a volunteer host's home once a month. There are currently over 250 groups nationally as well as a local group in Charlbury. The Charlbury Contact the Elderly group offers a warm welcome to those wishing to help the elderly people in their own community, either as a driver once a month or as a host once a year. Charlbury Contact the Elderly also has spaces for elderly people who would like to join our group. If you are interested or if you know of anyone who would benefit from being a member of the group, please do encourage them to get in touch.

Charlbury Contact the Elderly urgently need an organiser. For further information please ring free phone 0800 716 543

GLOBAL WARMING AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Just imagine it's the year 2025 and it's all very different to 20 years ago. There is no natural light as the black smog from the atmosphere has blocked out our sun. The only trees that are left are dying, diseased hulks of rotting wood. The most horrific thing you can see around you is the people. They are finding it hard to breathe, as there is a severe lack of oxygen. The water levels have risen considerably and your holiday destinations down by the sea do not now exist.

This may sound like an opening sequence to an environmental disaster movie, but unfortunately it's not. It is what will happen if we continue to push aside the environmental issue.

On February 16th 2005 the Kyoto Treaty against global warming came into force, with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urging the people to save the planet by further restricting greenhouse gases. It was mentioned that the world should be made aware of the indications pointing to climate change in the last seven years. Changes to the polar ice caps and rainfall regimes have already occurred. There are an increasing number of extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and hurricanes, mostly affecting third world countries such as India, Africa and Indonesia.

But then I suppose because it doesn't affect us it's all right. So what if we have hotter summers and warmer winters? The only problem is it will and is affecting us, we just haven't noticed it yet. Did you know, for instance, that the London floodgates have been made higher due to the increase in sea levels?

In ten years' time scientists predict that the environmental effects will be irreversible and I bet then we'll all be wishing we'd done something. Like putting our recycle bins out when we were asked, for instance, or not getting into our diesel-fuelled cars just to go a few yards down the road, or not chopping down that tree in the garden just so we could fit in another car.

I'm not saying that everyone is ignorant of the effects of global warming because they are not. I've seen plenty of people using the recycle bins the council has supplied, recycling their old Christmas trees and reducing how much they use their cars, but it's not enough. By acting now and working together with the international community we can stop this destructive pattern and make the world a safer place for future generations to grow up in.

What we as a community can do doesn't take a lot of effort or cost a lot of money. It's very simple and cheap. We can independently recycle; we can insulate our homes so we don't need to use so much gas and electricity; we could start car-sharing - or do something even more radical and reduce how many times we use our cars and travel by public transport more. By doing this, the cost would probably go down and there would be more buses. Putting in compost heaps instead of having bonfires and reducing the amount of pesticides you use in the garden can have an effect too, not just on the environment but on our health as well.

The United Kingdom is taking positive steps towards ensuring we cut our global emissions and is taking a leading role in making other countries aware of the need to change. Although unfortunately the United States has backed out of the Kyoto Treaty, individual states are adopting or are planning to adopt greenhouse gas reduction.

*The Charlbury Chronicle is delighted to have received this contribution from
18 year old College student Emily Algar*

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CHARLBURY BRANCH

A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance to mark the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War will be held on the Playing Close at 3.00pm on Sunday 3 July. If wet the service will be held in the War Memorial Hall. The service is for all denominations and anybody is welcome whether they took part in the war or not and whether or not they are Legion members. Music will be provided by the Chipping Norton Silver Band and the address will be given by Canon Graham Canning, the Branch Padre. There will be tea in the War Memorial Hall after the service. Unfortunately seating cannot be provided on the Playing Close but you are welcome to bring your own deckchairs etc. Service sheets will be available. For further information please contact the Branch Secretary, Jane Parsons, on 810822

Oxfordshire VE/VJ Day 60th Anniversary The Oxfordshire event will take place on 9 July at Christ Church Oxford. The event will start at 3.00pm with the band of the Royal Logistics Corps. There will be a service in Christ Church followed by a Parade in Tom Quad and then by tea in the Master's Garden. Further details will be available from Jane Parsons shortly.

"We'll meet Again" – memories of the Home Front in Oxford 1939-1945. This is an Oral History Project and an Exhibition organised by the Museum of Oxford. Vanessa Lea, the Museum's Operations Manager, would like to hear from anybody who would like to tell her about their experiences as a "Fighter", a member of the Home Guard or Civil defence, an evacuee, or a child observing "the Military Presence" or anything else about the 1939-1945 years. Vanessa can be contacted at the Museum of Oxford, St Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1DZ. Tel: 01865 252086. The exhibition at the Museum runs from 23 July to 27 November.

The 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the 52nd This occasion will be celebrated at Christ Church College, Oxford on Saturday 13 August with the following on the programme: 14.30 – Service in Christ Church Cathedral; 15.30 – tea at the Master's garden; 17.20 – Sounding Retreat; 18.45 – reunion at Slade Park Barracks. This event is open to anyone who served in any battalions of the former Regiment (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry) including the Bucks Battalion and the 1st Royal Green Jackets [43rd and 52nd] prior to 1 January 1966. Widows and children of members of the former Regiment will be most welcome. For further information please see the notice on the Legion board outside the Barbers Shop and/or telephone Jane Parsons on 810822 for an application form.

Veterans Badge The Government has decided to give a Veteran's Badge to all surviving members of the Armed Forces who took part in the First and Second World Wars. People who are eligible for the badge may apply to the Ministry of Defence themselves or they may wish the Legion to do so on their behalf. Application forms can be obtained from Jane Parsons on 810822. At the moment there is a delay with the issue of badges, as MOD did not order enough.

For further information about the work of the Legion, how to join or how to obtain assistance, please contact Nick Potter (Branch President) on 810388 or Derek Fowler (Branch Chairman) 811706.

BOOKS ON WHEELS

The WRVS provide a 'Books on Wheels' service in Charlbury. If you live in Charlbury, Spelsbury or Chadlington and are unable to get to the Library yourself, someone will call at your home once a month with a selection of books for you. If you would like to know more about this service please contact Penny Price at Charlbury Library on 811104. One more car-driving volunteer would be a welcome addition to this service. All it entails is that you join a rota and you would be responsible two or three times a year for choosing and delivering the books to clients. Again, if interested please ring Penny at the Library.

CHARLBURY CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

This is a reminder that we have a team of willing drivers for those who have no transport and need a lift to hospitals, chiropody appointments etc.

Please leave a message on my answer phone if I am out. If possible give several days notice of your requirements. *Johanna Callaghan, 01608 810338*

CPRE visit to Dix Pit

A party from Charlbury went to visit Dix Pit on April 20th 2005. Dix Pit is a 33 hectare site of old quarries and gravel pits near Stanton Harcourt. It has a recycling plant, which is at present being up-dated, and a landfill site. It was the latter we had come to see and we were given a very informative tour by Mr. John Cherry of Oxfordshire County Council. The site is excellent for dumping rubbish as it has a clay base, which prevents soak away. Rubbish comes in every day and is bulldozed and at the end of the day is covered in soil. When a certain height is reached, a final soil covering is made. This is then colonised by grasses and plants. It was interesting to see many garden plants growing, whose seeds had obviously come in with the rubbish. What shocked everyone was the amount of rubbish we generate. The tip we were looking at had 6 months of rubbish from West Oxfordshire and it was huge! It made us all determined to recycle as much as we can and to support fully recycling initiatives. *Diana Potten, CPRE*

Charlbury Summer Festival

Charlbury Summer Festival (not to be confused with the Riverside Festival) will not be happening this year. This festival, a collection of arts events run throughout June, has been run for the past 8 years by the organisation Charlbury Arts in the Community. It was felt, after poor turnouts to events last year, that putting on so many events at such a busy time of year was counterproductive to achieving reasonable audience sizes and thereby supporting the artists in our community.

The current committee is still holding Charlbury Arts in the Community and is happy to do so. There are funds which can be applied for if anyone would like to put on an event and feels in need of some support. We intend to stage one or two events during the year.

If, however, there is anyone out there who feels they would like to resurrect the festival for next year and take over the running of Charlbury Arts in the Community then please do get in touch with us.

Kath 01608 811293; Maria 01608 810588

CSA GIG ROCKS THE MEMORIAL HALL

The Memorial Hall was jumping all night when popular local band East 42nd Street agreed to play a gig in aid of the Charlbury School Association as part of the fundraising team's busy programme of events. The dance floor was full virtually from the moment the first chord was belted out and the audience loved the selection of blues and rock classics including numbers originally by everyone from Howlin' Wolf and Robert Johnson to Cream, Clapton and The Rolling Stones.

A very successful evening raised a much needed few hundred pounds for the school which, in common with many other schools, is finding its budget more and more stretched. As well as continuing to supplement nice 'extras' like school trips and the lovely new swimming pool for the town's schoolchildren, the CSA is increasingly being asked to fund what might be deemed essentials like classroom furniture and books.

The band, which is attracting an ever growing loyal band of followers, has been together for about two years and comprises Damon Smith on lead guitar and vocals, Rob Walters on rhythm guitar and backing vocals, Colin Millington on bass, drummer Jay Baigent and Frank Chapman on harmonica. The mix of tunes is just right and the band's obvious enjoyment of the music soon filters through to the audience who find they don't stay seated for long.

If you missed the Memorial Hall night and you like a good evening of rock and blues, then in the coming weeks East 42nd Street can be seen at various local venues (The Black Horse, Kidlington on 26 June and 14 Aug, The Carpenters Arms, Fulbrook on 22 July and The Bell, Charlbury on 18 August). They also play private parties and can be contacted on 01993 778054 or 07780 967014.

Alison Holthouse

ROLLERBLADING FOR CHARITY

Charlbury resident Lars Larsen and son Emil will be rollerblading for charity in Denmark this summer, and hope to cover 400 kilometres in 7 days. They aim to raise money for Stonesfield-based charity **CECILY'S FUND** which raises money to educate Zambian children orphaned by Aids. One in 12 Zambian citizens is an orphan! Help Lars to help them. www.justgiving.com/bladingdenmark to contribute; www.BladingDenmark.com for more information.

into fruit and eggs and in recent years into plants. This year nearly 250 plants were delivered and many lovely letters of thanks were received.

I have been involved in Guiding for over 23 years starting as a Brownie in this pack then on to Guides and Venture Scouts. Since university I have been Brown Owl and am helped by my sister Gill. We came from Finstock and now both live in Witney. Neither pack could survive without our other Leaders—Teresa, Rachel, Kerri and Katherine at Brownies and Lisa and Kerri at Rainbows. We are extremely grateful for their support. Rainbows do need another adult to help on a regular basis. The youth of Charlbury and surrounding villages have greatly benefited over the years from the Scouts & Guide movement and it is sad that in such a large town there are so few people willing to help. Please contact me for further details if you can help.

Cathryn Taylor, Brown Owl, 01993 702938

A DANGER EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF

Common Ragwort (*Senecio Jacobaea*) is an obvious weed in July to August when it grows up to 3 feet tall and produces a large bright yellow composite flower head but it is poisonous to all animals and as such is a listed weed. Due to the high risks involved with this plant being eaten by animals, made into hay etc a new Bill has become law to reinforce the need for its control. The Ragwort Control Act came into force on 20th February 2004 as an addition to the 1959 Weed Act. A code of practice regarding ragwort control has been produced and this will be admissible in evidence in enforcement proceedings under the Weeds Act 1959. It is this time of the year when we should be working to clear our land of ragwort in its early rosette stage. This can be done easily by spraying it with a herbicide or alternatively with a natural non-toxic environmentally-friendly spray called Barrier H. During July and August the BHS ragwort clearance volunteers will also be working throughout Oxfordshire hand pulling the plant where it has managed to keep growing. They believe in keeping our county a safer place for animals and humans and would welcome any help that can be offered. If you think you can help or require more information please contact the number listed below.

Ragwort is easily identified. The plant produces a rosette of green jagged edge leaves in early summer and then grows up to 3 feet with a woody slightly red stalk with bright yellow flower heads. It must be carefully picked and either burnt or bagged up and taken to the tip; animals must not be allowed to graze where it has flowered; sturdy gloves and a facemask should be worn when dealing with ragwort; ragwort contains poisonous properties; and penalties might be enforced if ragwort is allowed to grow on land that has been registered with DEFRA.

If ragwort is seen it is important to report it so that action can be taken to clear it. Contact the British Horse Society County Welfare Officer, Diana Harris, on 01993 702844 for information and advice.

WYCHWOOD FOREST FAIR 2005

EXPLORING MUSIC

Two more Day Classes , given by Dr Kate Eckersley, are coming up in June and July; and will be held at The Bell Hotel in Church Street from 11.30am to 4.30 pm

June 8th: The 18th Century - From Bach, Handel and Vivaldi to Haydn and Mozart, the 18th century celebrates a wealth of great music and exciting stylistic changes. These changes will be explored, observing how the Baroque gave way to the Classical period.

July 13th: The Human Voice - It has been called miraculous and mysterious. It is the original musical instrument and unique to each person. Spend a day discovering how musicians have treated the human voice through the ages.

For further information and to enrol please telephone Peter Fry on 730509

CHARLBURY CRICKET CLUB 2005 — THE SEASON AHEAD

Whilst in the midst of preseason training the club suffered a massive set back with the tragic loss of our second team captain and friend, Nick Godfrey who sadly died on 7th March. Nick was an inspiration to all our young cricketers with his commitment, encouragement and leadership skills. He guided the 2nd XI to league promotion in 2003 and constantly finished as the team's highest aggregate run scorer for the 2nd XI. All our thoughts and wishes are with his family. The Godfrey family have been a huge influence and a part of Charlbury Cricket Club and will continue to be, as Sue (Nick's wife) will run the club bar facilities and Sean and Ben (sons) continue to make runs, take catches and wickets in the Charlbury colours. Every success the club achieves this year will be dedicated to Nick. The club continues to grow from strength to strength with 2005 seeing the first year where we enter a 3rd XI into the local league. Initially the club will play the majority of their home fixtures on the Leys in Witney but we are hoping that the new pitch in Charlbury will be ready for competitive cricket in 2006 and it will certainly be available for use as part of the youth coaching nights during this summer. Charlbury can now offer cricket for all levels of ability and availability running three sides on a Saturday and a friendly side playing Sunday and mid week cricket. The club is central to the activities of the Charlbury community and we call upon players, supporters and friends of all ages to contact us if you wish to play or simply come and visit the ground for a drink or to watch some cricket. All are welcome. We are always on the look out for players of whatever age and ability to encourage the sport of cricket to grow. In the season our International side takes on Australia for the coveted ashes, we should remember that we will only be able to compete at this level in the future, if the grass roots level is strong. If you can assist the club in any ways discussed above, please feel free to contact any member of the club.

Paul Faulkner (01608810656); Paul Jenkins (01608 811778); or visit our updated web site at www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk

CHARLBURY BROWNIES & RAINBOWS We are currently running two very successful groups, both being nearly full. Our activities are very varied—we join with other units in the districts to go on trips and attend events. We do lots of activities and badges—this year the Brownies have been working on their Artist and Dancer badges. As we have very few supporters to help raise funds to keep our Scout Hut running we have been unable to run our May Day Fair for the past couple of years, missing out on valuable fund-raising. We have been holding Coffee Mornings in the Corner House (next one on June 4th!) which have been well supported. Our last one in February enabled us to buy flowers to deliver to elderly people in Charlbury on Good Friday. This was a tradition started over 40 years ago when the Guides picked and delivered primroses. Over the years it evolved

This year Charlbury parish will have two fairs in September; the annual Charlbury Street Fair on the 17th, and on Sunday the 4th September, the sixth annual Wychwood Forest Fair in support of the Wychwood Project. That will take place from noon till 5pm on a thirty acre site on Banbury Hill overlooking Charlbury town by kind permission of Mr Graeme Widdows.

Both fairs see their origins in the notorious Forest Fair held on Newell Plain at Cornbury which finally ceased in 1855 after previous attempts to have it stopped had failed. One attempt was in 1830, when the Forest Ranger published formal notice of the Fair's discontinuance. But that was not to the liking of some of the inhabitants of Charlbury. A notice was posted at The Bell Inn on September 3rd 1831 announcing that they intended to hold a similar fair on the 14th and 15th of the month by erecting booths and stalls on The Playing Close. The old Fair was re-established in the Forest in 1832, attracting even larger crowds, mainly by train from London, until Lord Churchill had trenches dug across the Plain. Around one hundred years later the Charlbury Street Fair revived the tradition.

At Domesday in 1086, the forest of Wychwood covered much of what is now West Oxfordshire. The term 'Forest' referred historically to areas where hunting rights were reserved for the Sovereign. This included meadows, cultivated open fields, heaths and downs as well as woodlands. The Wychwood Project boundaries coincide with the area of the old Norman Forest, which lay between the rivers Windrush and Glyme. The area covers all or part of 41 modern day parishes, from Taynton to Woodstock and from just south of Chipping Norton down to Northmoor.

The revived Wychwood Forest Fair is just one of the fund raising activities of the Friends of Wychwood. Since its inception in 2000 the Fair has each year moved from parish to parish. That is partly to demonstrate the extent of the former Forest and to involve more people in the activities of the Wychwood Project. The aims are to raise awareness of the history of the Royal Forest of Wychwood, and encourage local people to participate in, and benefit from, restoration, conservation and enhancement of the landscapes and habitats within the old Forest boundaries.

Last year the Fair was held at Ramsden on one of the hottest days of the year. A record turnout of visitors enjoyed a display of rural crafts, Hatwell's funfair, a craft tent, displays by many local conservation groups, Morris dancing, traditional country games, local farm produce stalls, a second-hand book stall, plant stalls, and a childrens' storyteller (also immensely enjoyed by parents).

This year there will be all of those, and new ones concentrating on 'Healthy, Vibrant Communities,' with, in total, about 160 stalls and attractions. There will be a revised car parking system to speed traffic flow and lots of refreshments including soft drinks, as well as the traditional beer tent with beer from the Witney-based Wychwood Brewery. Further details will be published nearer to the date.

Roy Coates

THE THOMAS GIFFORD CHARITY

A public meeting was held on April 8 in the Memorial Hall to cover issues relating to the Charity since the last public meeting in February 2004 - with particular emphasis on proposals for a new trustee structure for the Charity and the proposed community centre on the Spendlove site. I gave a comprehensive report to the public at that meeting followed by an extensive Q&A session – the feedback is being considered at the next trustee meeting. This article summarises the main points of that report.

In April 2004 the Charity Commission opened another Inquiry into the events of 1997 to 1999. The upshot of the Inquiry was two-fold. Firstly, the Charity Commission found that there were failings in the management of the Charity by the trustees in that period. However, as it is not possible to determine that the losses incurred by the Charity were due to a breach of duty by the trustees, the Charity Commission are not taking the issue of restitution further. The Final Inquiry Report summary will be placed on the Charity Commission website soon.

The second result of the Inquiry is a change in the trustee body. We proposed a new structure to meet Charity Commission requirements and they proposed that we advertise for trustees for the new body. We have used the Charlbury Chronicle, the public meeting and the annual parish meeting to do that. The new trustee body will have to assess the long-term future for the operation of the Charity within its objectives in a responsible and realistic way. There will be 9 trustees of which the Town Council will nominate three – we are looking for Charlbury residents to nominate themselves for the other 6 positions.

During the year we made grant applications to third party funding bodies for funds towards the cost of the proposed community centre. It became clear that a funding success with the Lottery was essential to being able to fund the whole project. Smaller grant funding bodies were indicating support but would only commit to funding if there was funding from a large grant aiding body – and the Lottery was the only one offering substantial capital sums. In the end our application for Lottery funding was rejected. In the absence of a major grant funding source, we are left with the following options if we wish to take the Community Centre project forward in its current form. The local authorities, primarily Oxfordshire County Council, could take a stronger lead given their interest in providing better services to the local community. We are waiting for their response. Alternatively we could explore some private investment in residential/commercial facilities integrated with or alongside community facilities of the Charity – it is important to note that West Oxfordshire District Council as the planning authority have confirmed that they see the site as effectively zoned for community purposes. The current trustee body continues to work on moving the current project forward until a new trustee body takes over.

The trustees would like to thank Lynette Murphy, Diana Potten, Richard Neville, other members of the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal committee, and those who have organised Appeal events. This local fund-raising effort has been magnificent in difficult circumstances and raised well over £35,000 in less than a year.

*Trevor Jones
Chairman, Thomas Gifford Charity*

CLUBS, DRAMA, SPORT, GROUPS

YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS

The teams from Charlbury Town Youth Football Club have just completed another very enjoyable season. The 2005/6 season will commence in September, with training from August, so if your child is aged between 6 and 16 and interested to join our club then please telephone the Secretary, Helen Turner (01608 810330) for further details. We are always looking for new coaches (training will be provided) and people to join our committee, so, again, if you think this might be of interest please telephone the Secretary. We will be holding our annual fundraising event, the highly popular six-a-side football tournament, on Sunday June 5 at Nineacres Recreation Ground. Teams from all over the county will be competing. The first games will kick-off at 9.30am and the competition will continue throughout the day. There will be refreshments available, barbeque, ice-creams etc, and licensed bar, and it should be a great day.

Helen Turner, Secretary, Charlbury Town Youth FC

CHARLBURY YOUTH CRICKET Charlbury youth coaching is on Monday evenings 6.30 - 8.00pm for all ages up to under 13s. Under 15s and 17s train on Weds evenings with the seniors. Coaching will be every Monday weather permitting until September. We have some new lead coaches this year starting with Steve Deeley running a new starter group, Kieran Cooke under 11s, and Craig McCallum under 13s. Coaches that have gone up an age group are Andrew Knight under 15s, and David Horne under 17s. We are still one of the main providers of girls' cricket in the County thanks to our girls' coach Carol Hicks. Congratulations to newly qualified coach Ashley Rump. All parents are welcome on Monday evenings either to get involved with the coaching, help with First Aid cover, or just relax with a drink from the bar. *Glenn McCallum*

NEW CRICKET PAVILION UPDATE The planning process for the new pavilion took a step backwards when the Environmental Agency undertook a revision of their One in One Hundred Years flood risk assessment for the flood plain of the River Evenlode, inclusive of the land adjacent to the cricket field. As a result, the Cricket Club had to arrange a survey which resulted in the Agency requiring that a 200 cubic metre area be scooped out of the field upstream from the cricket ground to absorb any flood water which might otherwise inundate the pavilion area. Very positive discussions with our landlord (Cornbury Park) have identified how this requirement could be met with no visual impairment of the area affected and a report has been submitted to the Agency. We now hope to be able to submit the revised plan to the planners in Witney shortly, when notices will be posted and letters of support or objection can be submitted. If all goes well, we should finally be able to launch our appeal in the later summer. Meanwhile, Malcolm Harper is to meet Trevor Jones in order to discuss ways in which the Charlbury Community Centre and a new cricket pavilion could be used in harmony, rather than competition, with each other. *Malcolm Harper*

WEATHER REPORT

February 2005 was the first month since October 2004 to be colder than average. The first half was comparatively warm, then winter made its first real appearance. At 44.14°, the average maximum temperature for the month was 2.34° below that for the previous 16 years and was the coldest February since 1996. It was also the first time since 1994 that February was colder than January on average. Air frosts were recorded on 13 nights, all of them in the last 15 nights of the month. The highest temperature was 53° on 12th and the coldest night was 26° on 27th/28th.

The first two weeks of **March 2005** produced an average maximum temperature of only 45°, which is only a little above the average for December or January. Then there was a dramatic appearance of Spring, with the following 14 days averaging almost 58°, which is higher than the average for April. Then temperatures dropped again. The average maximum temperature for the whole month was 51.23°, which is 0.43° below that for the previous 16 years. Air frosts were recorded on 7 nights, 6 of them in the first 6 nights of the month and none after 13th/14th. The highest temperature was 61° on 23rd and 25th and the lowest 26° on the night of 23rd/24th.

April 2005 was a fairly average month. With the exception of just three days, temperatures remained within about 6° of average. Then, just as the month was ending, temperatures rose dramatically to summer-like ones. However, no records were broken, the high of 70° on 30th being 2° less than the highest recorded for April. The average maximum temperature for the whole month was 57.13° - just 0.86° above that for the previous 16 years and this was the fourth successive year that April has produced above average temperatures. Air frosts were recorded on 2 nights, the last one being on 16th/17th. The lowest temperature was 29° on 8th/9th.

Taking the winter period as December to February, 2004/5 turned out to be a little warmer than average at 45.40° (16 year average 44.64°).

John Stanley

A CLEAR CALL

Do you have a clear voice and naturally good speech patterns? Would you be interested in part-time work to help adults with a hearing loss? Are you able to undertake specialised training in London to become a Lipreading tutor?

By the end of this summer only four qualified tutors will be working throughout the whole county. This means that many adults who need practical day-to-day help in coping with hearing loss will be unable to attend weekly classes at Adult Community Learning Centres. It is vital that new tutors are trained so that Oxfordshire can continue to offer this valuable communication support.

The next available course, for a very limited number of trainees, begins in Spring 2006. There may be some funding available for a suitable candidate. If you think this is for you, please contact the Charlbury Lipreading tutor, Kay Colyer, on 810107.

CHARLBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL

We are now just into our second year of fund-raising and have had a very good first month.

The Charlbury Charity Challenge on Sunday April 24th was a very good occasion and was well supported. Thank you to all those who ran, walked, jogged or biked. We would like to thank Phil Morgan and his helpers for all the work they put in to plan, organise, advertise and oversee the event which is likely to have produced over £1500 – as we go to press there is still some sponsorship money due, so if you haven't paid up yet please be kind enough to get in touch and settle up.

'A Little More Light Relief' with Freddie Jones & Friends at St Mary's on Sunday evening, May 8th, followed their successful evening in November entitled 'A Little Light Relief'. This was another very enjoyable evening of light-hearted entertainment which the audience fully appreciated. We are grateful to all who helped to organise this evening and we are expecting to have made £1400+ for the fund.

We were glad to acknowledge a donation of £2000 from Waitrose, the pledge of a generous donation from the Charlbury Dental Practice, and £500 from the Family Trust of a Charlbury resident. All this brings our present total well on the way to £40,000.

At present discussions are taking place with OCC and other fund administrators in order to define how they can best assist the development of the Community Centre. We shall keep everyone informed of progress in each issue of the *Charlbury Chronicle*.

We have been offered a share in the proceedings from the Oxford Shakespeare Company's production in Cornbury Park on June 26th, and the Appeal team and members of CADS will be helping out with organisation and advertising. See the advertisement for this event on page 3.

The Friends of Charlbury Library will hold a Table Top Sale in aid of the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal on Saturday, 11 June from 10am to mid-day in the War Memorial Hall. Tables can be booked by ringing Amanda Epps on 810573. They will cost £5 if booked in advance or £6 on the day.

Lynette Murphy, Appeal Coordinator (810549)
Diana Potten Deputy Coordinator(810991)
Richard Neville, Treasurer (810594)

Contributors and Collectors are still needed for the
WEEKLY FUNDRAISER (based on Saturday Lottery Number) .
1-in-49 chance of winning **£15** (much better odds than the National Lottery!) . **ONLY £1 per week**.
Why not have a go? Buy a ticket for your household. Pay weekly, monthly or yearly.
Your chance to support the Community Centre Appeal and have fun.
Ring Alan Hanks, 811090 **NOW!**