

The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 7 Number 3 September 2003

It's a particularly full issue of the *Chronicle* this quarter - at the last moment we had to expand the usual thirtysix pages by four more. We apologise for having to reduce the size of the font in some cases; should some of our older readers find it difficult to read, please remember that there is always a large-size *Chronicle* available in the library.

In the September issue we always draw attention to the forthcoming Street Fair, to be held this year on Saturday September 20th, with the associated Fun Run on the following day. There is a rundown of all there will be to amuse you and to get you to dig deep in your pockets to support the Street Fair, whose main aim is to raise funds to keep our community facilities in good order.

Is there anyone who would like to contribute an article to the *Charlbury Chronicle*? This is a community magazine and open to anyone who has anything to say. We used to think any contribution had to be **about** Charlbury, but perhaps we should also add that we would welcome articles from Charlburians about anything (within the usual limits!) they wish to say. Please do think of contributing - but if you do, PLEASE let the editor know well in advance, so that we can discuss the details. Although a deadline is always given (see below) for each issue, by the time the deadline comes the issue is usually already full. Will contributors who do not have date-sensitive material to offer please think of letting the editor have their contribution well in advance of the deadline date? Contributors of all articles are also asked to be kind enough to send as much as possible by email or disk.

Lynette Murphy, Editor

Please note that the deadline for copy for the December 2003 issue is November 7th. Copy may be placed in the *Chronicle* box in the hall of the Corner House. It is helpful if copy is produced in Arial font, point 9, and email contributions should be sent in rtf.

NEWSBYTES

WELL DONE GRANNIE!

We apologise for omitting to include in the last issue that Mrs Carol Jackson did the 4_ miles NSPCC WALK in Blenheim Palace grounds on March 8th to raise funds for the charity. Between them Carol and grandsons Luke and Adam Negus raised £318.50 for the NSPCC and they want to say a very big thank you to every one who sponsored them.

TEA WITH THE QUEEN

Congratulations to Ron Prew and his wife Pat who received an invitation to attend one of the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties in July. This was in recognition of Ron's sterling work with the new Museum.

WELL DONE - AGAIN!

Members of the North Oxfordshire Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) again voted for Charlbury's Rose & Crown as Branch Pub of the Year. Licensees Tom and Annette Page received the award for the second year running at a ceremony on July 16th.

WELCOME TO MOE

We are glad to offer a warm welcome to Moe Scholl who has taken up her duties as the new Caretaker for the Corner House and Memorial Hall. Our thanks go to Sandra and Peter Moss who 'took care' for over two years.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer hearty congratulations to John Merriman who received the Community & Vocational Award of the Rotary Club of Chipping Norton for services to our community.

BACK ON WEBSITE

We are pleased that the *Charlbury Chronicle* is now back on the Charlbury website and that the problems experienced with the last few issues have now been resolved.

NEXT FARMERS' MARKET

Don't forget to get to the Playing Close early on Saturday September 13th for Charlbury's next Farmers' Market.

CHARLBURY ARTS FESTIVAL

Kath Lucas (Co-ordinator, Charlbury Arts In The Community), has asked us to thank all our distributors for their help in delivering the Arts Festival leaflets (*hear, hear*). The Festival was judged a success with fewer events but much better audience attendance for the high-quality performances. As a result finances improved, so look out for more events during the year.

WHAT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!

BT announced recently that Charlbury is to get ADSL broadband Internet access on October 22nd. Richard Fairhurst has written a long article which clearly explains what it all means in layman's terms - how it works, what are the benefits, what is the cost, what equipment is needed and so on. Read his article in this quarter's issue.

LIGHT POLLUTION!!

Did you know that:

- Only 11% of England is free from light pollution. Parts of Scotland, Wales and the North of England still have widespread dark skies. The area of countryside with pure dark skies fell by 27% in the 1990s.
- The most blighted area is the South East, only 1% of which has truly dark skies and this is followed by the East Midlands with just 2%.
- It has been estimated that Britain wastes £53 million and 2 power-stations worth of energy in badly designed street lighting.
- A mere 100W bulb left on during the hours of darkness all year, releases about a quarter of a tonne of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which could contribute to global warming.
- Glow-worms have declined greatly in numbers during the last 30 years and this coincides with the increase in light pollution.
- Birds have been observed to be confused by lighting, songbirds singing long into the night or else breaking into a false dawn chorus.

What causes the pollution?

- Street lighting that is directed upward as well as downward. There are 5 million streetlights in England and most are left on all night.
- Poorly designed sports lighting, which can sometimes be seen for up to 12 miles away.
- Security lighting both domestic and commercial. Often there are more lights than are needed and they are of too high a wattage.

Lighting is necessary to find our way round and make our streets and roads safer so what can we do?

- **Encourage the government to adopt a policy on light pollution. They are prepared to offer “education and guidance” but other European countries have introduced legislation to improve the situation and this would be helpful here.**
- **The local highway authorities, which are responsible for street lighting, can be lobbied to ensure that the lighting is directed downward where it is needed. Also if the lights are high-pressure sodium gas, they give a whiter glow, which is preferable to the yellow low pressure sodium lights used at the moment.**
- **Present security lights contain powerful 500W bulbs. The Institute of Lighting Engineers consider a 150W bulb to be perfectly adequate. B&Q are now selling lower-wattage lamps and a special anti-light pollution lamp. Changing to these lights would make a difference.**

At present only half the population can see the Milky Way. Let's hope that in the not too distant future we will all be able to see it.

Compiled by Diana Potten from information provided by the CPRE

HOPE & HOMES FOR CHILDREN is a charity which establishes homes with house-parents for orphan children from areas in the world that have experienced war or economic deprivation. Once again the charity is having a stall at the **Street Fair in September** and would be grateful to receive any items that can be sold - such as bric-a-brac, books, toys or children's clothes. Please ring Prim Birch on 810357.

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST is collecting old inkjet cartridges and mobile telephones to be recycled in aid of this charity. Please ring Ann Simon on 810563 to arrange collection.

CTC Harvest Supper: Saturday September 13th at 6pm in the Memorial Hall.

St Teresa's Bazaar: Saturday October 11 at the Memorial Hall, 10 - 12 noon.

Charity Christmas Card Sale: Saturday, November 8th at the Corner House.

St Mary's Fair: Saturday, November 29th, 10 - 12 noon Memorial Hall.

The AGM of the Nine Acres Management Committee will take place on Tuesday September 9th at 8 pm in the Anne Downer Room at the Corner House. All are welcome.

CHARLBURY'S HOTTEST NIGHT SPOT

Imagine a chilly December evening. The streets are empty and the lights are on. Where are you? At home in front of the telly with your microwave supper? Or dining by candlelight and enjoying our light-hearted and unexpected cabaret with your friends and neighbours at Charlbury's answer to the Moulin Rouge?

We are looking to explore the many and various depths of hidden talent amongst Charlbury's adults and showcase them in a light-hearted and fun evening of entertainment featuring some of the town's least known show-biz discoveries. Do you have a hidden talent? A burning desire to experience the buzz of performing on stage in front of a (friendly) audience? No matter what it is, we want to know: from the spoons to poetry recital, the can-can to comedy, all acts are welcome for our non-competitive, fund-raising event. You can participate on your own or in a group.

This exciting evening of laughter and good food will take place on Friday December 5th at the Memorial Hall, from 8 pm until approx 11.30 pm. A two-course supper (with vegetarian options) will be included in the £10 ticket price and you will be welcome to bring drinks of your own choice as there will be no licensed bar. So whatever your prowess we want to hear from you, and your dream of fifteen (or five) minutes of fame could come true. Book early to secure your spot!

Contact Alison (810533), Lynn (811865) or Lou (813021)

YOGA in CHARLBURY

(Tove Frisvold's view of the class she attends)

Yoga was always something I thought about doing one day but kept putting it off as I thought it was something I could never get my body around to do, but after being welcomed into a Charlbury yoga class led by Nikki Jackson I did not have to worry anymore. She has that rare quality of a teacher that makes you feel OK. To me she is the epitome of Yoga - she can curl herself around herself while we in the class watch in awe! She combines in her teaching the Indian origins of Yoga, and how it represents the oldest recorded system of personal development, encompassing the body, mind and spirit. Nikki's soothing voice made me feel less stressed - both physically and emotionally. As the teaching progressed she made us stretch muscles and joints, and helped to realign the spine which eventually brings flexibility and agility into the bodies of the faithful twelve women in our class. I have noticed that my system has improved and I have been told this will eventually lower the heart rate. What Yoga also emphasises is the power of concentration. In many of the exercises we have to stay focused on the sound of our breathing or we gaze at a special point on the wall called 'a drishti'. Nikki encourages us to discover tense areas deep within the body so they can be independently released. She sometimes uses words which sound mysterious, as she includes the language origins from India. For example *prana* is the energy that is supposed to flow freely throughout the body, *asana* is the word for traditional postures used to tone and strengthen the body, while *pranayama* is a breathing technique to improve the respiratory system. We finish every session by lying down and we are helped to relax completely - bringing inner peace of mind.

*Nikki Jackson has been teaching Yoga for 12 years, and is fully qualified with the British Wheel of Yoga. If you are interested in Yoga classes in Charlbury, Nikki is running the following mixed ability classes at the Memorial Hall, Charlbury starting on September 17th: **Wednesday evenings 6pm - 7.30pm; Wednesday evenings 7.30pm - 9pm; and at the Methodist Church Hall, Pooles Lane on Thursday mornings 11.30am.** Please contact Nikki direct for further information on 01608 811683 or email: Nikki@WychwoodYoga.co.uk*

BEAT OUT THAT RHYTHM ON A DRUM

It's been another great year for Charlbury's African drumming group, Osrani. We have continued to attract more group members for our Thursday evening meetings and have had many requests for performances and workshops in and around Charlbury. This year Osrani organised a most successful African dancing evening taught by Gaspard from The Ivory Coast. Osrani arranged for Ali Bangoura from Senegal to come and talk about his culture and his country to the whole of Charlbury school during their assembly. He captivated both children and teachers with his African traditional songs, his traditional tribal stories and his wonderful sense of humour. He then ran a song/dance/drum workshop for many of the children afterwards. Modou Diouf from Senegal, who played the sabar drum at The Riverside Picnic, agreed to run a sabar workshop and this was a huge success. Apologies to those who found it rather noisy! We endeavour to bring in African artists, not just because they obviously have a wealth of experience in African music but also because it strengthens a link between our two cultures. We can learn so much from them and they in return are able to develop further as artists and so provide an imperative source of income that will not only feed their immediate families, but their cousins' cousins and so on. During the coming months, there will be more African artists coming to Charlbury. Penny Avery, a charming and beautiful African dancer, who will be running a dance workshop sometime in October; and Zimbabwean Chartwell Dutiro, is a wonderful African singing teacher who uplifts you who with his melodic songs that, as he always says "bring people together". Osrani run workshops for children in youth groups, play groups and schools in and around Charlbury. 'Yene' is the name of Charlbury's children's group who will be performing at The Charlbury Street Fair. If you would like to try African drumming you can come along to any Thursday evening at The Friends Meeting House, Market Street, between 7 - 9 pm. We have a regular professional teacher, Ross Moore from Dadadrum Community Music, and we are equally welcoming of beginners as well as those with experience.

If you would like to know more about coming to Osrani events, please contact Nikki Jackson 811683, Jo Elliott 810149 or Floss Brooks 819143.

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

Pamela Porter had a seat in the stalls at a recent CADS production and sent us this report

Bertolt Brecht chose a strange title for his play, written in 1948 - The Caucasian Chalk Circle - but what a fascinating title it is, a mixture of fairy-tale, pantomime, romance and adventure story, with unexpected twists. The poor, exploited peasants are just as likely to be greedy and corrupt as their so-called betters, the ruling classes, and in the end it is a venial, totally unqualified judge who gives us the happy ending that we have been hoping for.

The play follows the fortunes of Grusha, a kind and honest serving-girl in the palace of some small, obscure state. During a revolution the little heir is abandoned by his selfish, silly mother, rescued by Grusha and, after many adventures, brought to safety and a happy future.

Elizabeth Dutton brought Drusha vividly to life; her kind heart, native shrewdness and endurance make her a sympathetic heroine. Her soldier-lover, Richard Yepp, is absolutely convincing in his devotion and constancy. The child's mother, by contrast, is horribly selfish and unappealing, and Kate Southey obviously enjoyed the role. Grusha and the child meet an amazingly varied series of people in their long search for a home - doctors, lawyers, farmers, inn-keeper, other travellers, even a potential bridegroom (seen taking what must surely be a very rare bath, on stage). All these characters were very sharply drawn, though we meet them only very briefly as the narrative races along. The judgement scene, the climax of the action, is wonderfully funny and moving with George Gandy pulling out all the stops as the judge.

The movement and grouping were so well-organised on the small stage, but there was no sense of crowding or confusion and the simple sets and exotic costumes conveyed a real feeling of a foreign country. Glenna Chadwick directed her large and lively company with flair and imagination, and everyone who formed part of this splendid production, whether on or off the stage, is to be congratulated.

House Martin Survey 2003

Reports were coming in that house-martins arrived by mid-April this year in some places and they had produced their first broods by 20th June. This means those early birds may produce three broods. The young of each brood roost in the family nest so it is important that the nests are preserved and may account for late arrivals in an unoccupied nest if a nest has collapsed for any reason. The maximum number of birds recorded in a nest is 17! However numbers of occupied nests recorded so far are down again - only 78 (last year at this time numbers were 79 but rose to 103 in August). Hopefully more will be discovered as the season progresses. This may be due to the late nesting last year and some birds only had time for one brood. According to the RSPB a lot of birds stayed on the Continent last year as the weather here was so inclement in May and June. Numbers at The Green are still declining. However the Rose & Crown is still the most favoured building with 13 nests.

Louise Spicer (01608 810745)

W D CAMPBELL: NATURALIST AND TEACHER

This book about one of our more famous local residents has just been published by The Wychwood Press. Bill was born of Scottish Highland parents in 1905, moved from Dorset to Northern Ireland and then, in 1910, to Cornbury Park where his father became head gardener. Aged only 5 at the time of the journey, he could recall seeing the Titanic splendidly lit up in the Belfast shipyards and the beads of light shining in the dark - the eyes of the fallow deer - as they arrived at Cornbury. The family's house was on the boundary between the Park and Forest so Bill had wonderful opportunities to learn about wildlife during his earliest formative years. He became a great observer of the natural world and it is notable that his extensive knowledge stemmed very much from his own observations. He began ringing birds when he was 26 and continued for the rest of his long life. He taught in Charlbury at Charlbury School from 1928 to 1940 and married May, a fellow teacher there. Bill was the specialist teacher of Gardening, Biology and Natural History and created the much talked of 2 acre flower and vegetable garden on the Spendlove site where the car park is now. He also loved literature and poetry, particularly Thomas Hardy, someone he'd met as a baby when they'd lived in the same Dorset village. He became headmaster at Shipton-under-Wychwood in 1940 and moved on to Cholsey in 1949; he returned to Charlbury on his retirement in 1970. For 60 years, he wrote the Country Diary for the Guardian every Wednesday from 1934 until his death in November 1994.

This fascinating book is a collection of Bill's Country Diaries, poems, and broadcasts assembled by Mary and Ken Jackson, who were his close friends. It is a lovely opportunity to sample his Country Diaries, where he often wrote about what he'd seen in Charlbury, and you can understand why he became such a friend and inspiration for many people he'd never met. Campbell Copse, on the banks of the Evenlode in the Mill Field, was planted in 1995 as his memorial; this very fitting and lasting memorial was paid for by donations that came in with moving tributes from all over the UK.

Christine Elliott

W.D. CAMPBELL: NATURALIST AND TEACHER is published by Wychwood Press and is available from
Evenlode Books, Market Street, Charlbury @ £10.80p.

CLUBS, DRAMA, SPORT, CLUBS

CHARLBURY WINE AND BEER CIRCLE

The Wine & Beer Circle was formed as an offshoot of Charlbury Horticultural Society twenty five years ago. We meet in the Corner House, usually on the third Monday of the month, from September to March. Our programme includes wine tastings, beer tasting and a cards evening. After Easter, our events include dog racing, ten pin bowling and a barbecue. New members are always welcomed (no experience needed). For further information please ring 810700

John Moore, Secretary

CHARLBURY SOCIETY

The autumn programme of the Society begins on Friday September 12th with a talk from Ralph Mann on William Smith, the creator of the first geological map of Britain - the Map That Changed The World. Ralph Mann will look at his early years in Churchill and ask how it was that a boy of humble origins was able to make such a contribution to scientific knowledge. On October 10th people who lived in Charlbury during the Second World War, as residents or evacuees, will share their recollections of that memorable time. This will be an informal meeting and everyone will be welcome to contribute their own memories of wartime. On November 14th Mike Hemming will talk about his experiences of working for the National Trust as Custodian of Chastleton House, and previously of Beatrix Potter's old home at Hilltop in the Lake District. Finally, on December 12th Martin Way will bring our Christmas Cards to life by talking about 'The Golden Age of Coaching', with particular reference to coaches on the Oxford-Gloucester road, now the A40. Meetings will all be in the Memorial Hall, on Fridays at 7.30. Tea and coffee will be served after the talk. Everyone is welcome. Admission is free to Society members (subscription only £7.50); non-members pay £1.50 per meeting. Children free.

Charles Tyzack, Chairman

CHARLBURY TENNIS CLUB This year's club championship reaches a conclusion at Finals Weekend (6-7 Sept), when the cream of Charlbury's Tennis Club will be slogging it out for much-coveted trophies at the Nine Acres courts! If you want to watch, details of times will be posted at the Club House. With 6 adult teams competing all around the county this summer, there have been matches for players of all standards and many members have enjoyed playing against other clubs both in evening and weekend leagues. In the Banbury league, the A team having reached the dizzy heights of the top division, are finding life tough but hanging on in there; the B team are winning Division 4; and the C team is enjoying mid-table status in Division 5. Both men's and ladies' Wilson league teams, as well as our Wychwood league team, are mid-table at time of going to press. Promising juniors are also enjoying considerable success showing that the Friday night free coaching sessions provided by Mark Jarman are really beginning to pay dividends. The Under-14 boys had a convincing win against Woodstock and also enjoyed playing North Oxford on grass. Our Under-16 girls again won well against Woodstock and had a good evening of tennis with the Shipton under Wychwood girls. Junior members are also competing in Oxfordshire closed tournaments and there are plans for junior in-club tournaments, including an American tournament with parents. On the social front, 6 lucky members were able to enjoy days at Wimbledon, including one pair for the Men's Final, thanks to the club's recent decision to affiliate with the LTA. Tennis continues throughout the winter - for details of membership, ring Liz Forbes on 01608 676474 or ask for a membership form at The Pharmacy.

Alison Holthouse

FRIENDS OF CHARLBURY LIBRARY

Wed 15 October : Dorothy Calcutt will give a talk in the Memorial Hall entitled 'The Salt of the Earth' (A lively account of life in Woodstock and Combe 1900-2000). Tea and coffee will be served from 7.15 pm with the Talk starting at 7.30 pm Admission will be £1.00 for Friends and £2.50 for non-members, including refreshments.

Sat 25 October : A Coffee Morning will be held in the Corner House from 9.30 to 12 noon. Donations of cakes, plants, books and raffle prizes would be most welcome as would offers of help on the day. Please contact Amanda Epps on 810573 or Janet Walker on 810681.

Janet Walker

CHARLBURY CHESS CLUB Are there any young chess-players out there? We're talking 12-18 year olds who know a little bit about chess i.e. not just how the pieces move. One youngster in our Club needs a few others to give him a game or two and we're offering an incentive, namely a reduced membership of only 50p an evening and a chance to win the Junior Chess Cup and a cash prize of £25. Also as long as there are four or more young competitors there will also be a runners-up prize of £15. The Chess Club is 70 years old this year and in the 1930s was one of the strongest clubs in Oxfordshire. Chess has been played in Charlbury for well over 100 years and in the Museum there is a chess set presented to the Social Centre in 1897. There is also a fine old photograph of the 1935 Charlbury Chess Team exhibiting the cup they'd just won. We want to see this proud tradition maintained. We would welcome more adult members too, for whom apart from friendly and handicap games, there is an annual competition for which the Charlbury Chess Cup is awarded (inaugurated in 1935). Charge for adults per evening is £2. We meet on Thursdays at the Methodist Hall in Fishers Lane from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Bob Douglas our secretary (811083) will be glad to hear from you, or just turn up on the evening - first session of the season in October 2nd. Watch out for our Street Fair Stall where you'll have a chance to play and beat one of the members and win a cash prize. See you there!

CHARLBURY ART SOCIETY

The Charlbury Art Group was started in 1988 by John Patchett, a tutor at the Charlbury Adult Education Centre. The first meeting was held in January 1989 and the first exhibition opened in June 1989. In 1996 the name was changed to the Art Society. and has continued very successfully meeting on the second Wednesday of the month from September to June, with an outdoor sketching evening in July. Outings are arranged to major exhibitions; a Spring Exhibition and a Street Fair Exhibition are held annually. Subjects for meetings have included illustrated talks on all forms of painting, stone and wood carving, sculpture, printing, calligraphy, framing, art history, embroidery and needlework, ceramics and pottery. New members are always welcome, non-members attend for a small fee. To join please ring John Lethbridge (810274) or Pamela Neville (810594).

CHARLBURY SOCIETY WALK

Sunday, September 21st, 10.15 am (or 10.30 from Charlbury Station). Cornbury Circular Walk via Walcot, Chilson, Wychwood Forest and Finstock. About 9 miles. Pub lunch at Finstock or bring your own picnic.

Please ring Julia Caston (810240) if you have items for this section

TEEN SPIRIT GOES GLOBAL

Rose Ogden is considering her options

What a decision awaits 17 and 18-year-olds across the country as the stress of A-levels reaches a close and the rest of life opens up like a vast landscape as far as the eye can see. Where to go first? University? The world of work? Or travel? So much available to us, so many opportunities, and so many decisions to take. Personally, my thirst for travel has reached a climax, the rest of the world is just waiting to be seen. There must be more to life than Charlbury! And where better to start than the Vietnamese rainforest? I have been offered a place on an expedition with a non-profit organisation called Frontier Conservation. The project involves travelling to Vietnam with a small team of other volunteers and going to parts of the remaining rainforest to collect evidence of the indigenous flora and fauna species. The aim of these projects is to collect as much data as possible about the wildlife there, which can be passed on to government officials in the country so that as much of the rainforest as possible can be preserved.

The volunteer groups also work with local communities to help educate them as to why it is important to preserve the forests. Recently, for instance, they have helped farmers set up growing medicinal plants that could formerly only be found in the forests, so that the plants need not be taken from the wild resulting in the risk of extinction. The teams travel to the country for 10 weeks and live in self-constructed large tents in the field of study. The first 2 weeks are spent being educated in scientific research methods so that all the evidence gathered is valuable. Some examples of research methods are mist-netting for bats which involves setting up a fine net in the bat's migration path at night so that bats can be caught, identified, recorded and released. The best time to collect frog species is at night after rain. The volunteers go outside and follow the calling of the frogs with torches because they will freeze in the beam of light. Specimens collected on projects are classified at over 40 institutions worldwide including Kew Gardens and London's Natural History Museum, where they are checked in the search for cures for cancer and HIV. Several new species have been discovered by Frontier volunteers recently, including the clouded leopard, the giant muntjac and the Indochinese striped rabbit.

The work is very intense and as so much is learnt in a short period, all volunteers are eligible to gain a B-Tec qualification in Tropical Habitat Conservation. After studying arts subjects at A-level, I am looking forward to broadening my horizons with this extra qualification. The project relies on volunteers to carry out the field research, working alongside two research co-ordinators and Vietnamese scientists. Frontier is not a charity, its projects are funded solely by volunteer contributions. This is because it wishes to maintain complete flexibility, which could be compromised by being accountable to major contributors. As a result, each volunteer needs to raise funds to cover the cost of the expedition. For me this amount is £4000 to cover basic travel and living expenses and the equipment needed to carry out field research.

If you would like to offer any support towards the funding of the project, I would be very grateful. Please phone me on 01608 810023.

Comment from the editor on TEEN SPIRIT GOES GLOBAL:

The Charlbury Chronicle is absolutely delighted to read Rose Ogden's latest contribution to the *Chronicle*, extremely interested to hear of her plans and wishes her every success. We have decided to pledge £100 towards her fund in recognition of the work she has done for us since her first Teen Spirit article in September 2001. We support her plea for offers of financial help from our readers and asked Rose to tell us what she is doing to raise this sum for herself - here is her reply:

'To help raise funds for my trip I have taken on two part time jobs, as a counter assistant at Vincent Pharmacy on Market Street and a waitress at The Bull Inn. I have also been fortunate enough to win the Olive Gibbs Travel Award from Oxford College of Further Education, who pledged £500 towards my air fare to Vietnam. I have received some generous donations from relatives, and have been writing letters to various trust funds (so far without success) but I am still far from my target of £4,000. I'm trying to think of a good idea for a sponsored event but haven't come up with any positive ideas yet. I'm willing to try (almost) anything and would be grateful for any suggestions. If you could offer any support towards my trip please contact me on 01608 810023, or email crazy_little_daisy@hotmail.com. or write to me at Midsummer House, Rochester Place, Charlbury.'

NB: We are still making enquiries about finding a replacement for Rose and if there is a teenager out there who would like to 'have a go' please get in touch with Alison Holthouse on 810954. If you are hoping to get a job in communications or the media this sort of experience looks very good on your c.v.

CHARLBURY MUSEUM NEWS by Curator Ron Prew

The museum has been opening on Saturday mornings from 10-12 and Sunday afternoons 2.30-4pm for this season which has proved successful. Unfortunately as we are not funded by the OCC we still have to charge an entrance fee of **only £1 per adult** - accompanied children are free. We are taking part in West Oxfordshire Residents First weekend on September 6th and 7th, which will be advertised throughout the region and on those days there will be no admission charge. Another idea that we hope to try next season will be **for local residents only** to buy a season ticket for only £1. We hope this will encourage you to visit the museum more often and bring your friends along (they will have to pay the usual charge).

To enhance our archives section we still need any photographs, pictures or postcards depicting Charlbury as it was during the period from 1850 to 2003. We only need to borrow these items to make copies so that generations to come can enjoy them - otherwise they are just left tucked away in your cupboards and attics! Please help to support your local museum in any way you can, either by helping as stewards, by making a donation or offering items for the collection. After all, the museum is the only purely tourist attraction in the town and the place where our local history is preserved and on display.

If you need any information or wish to visit outside opening hours please ring me on 810060.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mr John Milton

I'm writing to say that, on reading the article on Noah's Ark in the June *Charlbury Chronicle* I noticed an error. It states that the house had been, at one time, Warner's Garage. My family knew the Warners all through the 1920s and their garage was in Market Street, just beyond the Pharmacy. My sister, Dora Edmunds, used to play with Margaret Warner. If you read the article '150 Years And Still Going Strong' (also in the June *Chronicle*, p 22) you will see that Wearing's Garage is mentioned as being in Sheep Street. Having mentioned the railway article, I want to say how evocative it was for me. I began taking the 0803 train to Oxford at the age of 9 in 1921 to get me to the then Oxford High School for boys in George Street. I was surprised to read that the trains were not very much used as a large crowd of us caught the train every morning. Many boys went to my school and girls, like my sister, went mainly to Milham Ford School at the far end of the High Street. We had to go to Oxford to school as Chipping Norton School did not open until the late 1920s. The Station Master, Mr Farmer, had three children - Oliver was my age, George was three years older, and Betty was a little older than my sister. We lost touch after the war and later we learned that George had become Sir George in recognition of his work for the Royal Shakespeare Company. In addition to us children there were a number of daily commuters, although the word hadn't been invented then. I should also mention Lord Dillon of Ditchley, who was a Keeper of the Tower and travelled on the train to Paddington. It might be of interest to a younger generation, who know nothing but a third-rate and unreliable system, to know that we suffered none of those inconveniences in those days. With the sole exception of foggy weather trains were always precisely on time, and our trains had the reputation of being the safest in Europe. They hadn't suffered as they do today from decades of being under-funded during nationalisation. That isn't to say that everything was better then - far from it. High unemployment and the threat of renewed war made the 1930s a very bad era to live through and the job opportunities for the young are far better today.

*Ridgeway House, The Ridgeway,
Tarvin, Chester.*

From Mr Patrick Sergeant

Early in March my wife Betty fell while going down Dancers Hill. A gentleman came to her rescue and a lady stopped in her car and took her home. Betty is a little vague as to who they were, so we send belated thanks through the *Charlbury Chronicle*.
28 Woodfield Drive

From Mrs Jean Adams

Today I have received via the Gardening Bulletin of the *Daily Telegraph*, a list of eighty pesticides, many that you will be currently using or hoarding in your garden shed, which have already been withdrawn from sale from July, and will expire for use under new European rules (Directive 91/414/EEC), from 31st December 2003. For further information and a copy of the ADVICE TO AMATEUR GARDENERS see the helpful website : http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/citizen/advice_for_am_gardeners.htm you will need to click on 'amateur' to obtain a full list of products. The products are being withdrawn as the companies have decided not to support them through the EEC review.

Baywell Cottage, Fawler Road

SAVE OUR POOL

Just when Charlbury Primary School, along with many schools both locally and nationally, is struggling to contend with budget shortfalls (it has already had to cut its teaching staff by two), pupils are potentially being dealt another blow by the imminent closure of the school's swimming pool.

Having been 'patched up' for years in order to scrape through safety inspections, the pool has finally deteriorated to such an extent that it will no longer be possible to get it up to a standard to pass next year's inspection. If this invaluable facility for the town's children is to be maintained, the pool now needs to be completely replaced - at a cost in the region of £25,000.

Generations of Charlbury's children have learnt to swim in the safety of the school pool which is a constant depth throughout and perfect for little ones gaining confidence in the water. If the pool closes, the school's oldest pupils (Years 5 and 6) will be bussed to Chipping Norton for swimming lessons in order to fulfil National Curriculum requirements, but that will be all. There is no room in the pool's busy timetable to accommodate the younger ones. They will either have to learn to swim elsewhere or wait until they are 10 or 11.

Headteacher Claire Stanley feels strongly that it is vitally important for younger children to have the opportunity to learn to swim in a safe environment, as well as for the school to be able to offer swimming as part of the healthy lifestyle it tries to promote from an early age.

If the money is to be raised, it is going to have to come predominantly from sources other than those regularly tapped by the Charlbury School Association. The CSA's hard-won resources are, for the most part, already designated for other much-needed and equally important facilities in the school such as educational trips, books and computers.

The fundraising effort will be led by parents and is being spearheaded by Jane Turner who hopes to raise much of the money (which has to be in place by the end of the year) by appealing to businesses, charities and grants for donations. These contributions will be recognised in a permanent display listing the pool's 'sponsors'.

Other ideas include asking children to design tiles (paid for by parents) which will form part of the decoration of the pool surround and it is hoped that pupils will take part in other fundraising activities throughout the Autumn term so that they feel very much part of the effort.

If you can help the 'Save Our Pool' campaign in any way, with a donation, by supporting fundraising events, or importantly by passing on information about companies or charities that are likely to support such a cause, please contact Jane Turner at jane.turner5@virgin.net or write to her via the school (Charlbury Primary School, Crawborough, Charlbury, Oxon, OX7 3TX). Cheques should be made payable to Charlbury School Association (Swimming Pool) and can be sent to the school for the attention of Jane Turner.

Alison Holthouse

OXFORDSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2003 JUDGES' REPORT ON CHARLBURY – Large Village Class

Charlbury's strong community spirit is soon evident in a walk round the village. Notice boards appear at every corner and are crammed with posters advertising a host of activities. This positive spirit shows itself in the high degree of care for the buildings and their surroundings in the centre of the village. The shops, almost without exception, are well maintained, the houses are freshly decorated and the Bell Hotel and two of the pubs have well-laid out car parking and sitting out areas. The War Memorial Hall is in good shape and has an extremely pretty and carefully tended garden. The same goes for the Museum. The churches and the Quaker Meeting House appear well cared for and the landscaping has been well-planned, with only minor weeding required in two of the gardens. The parish church and churchyard are in reasonably good order, except that two dead flowering cherries are in need of removal.

Community effort shows itself in the splendidly trim appearance of the recreation ground and well-appointed play area, and the attention paid to strimming around the shrubs on the boundary. Likewise the excellent cricket field, and the bowls club, although the appearance of the car park here could be improved, particularly as it leads on to another well-appointed play area and the flourishing Centenary Wood.

We understand the problems associated with the long awaited development at Spendlove but that should not deter those concerned from paying more attention to the verges around the car park and the toilets (why are they locked in the daytime?), and also the prominent corner site occupied by the Sports shop. Maybe it is also time for a makeover to the Sports and Social Club building so it can complement the immaculate appearance of the nearby surgeries and offices. Our comment on the verges at Spendlove would apply generally throughout the village. The appeal of them being left to grow entirely as nature intended seems to us to have gone too far and some positive management policy seems called for. (The Church Lane scene, for instance, is marred by their unkempt appearance.) We were impressed by the appearance of the grounds around the primary school and the standard and take up of the allotments, including the individualistic little number plates. Litter bins are well provided and well positioned. Charlbury is indeed remarkable for its general absence of litter – not an easy task in such a large village – and has succeeded in keeping the litterbug at bay in the favoured spots around the general stores, bus shelters and telephone kiosks. The only small black spot here was the Sturt Close play area.

Charlbury has the distinction of some specially planned nature conservation areas. We enjoyed reading the interpretation board at Wigwell and admired the excellent tree and shrub planting, which has been kept well weeded. If funds permit, it would be nice to see this planting extended right the way along the back boundary of the properties in Nine Acres Lane and so provide a green edge to this part of the village. Brewers Bottom is also a delight at this time of year but without an interpretation board similar to Wigwell we were unclear what the management regime was meant to be. We felt some attempt should be made to keep the invasive black grass at bay and that it would be nice to see the small area of cowslips extended much more widely with an inexpensive wild flower mix to attract more butterflies.

Having been struck by the active community spirit we were surprised to find not one of the many notice boards displayed the Best Kept Village Competition poster. Some searching was also needed on the map to pinpoint the numerous facilities and it might be helpful to judges in the future if there was a colour key. But these are small points compared with the significant achievements we have enumerated. Our hope is that where there has been critical comment it will be a spur to yet further effort without diminishing the largely unselfconscious appeal that makes Charlbury such a thoroughly nice place for resident and visitor alike.

(.....and after all that we didn't make it to the prize-winners!)

Broadband is coming!

British Telecom has announced that Charlbury will receive broadband internet access on 22nd October, and Richard Fairhurst explains...

On July 10th, BT announced new "trigger levels" for a new batch of exchanges. This is the number of households which need to express interest in broadband before BT will commit to installing it. Charlbury's trigger level was announced as 150 - and thanks to publicity work by local councillors and the Charlbury Website, 170 people had already signed up.

How it works:

BT provides broadband through a technology called ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line, but you don't need to know that). After BT has installed a small amount of equipment in their local exchange, (almost) all the phone lines in Charlbury will instantly become capable of carrying broadband Internet signals. There is no need to dig up the roads or install new sockets in your house. Just like normal dial-up Internet access, broadband comes through your standard phone line. But unlike dial-up, you can use the phone line for both Internet access and voice calls at the same time, so you need never miss a call because you're on the Internet.

What are the benefits?:

It's faster than dial-up Internet access - by a factor of 10 or more. When you access a webpage or download a file using your web browser, you'll usually see a speed rating - typically 4k (4,000) bytes per second. With broadband, you can realistically expect this to go up to 40k (40,000) bytes per second, though performance does vary. This means you can use it to download software or music; to access graphics-intensive web pages; to listen to Internet radio or watch TV; or for 'video-conferencing', which is like a phone call where you get to see the other person!

Just as important is that it's always on. You don't need to dial up; rather, your computer is permanently connected to the Internet. One benefit is that you can set it to check e-mail every five minutes throughout the day, so that messages arrive almost immediately. But although you're always connected, there's no interruption to your voice phone line - just a slight slowing of Internet connection speed if you're talking on the phone at the same time. Even if you don't make much use of the Internet at present, you'll be amazed at what a difference broadband makes. It makes everyday tasks, like administering your bank account, paying your bills, or looking up addresses, easier than ever before.

Can everyone get it?:

Pretty much. After broadband is turned on in Charlbury, you will have to decide whether you want to take advantage of it yourself. If you do, you need to pay for a broadband Internet access account with an ISP (an Internet Service Provider) - that's a company like Freeserve, BT Internet, Demon, Claranet or the like.

When you order your broadband account, BT will check that your phone line is up to the job. In all normal circumstances, it should be. But if there's a fault with the line, or if it's been split to give you two lines into your house, you may not be able to receive broadband.

What does it cost?:

For a home user, you'll typically pay a subscription of £25 per month to your ISP (Internet Service Provider). They pay a large proportion of this to BT for the connection. But note that you don't have to choose BT Internet as your ISP - you should still be able to carry on using your existing provider if you don't want to change your e-mail address.

(Incidentally, if you want a permanent e-mail address, you should consider buying your own domain name, like fredfromcharlbury.co.uk. These are completely transferable between ISPs, so if you change provider for any reason, you don't have to tell everyone about your new e-mail address. A domain name typically costs around £25 per year.)

You may also have to pay a one-off setup charge, in the region of £30-£100. This varies widely between ISPs, and some are waiving it in the hope of attracting new customers.

Once you have your broadband connection, there are no Internet call charges - just the monthly fee. So no matter how heavily you use the Internet, you still pay the same amount. (Your voice call charges are unaffected.)

If you run a business, and expect to be connecting your office network (with several computers) to a single broadband line, you'll probably want a faster broadband connection so that each computer enjoys the same fast download speed. Your ISP will be able to advise you on their business broadband prices.

What equipment do I need?:

You need a special broadband (ADSL) modem. This costs from £50 for a basic model, but many ISPs will now give you a free modem when you sign up, which will be adequate for almost all purposes.

The broadband modem will generally connect to the USB port on your computer. All modern PCs and Macs have such a port, but if you have a very old computer, you may need to install a USB card - cost around £20.

You also need a micro-filter for each phone socket you use, which splits the voice and Internet signals on your phone line. These cost £10 or less: your ISP will be able to supply them. Some broadband modems come with one as part of the package.

If you're connecting several computers to the same broadband connection at once, you may want to buy a combined modem and router with an Ethernet socket, which will plug into your existing network.

What next?:

BT is already contacting Charlbury households who registered an interest in broadband to entice them to sign up. There'll be regular updates on the Charlbury website (www.charlbury.info): if you have any specific questions, e-mail us at info@charlbury.info or post on the website forum.

Most of all, thank you to all those who signed up and managed to get such a great result for Charlbury.

CANADIAN STUDENT VISITORS TO CHARLBURY

The 2004 group of sixteen students from Atlantic Baptist University, Moncton, Canada, will be resident in Charlbury from 9 January to 8 April, studying for a module of their degree courses in English Literature. The module is on "Shakespeare and Drama", and classes will be held in the Baptist and Methodist churches in Charlbury and in Regent's Park College and other colleges of Oxford University, to which the students are attached during their stay. This is the third year of the current series of ABU-Oxford-Charlbury courses. Previous groups have greatly valued their time in England, particularly the hospitality received in Charlbury, and we hope this will be repeated in 2004.

The students, who are mostly in the 19-24 age range, will be living in Charlbury, some at Banbury Hill Farm and others in Charlbury homes on a bed-and-breakfast basis. **Additional homes are needed where a student could stay**, for periods between one month and the full duration. B&B costs are paid. The students are absent on their mid-term break from 25 February to 7 March. It is appreciated that many potential hosts cannot commit their spare room for a the whole time, so the organisers hope that more Charlbury residents will be willing to offer B&B for a shorter period. As this group is studying drama, numerous theatre visits are planned. Assistance is also required with transport to theatres (Stratford, Oxford, etc). **Drivers will receive a free ticket to the play**, plus motoring expenses. Hosts also will be offered free tickets. Help is also required with occasional meals, especially near the beginning of the visit before the students have become accustomed to local shopping.

If you are able to help in any of these ways, please contact the local organisers, Peter Colyer (810107) or Madeleine Wheare (810092).

WYCHWOOD FOREST FAYRE

This year's Fayre will be at Shipton-under-Wychwood on Sunday August 31st from noon until 5pm with free entrance (but parking £1 per car).

The original fair had its beginning in the late 18th C when a group of local Methodists held a family picnic in a clearing in the woodlands of Cornbury Estate. Over the next 60 years the event grew in size, and with the coming of the railway to Charlbury its popularity grew even further. The number attending in the 1850's had risen to an estimated 40,000 people! The event eventually grew too unwieldy and rowdy for the landowner, Lord Churchill, and the last was held in 1856. But in the year 2000 the Wychwood Project and Friends introduced a modern event that has continued each year at a different location within the ancient forest bounds. Amongst this year's attractions will be the exhibition seen in February by HRH the Prince of Wales when he visited the Project and, impressed by the enthusiasm and extent of community involvement, overstayed his visit by 30 minutes. There will be demonstrations of rural crafts, local craft and farm produce stalls, exhibits by local conservation and history groups, book and plant stalls, as well as traditional country games, a shooting gallery, Hatwell's funfair, Punch and Judy, flying teddies, bottle stall and raffles. The beer tent is being sponsored by the Wychwood Brewery, and there will be teas and ice-cream. Farm animals from Cogges Manor Farm Museum will also be there and Morris dancers showing off their traditional style of dance.

CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2003 SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH IS THE DAY!!

All the fun of the fair with many new events to see
The theme this year is 150 years of the Railway coming to Charlbury

WHEELBARROW RACE - FRIDAY

RAILWAY DISPLAY: STEAM ENGINE: FORMULA ONE CAR ON DISPLAY

EXHIBITIONS: STALLS: MORRIS & EASTERN DANCING

DEMONSTRATION OF BIRDS OF PREY: GRAND EVENING PARADE

BBQ ALL DAY (AND NIGHT!): DANCING IN THE STREET

FUN RUN - SUNDAY

Plus many, many more too numerous to mention

Chances to win many prizes for dressing up, races, games, plus the **GRAND DRAW**

Events will kick off with a flying start on Friday 19th at 7.30pm with the Wheelbarrow Race, around the town, calling from pub to pub and with a display by the Wychwayz Border Morris!

Events on the day will start at 1.45pm with the judging of the Childrens' Fancy Dress competition on the Playing Close by our mystery celebrity!

The Fair will be duly opened at 2pm and then the fun will really begin.

There will be something for everyone right through until 10pm so come prepared for all eventualities and all weathers, plus plenty of money to help towards the Corner House and Memorial Hall.

*Fancy joining the evening parade? Maybe Hogwarts Express or Thomas the Tank Engine ? Call Teresa on 811000 who will give you all the information you require.
Any late stallholders wishing to book a space can also contact Teresa.*

*We still need people to help on the stalls (offers please) and all you strong men out there - we need your help too to help put up and take down the stalls on the day.
Offers please to Pat Court on 811031 or Terry Walker on 810629.*

*All these details can be found in the Street Fair Programme which is on sale at News & Things,
The Pharmacy and Fiveways Stores - get your copy now!*

NB: A road closure order has been granted for Church Street and part of Park Street for Saturday 20th September between 9am and 10pm. We would appreciate if all parked cars could be removed in time for the stalls to be erected at 9am. Thank you.

CPRE PLANT SALE

In June this year the CPRE, previously known as the Council for the Protection of Rural England, changed its name to the Campaign to Protect Rural England, with a new logo depicting a tree and ploughed field.

The local CPRE district of Chipping Norton, Charlbury and Woodstock will be holding its Annual Plant Sale on the Playing Close, Charlbury, on Saturday, October 18th 10 am to 1 pm.

All the proceeds contribute to funding the work of this district in doing everything it can to protect the surrounding area of outstanding natural beauty from over development and damage, which is a constant and real threat.

Robert Caston, Branch Chairman

The Cotswold Line Promotion Group welcomes new members in Charlbury. A full colour membership application form has recently been produced and copies are available at the railway station.

Family Memberships cost just £5 up to 31st August 2004 and if the maximum permitted member's discount of £2.50 each for 2 adults on this train is taken, the membership will, in effect, be free. There will also be an opportunity to join the Group at Charlbury Street Fair on 20th September.

CHARLBURY EXHIBITION FOUNDATION STUDENT GRANTS

If you are under 25, live in Charlbury and have a **GUARANTEED** place this autumn at a university or college of further education, or on a vocational course or apprenticeship, you can apply for a grant to help pay for books etc.

Write before October 1st 2003, giving age, previous schools, name of university/college, type and duration of course to:

Charlbury Exhibition Foundation,
c/o Mrs Monica Dowley, Alma Cottage, Park Street, Charlbury OX7 3PS.

Those attending short training courses sponsored by Charlbury youth organisations may also apply.

NATURE NOTES by Christine Elliott Management of the Centenary Woodland

The Centenary Woodland in Charlbury is now over 10 years old and has reached the stage where more active management is needed. This will largely depend upon how quickly the trees grow but it is important in these early years to identify and prune the small percentage of trees with timber potential. Timber production isn't at odds with conservation principles, on the contrary, it enables a woodland to be sustainable and really follows the practices of previous centuries (*Nature Notes March 1999*). By the end of the century the site will have become an established wood but will only have 5-10% of the current number of trees.

The first 100 oaks were planted in the SW corner in 1989 in celebration of Oxfordshire County Council's centenary. The two acre northern section was planted in March 1991 and the remaining 8.5 acres was planted in 1992/3. Grim's Ditch, an important archaeological feature, crosses the south-east corner and was left unplanted.

The natural woodland in this area would have been ash and field maple and the planting design reflects this with about 2/3 being ash. There is a good mix, however, with beech on the thinner soils and oak where the soil is deeper and more sheltered. There are also chestnut, wild cherry, lime, and walnut together with lots of shrubs such as field maple, wayfaring tree, guelder rose, hawthorn, dogwood, hazel, dogrose, and sweet briar. Cherry is important because it matures early and, together with walnut, has a good market for high quality timber.

There are several interesting design features within the woodland. Apart from the 100 commemorative oaks for OCC, there's a half acre oak grove planted in memory of Janet Tassel who worked in the OCC Planning Department and died in 1991. This grove is reached along the side path flanked by yews to the left of her memorial stone. There is also a ring of lime trees planted just to the south of the main east-west ride. Trees which sucker like limes and wild service trees can develop secondary trees growing in a ring around the site of an original much older tree, so this rough circle has been planted to represent a more ancient feature. The middle compartment south of the main ride, has a large amount of hazel, which may be suitable for coppicing on a regular basis, maybe on a 9 year cycle.

The planting design in the Centenary Woodland was about 450 trees per acre compared with 40-50 trees per acre in mature natural woodland. Planting practice a 100 years ago was as much as 4,500 trees per acre, a density adopted in the New Forest, the Forest of Dean, and Germany and this led to very straight trees that required thinning rather than pruning. The Centenary Woodland is low density so that much higher pruning levels (and rather less thinning) will be required to keep the quality of the timber high.

This winter, Oxfordshire Woodland Project is offering to hold a half-day pruning workshop on site to teach a group of locals how to identify the trees with timber potential and how to prune them. I will be co-ordinating this, so please contact me if you would like to get involved (811057), it would be the start of a group of trained locals carrying out practical management under the guidance of the Centenary Woodland Management Committee.

A CHARLBURY VOICE

Things were different then, the old chap said,
Some born and died in the same old bed.
Saddlers, glove makers, and the railroad
gave men jobs; and kept them proud.
Yes, men kept guns but shot to eat,
the poorer families had little other meat.
People helped each other through their lives
with babies safely born to knowing wives.
Walking through the town you talked to everyone,
no privacy, of course, but things got done.

Now I know or speak to few people here,
and fewer people talk to me, or care.
I hear the railway is just a single track,
and a wilderness overtaking round the back.
Once men worked there selling coal,
later with its disuse, forced on the dole.

Then, useful things were sold in shops.
The ironmonger sold screws, pins, string and mops,
darning needles, hammers, dusters, candles, brown teapots,
measures, light bulbs, garden hoses, children's cots.

On summer evenings children ran down the southern road,
and played and picnicked by the Evenlode.
In those days we wandered, happy, daring, free -
well, nothing now is as it used to be.
Modern life is twisted, the proper order is unsure,
people not content with little ever wanting more.

There is danger everywhere, from cars and caravans,
litter in the streets, discarded bottles, empty cans.
The evening peace with rooks my music overhead,
silenced: a cacophony of noise instead
from pubs, which need the trade, and so
by popular demand silence had to go.

Were people more contented then? It's not for me to say,
and yet I think they seemed so in my day.

Patricia Huth-Ellis

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - CHARLBURY BRANCH

THE BRANCH AGM will be held in the Corner House at 8 pm on Thursday October 16th.

POPPY APPEAL COFFEE MORNING will be held in the Corner House on Saturday, November 1st, with raffle, cakes and poppies for sale. Helen Clarke, Poppy Appeal Organiser, would be glad to hear from anyone willing to help her in any way. Please ring her on 810608. **Poppies will be on sale at Charlbury Station on the morning of Tuesday October 28th.**

CHARLBURY BRITISH LEGION DARTS CUP will be competed for in the annual Open Pairs Competition in aid of the Poppy Appeal at The Farmers on Saturday November 1st. Details from the landlord.

THE ANNUAL BAND CONCERT will be held in the War Memorial Hall on Friday November 7th with the award-winning Stonesfield Silver Band. Raffle, light refreshments and a licensed bar. Details from the Branch Secretary (810822) or from posters in the usual places nearer the time. All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal.

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE AND SERVICE - Sunday, November 9th. The Charlbury Parade forms up at the Spendlove Car Park at 2.30 pm and the service is at 3 pm in St Mary's Church. All are welcome to join the parade and/or attend the service. The parade will be led by Pipers and Drummers from the Scots Guards Association (Berks, Bucks and Oxon branch) under the direction of Pipe Major Steve Duffy and commanded by the Charlbury Branch President Major Nicholas Potter (late Scots Guards). The salute will be taken by Mr Jim Kidd, the Oxfordshire County Commissioner for the Scouts in recognition of the support that Scouts & Guides and associated organisations have given and continue to give to the Charlbury Parade. Wreaths will be laid by the RBL, Charlbury Town Council and Thames Valley Police. After the service and parade tea and biscuits will be available in the War Memorial Hall for all marchers, Legion members and all serving and ex-serving servicemen and women. The rehearsals for all flag and standard bearers, wreath layers and readers etc. will be at St Mary's Church at 6.30 pm on Thursday November 6th

NATIONAL TWO MINUTES SILENCE will be at 11 am on Tuesday November 11th. Please support this small but significant event.

A VISIT TO LONDON to see the National Service Display at the National Army Museum is planned for Saturday November 15th so that some Christmas shopping can be included. Please see the notices in the usual places nearer the time. There will be an opportunity to visit the Guards Museum in the afternoon.

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS: The National Council has turned down the Branch's resolution (*Charlbury Chronicle, Vol.7, No 2, June 2003, p 25*). Copies of the written response can be obtained from the Branch Secretary on 810833. The Branch has written to the Secretary General about this decision.

BRANCH MEMBER SIMON HALL has been appointed to the Oxfordshire County Committee of the RBL.

MEDALS: The Branch would like to hear from any ex-serviceman or woman or their next of kin if deceased, who are entitled to claim the General Service Medal with the clasp 'Canal Zone' for service in the Suez Canal Zone between 1951 and 1954. It is understood that eligibility will require 90 days service in the zone between October 16th 1951 and October 19th 1954. The Branch has details of how to apply.

For more information about the work of the RBL, becoming a member or receiving assistance, please contact Nick Potter (Branch President) on 810388, Derek Fowler (Branch Chairman) on 811706 or Janet Parsons (Branch Secretary) on 810822.

OVER THE COUNTER - talking shop

ISTIMEWA BEAUTY SALON LTD. We would like to welcome Catherine as our new qualified therapist. We are having an Open Day on Tuesday, September 16th 2003 from 2 pm to 8 pm. Men and women are all welcome. 20% discount on treatments booked on the day and 10% discount on products purchased on the day.

POT ET FLEUR: Julia welcomes Sandra as a new member of staff at **POT ET FLEUR**. Sandra will be running Pot et fleur on Mondays and Tuesdays from 1 September. Win a hand-tied bouquet of flowers each month until Christmas - just fill in a form at the shop or pop your business card into the pot.

THE GEOFFREY WALTON PRACTICE has been successful with three local planning applications. Firstly with the extension to the Town Cemetery, Pound Hill, where the design for ground water and surface water management has been approved by the Environment Agency. Secondly approval has been given for an extension to Castle Barn Quarry, Sarsden, the quarry from which the stone for St. Mary's Church floor was worked. Thirdly planning permission has also been obtained for a new dimension and walling stone quarry at Springhill Farm, Salford to provide construction materials for a new large house to be built on the estate. The Practice continues to work on quarrying and mining projects overseas with current involvement in Poland, United Arab Emirates and Ireland as well as countrywide in Britain.

VINCENT PHARMACY is once again pleased to be sponsoring this year's Street Fair Fun Run and 10k race, to be held on Sunday 21st September. See posters for details or call in at the Pharmacy for an entry form. This is a good chance to raise a bit of money for the Street Fair and at the same time improve your fitness. An increase in physical exercise is well known to help many conditions, ranging from simple weight loss to lowering of blood pressure and mood enhancement. However, it is advisable to consult your doctor first if exercise is a long forgotten part of your life, or if you suffer any medical conditions. As a long time disciple of running, your pharmacist Dean Vincent can offer basic advice and encouragement. Open Monday - Friday 9am till 6pm and Saturday 9am - 1pm.

EVENLODE BOOKS: Working or playing at a computer or a desk can lead to bad posture and chronic back problems. Using a Swiss ball (a large fitness ball like those found in fitness centres and health clubs) instead of an unsuitable chair can help put this right and increase both your strength and your mobility. **EVENLODE BOOKS** in Market Street now stocks Swiss balls in adult sizes, with prices starting at £11.75, together with books of exercises that use the ball. Come and try one. Covers are also available that turn the ball into a piece of furniture! You don't have to be a health crank to have a strong back, just sensible.

GOOD FOOD SHOP: Lynne Stubbles at the **GOOD FOOD SHOP** reminds her customers that now is the season for Friday morning deliveries of organic vegetables from Sarsden Organics.

BUSINESS

FOCUS: Business Focus (Sheep Street) can produce personalised cards of family, friends, paintings, pets _ anything that is special to you _ from photos, digital cameras, slides or original paintings. This is especially relevant now as we approach Christmas and want to send our family and friends personalised cards.

CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE: Whilst we all like to see the quarterly **Farmers' Market** in Charlbury (the next one is 13th September) with its variety of locally grown fresh produce and products we should not forget the variety of shops we have in Charlbury, that are here all the time. **To help entice shoppers from the Farmers' Market and remind people of the value of Charlbury shops and the range of produce and goods on offer, there will be available on the day of the Farmers' Market a £2 voucher, which will entitle you to £2 off selected items when you spend £10 or more at any of the participating Charlbury Shops.** *The voucher will be yellow and can only to be used on the day of the Farmers' Market.* There will be a list of participating Charlbury Shops on each voucher. The vouchers will be available on Nick Potter's egg stall and Geoff Burroughs' Halcyon Honey stall. If there are certain products that you like at the Farmers' Market and would like to buy on a regular basis, why not ask the shops in town if they could stock those items, even if the shops can not get the specific item, similar could perhaps be found.

CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE

I thought it was about time to give you an up-date of the life of our Day Centre. Like so many of our town's organisations much of our work goes on behind the scenes, and shows itself only on Wednesdays. Then our volunteer drivers bring twelve older people from the town and surrounding area to the Garden Room of the Memorial Hall. There they are greeted by Kathy Pearce our coordinator and volunteer helpers to spend the day together. This we know is much appreciated by those who spend most of their time alone at home and cannot get about much. We are more like a family than an organisation, because over the years we get to know one another very well, and share a mid-day meal together prepared by our own volunteer cooks.

During the day we are kept pretty busy – at the moment we are making hampers for our stall at the Street Fair that takes place this month. We got the prize last year for the best stall and we want to win it again! Sometimes on Wednesdays speakers come from the town and elsewhere to talk about the work they do, or where they have been, or good old days. We play board games and have quizzes. We sing a lot too, and make things, not only for the Fayre. There is no limit to what we can do but because of the size of the Garden Room we have to restrict the size of the "family".

We are full at the moment, but inevitably vacancies do arise from time to time, so please do let me know of anyone known to you who might be interested a little later on. We shall be very pleased to hear from you. The first Wednesday morning in the month we are also 'at home' to visitors who might like to see what it is like – just give me a ring – more volunteer drivers and helpers included.

*Graham Canning (810421)
Chairman, Charlbury Day Centre.*

HIGHWAY VERGE - NATURE RESERVE

Following late spring cutting of the verge at the cross roads of the Burford road and Catcham Lane a meeting was held on site to discuss the requirements of both the nature reserve and traffic vision.

There were representatives from the local naturalists, a local farmer who uses the junction regularly, and a Highway Inspector. We were lucky enough to be joined by PC Simon Towers who wondered what was going on. The Highway Inspector is reporting back to the local Area Surveyor our ideas as to how to stop the 'over-zealous' cutting which has occurred over the last few years.

Patrick Sergeant

WEA CHARLBURY BRANCH

We offer a variety of courses in the autumn term:

- Late 19thC Literature:** Sept 23, Tuesdays, 1030-1230, Friends Mtg Hse
- Architecture, Furniture & Design, Classical to Neo-Classical:** Wednesdays, 1400-1600, Corner House
- Volcanoes & Earthquakes:** Thursdays from Sept 25, 1400-1600, Corner House
- Oxfordshire Wildlife & Conservation:** Sept 29, Mondays, 1930-2130, Memorial Hall.
- Making a Start in Discovering Your Family History:** Nov 7, Fridays, 1300-1500, venue to be advised.

For further details contact John Willson at 01608 819036

BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION 2003

This year's judging took place during June/July. Most Charlbury front gardens are relatively small and, this year, the problem of differentiating between large, medium and small classes seemed greater than in previous years.

The results were as follows:

A Large Gardens:

- 1st 1 Narrow Lane
- 2nd 40 Sturt Close
- 3rd 19 Ditchley Road

B Medium Gardens:

- 1st 21 Sandford Rise (rear garden, visible from the footpath)
- 2nd The Old Manor House
- 3rd Livanya, Crawborough

C Small Gardens:

- 1st 13 Elm Crescent
- 2nd 4 Jeffs Terrace
- 3rd 47 Hughes Close

D Tubs, Baskets & Windowboxes:

- 1st Rose & Crown
- 2nd 2 Enstone Road
- 3rd 41 Hughes Close

Congratulations to the winners and our thanks for the care shown in your gardens/baskets. The presentation of prizes will take place on Saturday September 6th at 4.15 pm after the Horticultural Society's Annual Show in the Memorial Hall

Nicola Morgan, Dennis West, John Moore

CHARLBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW

To be held in the Memorial Hall, Saturday September 6th. Staging for entries will be from 8.30 am to 10.45 am; the show will be open to the public from 2 pm to 4.30 pm. The Society would welcome more competition. Please make an entry whether it is flowers, vegetables, cookery or handicrafts. There is also a section for children's entries.

BEER FESTIVAL CHALKS UP ANOTHER SUCCESS

In its six year history, says Rob Stepany, the Beer Festival has raised more than £24,000 for the primary school

On a day blessed by superb weather, friendly company, good entertainment, generous local sponsorship and a great selection of ales, this year's Charlbury Beer Festival (in July) raised £6,700 for Primary School funds and confirmed its status as a highly valued community event. Along with visitors from Croatia, Canada and Japan, we enjoyed eighteen characterful brews drawn from as far afield as Orkney and Suffolk. More locally, the Bodicote microbrewery near Banbury contributed their "Life Sentence" bitter.

As in previous years, the Festival was well supported by our friends in the North Oxfordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale who also visited the Rose and Crown to see Tom Page presented with the local CAMRA Pub of the Year award. Dave Sangwine, who first suggested that Charlbury organise a Beer Festival, stood down from the organising committee, as did Simon Towers, whose stalwart support was also there from the beginning. Thanks are due to both of them. (Interestingly, I understand they are thinking about brewing their own ale for next year's event.) In its six year history, the Beer Festival has raised more than £24,000 for the primary school.

IS YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET SAFE? UNSAFE ELECTRIC BLANKETS CAN CAUSE FIRES!

WODC and OCC are offering FREE safety checks at the following venues:

Witney: September 8th 2003

Chipping Norton: September 17th 2003

Appointments **MUST** be booked - ring 01993 861060. First-come-first-served basis by pre-booked appointment only.

WHITE HOUSE SURGERY CHIPPING NORTON

We have been asked to include the following note for Charlbury patients of the above practice:

REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS: Due to the high demand for appointments our surgery lines are regularly congested - this is obviously frustrating for patients and surgery staff. The surgery is therefore attempting to reduce the volume of calls coming into the switchboard. One method of assisting this process is to ask patients who require a repeat prescription to consider using one of the following options:

- Fax your repeat prescription to the surgery on 01608 642794
- E-mail tony.love@gp-k84039.nhs.uk
- Post your prescription request to:
The White House Surgery, Horsefair, Chipping Norton OX7 5AL
(if posting please allow an extra day before collection).

ADVANCED ACCESS: The surgery is operating an appointment system known as 'Advanced Access'. This means that appointments to see the doctor are taken only on the day required. However, if the Doctor has asked you to return to the surgery following a previous appointment, these can be booked 2 weeks in advance of the date you need to be seen.

Tony Love, Practice Manager

The Oxfordshire Befriending Network (Registered Charity No. 1086264)

is looking for reliable and trustworthy people in this area to befriend someone with a life threatening or terminal illness. We offer excellent free training and on-going support. Our next course starts on October 7th. To find out more please contact Catherine Gundry on 01865 316200 or email oxford@befriending.net

Have you got patience, enthusiasm and a few hours to spare each week?

VOLUNTEER READING HELP recruits, trains and supports volunteers who visit a local primary school twice a week to give individual help to children who are finding reading difficult. No formal qualifications are needed to be a reading helper, and volunteers can be of any age from 18 upwards. There is a short and relaxed training course which takes place locally. If you'd like to find out more, please contact Hilary Burr at VRH, 36 Windmill Road, Oxford OX3 7BX; tel 0845 4500329; or email vrh.oxfordshire@tiscali.co.uk

TOTBITS

OUT AND ABOUT

The autumn has come but there may still be a few sunny days left to go out and about with the toddler in your family.

Around Charlbury, autumn is the time for making an autumn table. Hannah and I will be spending many hours over the next few weeks collecting conkers, helicopters (sycamore seeds), beech nuts and acorns, and endless colourful or interestingly shaped autumn leaves for our autumn display. Early autumn is a good time for your mini entomologist too with lots of interesting bugs hiding in the leaf mould. We are lucky to have all this on our door step, an autumn toddle with a magnifying glass and a bag for collected treasures can be a wonderful way to spend a fine morning.

Further a field, **The Cotswold Farm Park** near Guiting Power is fun to visit on a sunny weekend. It is just the other side of Stow-on-the-Wold and, if the weather is fine, it has a lot that will appeal to the active under fives.

You can find the farm park by following the brown signs from Stow-on-the-Wold. They specialise in rare breeds and there are many goats, sheep, horses, pigs and cattle of varying shapes and sizes for the children to talk to. You can buy a bag of sheep and goat food at the entrance and the children have a lot of fun feeding the animals, although small hands can only hold a few pellets at a time. Remember to wash hands afterwards!

The highlight of the trip for my three year old was the 'Tractor School', indoors in a brightly coloured barn. Children between three and twelve can drive little motorised tractors round a course set out with roads and fences. This is a three year old tractor enthusiast's idea of heaven. Each session lasts about five minutes and the problem is persuading your child to stop – there is a small charge for additional sessions. Fortunately there are other activities that appeal to would-be farmers. There are pedal tractors outside, a tractor-pulled trailer ride (again at an additional cost), and a large adventure play area to climb over. There are seasonal attractions too such as bottle feeding the lambs. This would also be a good place to visit in the spring.

The Cotswold Farm Park is open daily until 14th September then weekends until the end of October and daily during half term (27 Oct-7 Nov) from 10:30-4:40. It costs £4.80 for adults and £3.30 for children over 3.

CHARLBURY TODDLERS

Charlbury Toddlers are still looking for Mums, Dads or carers to volunteer to be on the rota for helping during the weekly sessions, as many of the current helpers will be moving on soon. If you would like to volunteer, or even if you would like to join the committee please talk to one of the committee members.

Following last term's sale of good quality children's clothes at less than shop prices, the Toddler Group hope to have another children's clothes sale at one of the Toddler sessions in November. Watch out for details nearer the time.

The Toddlers Group meets at 9:30 in the Memorial Hall every Monday morning during term time. There are plenty of toys, refreshments, a craft activity and singing. The first meeting of the Autumn Term will be on the 8th September. Come along and join them.

CHARLBURY PRE-SCHOOL

Announcing our latest adult-only fundraising event: the Midwinter Talent Night! Open to everyone. Hidden talent old and new, we want you, what can you do?

It isn't a contest so you don't have to be very good. All you need is a bit of guts to entertain the rest of us. If this is not for you, come anyway to cheer the stars on Friday 5th December 2003 in the Memorial Hall, from 8pm onwards. (*Read more about it on p.4.*)

Tickets are £10 and include supper. Bring your own drinks. For more information contact Alison tel. 810533, Louise tel. 813021, or Lynn tel. 811865.

THE 2_ CLUB

Charlbury Pre-School provides for two and a half year olds in a weekly session on Thursdays during term time from 12.45 pm until 2.45 pm. It is a deliberately small group with a high staff to children ratio (one to four) that aims to provide a gentle introduction to the main pre-school sessions. For many children this is the first time they have been left without their carers and the Club enables them to become familiar with the staff and surroundings. If you are interested, please contact a member of staff at the Pre-School on tel. 811200.

PRAM SERVICE

Praise, Stories and Activities for the Under Fives.

Pram Service finished the summer term with a very well attended Teddy Bear's Picnic at the end of July. Numerous Teddy Bears came to watch their owners bounce on a brightly coloured bouncy castle. Lots of fun for the under fives.

The first pram service of this term is on 10th September. All under fives – from tiny babies to energetic Pre-Schoolers – and their carers are welcome. Pram Service is an ecumenical group that meets on alternate Wednesdays during term time in the Memorial Chapel in St.Mary's at 10.15 (for a 10.30 start). There are songs, praise, prayers, stories, craft activities and refreshments, with a different theme each week. Dates for this term are 10,24 September, 9, 22 October, 5,19 November and 3,19 December. We also hope to have a Pre-Christmas Party around the beginning of Advent. Watch out for details.

Alison Offer (813063)

NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST: The Witney & District branch of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) is holding one of its popular Nearly New Sales of babies' and children's clothes, toys, books and equipment. It's on Saturday September 27th 2003 in the Langdale Hall in Witney from 11 am to 2 pm. If anyone wants to sell items through the sale they should contact Lucy (01993 704472). Proceeds are split 50/50 between the seller and this important parenting charity.

CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT– No. 28

by Councillor Trevor Jones

Town Council Annual Meeting (28th May 2003): Nick Potter and John Harrison were elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for 9th and 4th successive year. John Harrison was previously Vice-Chairman 1990-92 and Chairman 1992-95. The other members of the Council are Bernard Dod, Amanda Epps, Gareth Epps, Susie Finch, Willem Hackmann, Carol Jackson, Reg James, Trevor Jones, Lynette Murphy and Ron Prew. Appointments were made to all the Council Committees and for Council nominations to other bodies with some minor adjustments from previous years. Details can be obtained from the Town Clerk, Roger Clarke, 9 Hill Close, Tel. no. 01608 810608. He is normally available during the afternoon Monday – Friday.

New Elections : The present Council's term of office ends in 2004 when the whole Council is up for election together with the District Council seat currently held by Councillor Glenna Chadwick . These elections would normally be held in the second Thursday of May. However, because the election for the European Parliament will be on 10th June, they will be held on the same day to avoid holding two sets of elections so close together. Anyone who is thinking about standing for the Town Council is asked to contact Roger Clarke or any of the present Councillors. There will be vacancies on the Council next year as some Councillors have already indicated that they do not wish to continue.

Town Council Grants : Any organisation which would like to be considered for a financial grant from the Town Council for the financial year 2004/5 must send their request in writing to the Town Clerk before 1 November 2003. Roger Clarke is able to advise applicants on what the Council can and cannot support within the constraints of the Local Government Act.

Affordable Housing : In June Pearse Construction assigned the building contract for the new housing behind Ticknell Piece to Harper Construction Ltd. of the Harper Group, for completion of the site. Together with Oxfordshire Citizens Housing Association (OCHA) they held an open day at the Bowls Club on 25 June and plan to hold another one in September for prospective tenants and members of the public.

Cemetery Extension : The planning application has been approved.

New Co-op Foodstore: Amended drawings for the proposed store on the Spendlove centre have been submitted and are out for public consultation. Determination of the amended application is expected shortly. The Town Council is supporting this application.

Skateboard Park : The planning application has been withdrawn pending a landscape design. Such a design is also necessary for the proposed Nine Acres pavilion before an application is submitted.

John Merriman : Earlier in the year the Town Council nominated John Merriman for a Community and Vocational Award which he has duly received. Amongst other things, John has been Chairman of the Parish Council, Chairman of the Street Fair Committee and is still Chairman of Nine Acres Management Committee. Congratulations.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Draft Map Consultation : This is the first stage of public consultation under the "Right to Roam" legislation. Land owned or leased by the Town Council is not affected. A copy of the map for Charlbury with explanatory papers from the Countryside Agency is held by the Town Clerk and may be inspected by arrangement. The deadline for comments is 30 September.

Wheelie Bins : The Town Council has received complaints about wheelie bins that are left on pavements causing obstruction. Please keep your bin within the curtilage of your home. If you can only keep your bin on the pavement please consider asking West Oxfordshire District Council to issue plastic waste bags in lieu. The contact is: Environmental Services, West Oxfordshire District Council, The Gables, New Yatt Road, Witney, Oxon OX28 1PB. Tel. no. 01993 770222.

THOMAS GIFFORD CHARITY

The trustees are in discussion with the Charity Commission on whether to take action in the courts against its former advisers. This follows a frustrating experience when following the professional negligence pre-action protocol, a process intended to avoid court action. These advisers denied the claims against them but without providing substantive answers to them. The trustees have also received a further expert opinion strongly supporting their case.

The current phase of project work for the proposed community centre is near completion. The trustees are preparing a status report with an outline plan for distribution to and feedback from local political representatives, county and district officers, the Charity Commission and local groups expressing an interest in using the centre.

The proposed centre would include meeting facilities for all types of organisations (including the performing arts and community education), a new library, computer room, and sports and social club.

Although smaller than the proposal that fell through four years ago it is still very ambitious. It is important for us all to recognise that it will only be achieved with widespread support, commitment and compromise. Under the existing loan agreement with the District Council we must have a specification and funding plan agreed with them by December 2003. Funding will also need to be secured from the County and District Councils, external grant aid bodies and local fundraising. Those who wish to assist in this effort are asked to contact Trevor Jones, Heathfield, Browns Lane, Charlbury - 01608 810644.

Councillor Trevor Jones, Chairman of the Trustees

REPORT FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Brian Hodgson (tel/fax: 01993 891310)

1. DYERS HILL: The experimental order is now in place preventing cars parking in Dyers Hill between 8 am and 6 pm from Mondays to Saturdays. The order will last for 18 months, when it will either become permanent or be scrapped. Please let me know what your views are.
 2. THE SLADE: Thanks to Louise Spicer's hard work and to several special letter writers giving examples of actual accidents or very near misses in the Slade, we are now expecting the County Council's highway experts to produce an interim traffic calming scheme. When it is at the planning stage, the Town Council will be consulted. I hope we will see progress in the next two months.
 3. TAXI-BUS: I spoke up successfully at a recent meeting for the continued support by the County Council of the Charlbury taxi-bus until October 2004; all the bus services in this area will be reviewed next year in any case. Demand for the service has been increasing gradually since it started. Many thanks to Amanda Epps for sending in her well argued document.
 4. HOME ZONE: I am afraid there has been an unavoidable delay in appointing consultants to plan the home zone in Hughes Close and Sturt Close, because of a legal requirement to advertise throughout the European Union area, and not just in the UK.
-

From District Councillors Mike Breakell and Glena Chadwick:-

(a) The Charlbury station minibus service is continuing to provide a service for passengers despite the great upheavals in rail services due to recent hot weather and major work on the line. It still needs to attract more passengers in order to be really successful - it really is a question of use it or lose it as economic realities do bite in the end.

(b) The new Co-op proposed for Charlbury is likely to be debated in detail at the next Uplands Planning Committee on Monday, September 1st following further clarification of design details, traffic movements and the impact on the surrounding area. I have served on the Uplands Planning Committee under the excellent chairmanship of Charles Cottrell-Dormer for over a year now and really do find that it provides a good arena for fair and frank debates on difficult planning issues by conscientious Committee members. Come and listen to the debates which are held in public to see just how a complex and admittedly at times bureaucratic system really works.

(c) Another environmental concern locally is low flying aircraft, particularly helicopters that have been carrying out exercises along the Evenlode valley recently. I am particularly concerned that these exercises have sometimes occurred in the early hours of the morning and I have taken this up with the Communications Officer at RAF Benson. *District Councillor Mike Breakell (01993 868201)*

(i) Waste disposal is an increasingly serious issue affecting us all and we in Britain need to improve our recycling rates and tip less. The Environmental Committee has submitted an extended scheme to Cabinet and Council and we will soon be able to recycle on a weekly rather than a fortnightly basis and this will include plastic bottles and cardboard. (ii) The Street Scene Committee has studied public conveniences throughout the region and have also submitted a plan, which has been accepted, to upgrade all the conveniences in West Oxfordshire, in line with modern, hopefully vandal-proof, design. The Charlbury toilets will be part of the total design of the new Co-op. (iii) I am pleased that some of the worst pot-holes and areas of bad road surface have now been dealt with. *District Councillor Glena Chadwick (810555)*
