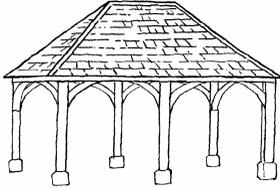


# The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 8 Number 3    September 2004

Welcome to the September 2004 issue of the *Charlbury Chronicle*.

There are lots of articles to interest all ages from the youngest to the oldest. This year's theme for the annual Street Fair is Myths and Legends, so Saturday September 18th is a day to note in your diary. Geraldine Peers, whose face will be familiar to those who watch the news on BBCTV's South Today programme, is going to perform the opening ceremony.

Did you know that next year marks the 750th anniversary of Charlbury officially getting the status of a town? Edward Fenton has a very good idea about how to celebrate the event - read all about it on page 6. Diana Potten's popular feature *A Life's Day* tells us about Chris Wray's interesting life and also gives an insight into how the amazingly successful and well supported Shed Theatre makes its mark in the town. John Stanley continues to look back over the Census returns between

1861 and 1901 and unearths some interesting local history. And there's lots more ..... read on.

A word of warning! Please be aware that some young lads have been knocking on doors asking for money for the Skatepark. Everyone should know that this is not official and there is no such plan afoot to raise money in this way. If anyone knows who the perpetrators are please inform the police, who are already aware of what is going on and are on the lookout for the guilty parties.

Please continue to support the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal. Things have been a little quiet during the holiday period but the next three months will be busy and there are several events planned. You will need to keep an eye on the town's noticeboards to see what's coming up.

Please note that the deadline for copy for the December *Chronicle* is November 6th.

# CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2004

## SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER IS THE DAY!!

All the fun of the fair with many new events to see

PLANK WALKING - FRIDAY

STEAM ENGINE

EXHIBITIONS

STALLS

CHILDREN'S CREATIVE STORYTELLING

MORRIS DANCING

GRAND EVENING PARADE

BBQ ALL DAY (AND NIGHT!)

DANCING IN THE STREET WITH SLAINTE

FUN RUN—SUNDAY

PARKING ON WYCHWOOD PADDOCKS

Plus many, many more too numerous to mention  
All the fun of the fair with many new events to see

Chances to win many prizes for Children's Fancy Dress, races, games,  
plus **The GRAND DRAW**

### ***The theme this year is Myths & Legends***

Events will kick off with a flying start on Friday 17th at 7.30pm with the Plank Walking Race, around the town, calling from pub to pub. See posters around the town and in the pubs.

Events on the day will start at 1.30pm with the judging of the Childrens' Fancy Dress competition on the Playing Close by our mystery celebrity!

The Fair will be duly opened by Geraldine Peers (newsreader on South Today) at 2pm and then the fun will really begin....

.... and back by popular request are Slainte, who will be playing in the evening – so get your dancing shoes on!

# CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2004

## SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER IS THE DAY!!

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 the Loch Ness Monster or King Arthur? Call Teresa on 811000 or Pat Court on 811031 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 Sue Cooper 819139 or Terry Walker on 810629.

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

Just a little request – the group who have been organising Street Fair over the past six or so years feel that we **need some new blood on the committee** to help keep the success of Street Fair going. We need some new ideas. This doesn't involve too much work, so if you could give some time to this worthy cause, we would be very grateful. Help is needed on the day for this Street Fair, but we are thinking more of next year. For all you interested people, contact Sue Cooper on 819139 or any red shirted person at Street Fair this year.

*NB: A road closure order has been granted for Church Street and part of Park Street for Saturday 18th 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.*

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### **STREET FAIR 10K RACE and FUN RUN, Sunday September 19th 2004**

Starts 10.30 am from the Playing Close. The 10K race follows a scenic route through the grounds of Cornbury Park, and our two mile fun run starts at the same time but takes a shorter, but equally scenic course through the park. Are you a keen runner? Are you a novice? Do you just fancy a challenge, and want to raise some cash for the Street Fair? Whatever your motivation, anyone is welcome. Goody bags to all runners who finish, plus prizes to each category winner which this year includes first local man and lady. Walkers are also welcome, but please register on the Playing Close on the day. Pick up an entry form from The Pharmacy or just turn up on the day, with your running gear. Further information from Dean at the Pharmacy (810315) or phone Neil on 810044.

# NEWSBYTES

## **Call in for a cuppa**

News & Things in Sheep Street has just undergone a refurbishment and introduced a new Coffee Shop with an in-store bakery. You can now drop in for a fresh cappuccino, latte or regular coffee and have a croissant, a cake or a hot savoury snack. Home entertainment, stationery and greeting cards, newspapers and magazines are still also available in the newly vamped premises.

## **Diary Date**

The next Farmers' Market will be held on the Playing Close on Saturday September 11th.

## **Christian Aid Success**

Churches Together in Charlbury is delighted to announce that they have raised £4158 for Christian Aid through the annual house-to-house collection, Lenten Lunches, One Day Shop and United Service collection and wishes to thank all those who supported them in any way.

## **Co-op sign changed**

How many noticed that the Co-op sign mentioning 'Village Store' on the board at the Spendlove building site was changed recently? After an observant resident whispered in the ear of the Co-op Chief Executive that Charlbury people are very touchy about not being called a village as it was granted its Royal Charter in 1256 as a market town (*see article on p6*) the sign was rapidly removed.

## **CPRE Plant Sale**

The Campaign to Protect Rural England will be having its annual Plant Sale at the Corner House on Saturday October 16th from 10 - 12 noon. Offers of plants and help would be most welcome. Please ring Julia Caston on 810240

## **Residents Rally Round**

In the first month of the new recycling scheme residents in West Oxfordshire recycled 605 tonnes of waste. This is a huge increase on the previous month's recycling total of 362 tonnes. The scheme has been praised by Friends of the Earth and rated by them among the top ten best schemes.

## **Meals on Wheels SOS**

We need a volunteer **URGENTLY** to supervise the despatch of Meals on Wheels. This takes place twice a week and the volunteer is only required on alternate months. Please ring Diana Griffiths (810465) for details.

## **Young Golfer Scores**

Congratulations to Charlbury schoolboy Rob Knight, who won the Oxfordshire Junior Golf League Cherwell Cup, held at Chipping Norton Golf Club in June, with a score of 48 Stableford points.



# THAMES VALLEY POLICE

**We  
need your help!**

Thames Valley Police will shortly open a police office in the Spendlove Centre, Enstone Road, Charlbury and are asking for volunteers to help run it. (Work started on the new office in early August, so keep your eyes open for notices about the opening date.)

**This is our second appeal for volunteers. Last time we had many replies and from that have 10 people ready to start. However, more volunteers would mean we can open more often.**

*We need help with front counter duties which will typically involve recording lost and found property, handing out crime prevention literature, taking details of non-urgent enquiries and probably giving directions!*

Volunteers can be anyone over 18 years of age, with a few hours to spare each week, who are discreet, reliable and trustworthy. You need to be good with people, have the ability to listen, be able to take accurate messages, be friendly and approachable whilst still being calm and efficient. Your motivation may be that you want to put something back into the community, or to gain experience for a future career. Whatever your motivation, all applicants will be required to complete an application form giving the names of two referees who are prepared to vouch for your character and suitability. All volunteers are required to have a police check prior to acceptance onto the scheme, and then have an informal interview with their local co-ordinator. If successful, you will be given a short induction course.

If you are interested and would like to apply, please contact me:

Rosie White, Volunteers Co-ordinator,  
Thames Valley Police, Banbury Police Station,  
Warwick Road, Banbury, Oxon. OX16 2AE  
01295 754524 (office); 07970 145814 (mobile)  
[rosie.white@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rosie.white@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## CHARLBURY BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION 2004

### **A Large Gardens - Blandford Cup:**

1st: 1 Narrow Lane  
2nd: 15 Sturt Road  
3rd : 2 Shilson Lane

### **B Medium Gardens - Hort Soc Trophy**

1st: The Old Manor House, Church St  
2nd: 2 Sandford Rise  
3rd: 18 Little Lees

### **C Small Gardens - Chairman's Vase**

1st: 10 Playing Close  
2nd: Lee Place Gatehouse  
3rd: Wick Cottage, Fishers Lane

### **D Tubs/ Baskets/Window Boxes - Charlbury Society Shield**

1st: Wychwood View, Thames Street  
(Dairy) (Rhododendron)  
2nd: 37 Woodfield Drive (Rhododendron)  
3rd: Police House, Hixet Wood (Basket of  
pansies)

This year's judging took place during May. Congratulations to the winners and our thanks for the care shown in your gardens/tubs/baskets. Prizes will be presented at the Annual Show on 4/9/04.

*John Moore, Oz Shayler*

### **HOPE & HOMES FOR CHILDREN**

is a charity which provides hope to children who are orphaned, abandoned or vulnerable - by enabling them to grow up within the love of a family and the security of a home, so that they can fulfil their potential. 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.**

# ***1256 And All That***

Does anyone have any bright ideas about how to celebrate a forthcoming local anniversary? February 2006 marks the 750th anniversary of Charlbury officially gaining the status of a town, by a charter of Henry III – although before anyone starts feeling too grand, it should be pointed out that the charter was granted not to Charlbury itself but to the Abbot of Eynsham, who was the Lord of the Manor of Charlbury at that time.

The demesne of Charlbury had been made over to Eynsham Abbey soon after the Norman Conquest, and by 1256-7 the annual revenue amounted to the princely sum of £3 6s 8d. It is unclear what prompted King Henry to boost the Abbey's coffers still further by allowing a market to be held: but on 7th February 1256 he was staying at his palace in Woodstock, when he granted to the Abbot and Convent of Eynsham 'that they and their successors forever may have a market every week on Monday at the manor of Charlbury in the county of Oxford; and that they may have there every year a fair lasting four days; that is, on the Eve and Day of the Blessed Virgin's Assumption and the two days following' (i.e. from the 14th to the 17th of August).

At first the market was held in St Mary's churchyard, till under Edward I it was decided that the custom was sacrilegious, and the market was moved into Church Street. In fact it was because of the need to accommodate the medieval market that Church Street was built so unusually wide.

Charlbury's new status as a market town had other consequences as well. It brought about a significant expansion of the town, along Sheep Street, Market Street and beyond. And it led to the establishment of what is probably Charlbury's oldest inn; a medieval map reproduced in Lois Hey's *History of Charlbury* reveals that the Bell Hotel has its origins in an inn of that name, and on the same site, soon after the granting of the market.

Despite Charlbury's growing importance, however, it remained in the shadow of Eynsham Abbey for another three centuries; but in the end, the market outlived its former beneficiary by over 400 years. For while Eynsham Abbey did not survive the Reformation, Charlbury market continued in various forms, and with occasional breaks, till 1955 – around the time of Charlbury's first Street Fair, although there is apparently no connection between the two events. Henry III's original charter is now preserved at Christ Church, Oxford, and a photograph is on display in Charlbury Museum, together with a translation of the text.

As for the anniversary, I have my own idea about how the town could best commemorate it. . . . Or is it too much to hope that the year 2006 will see our long-awaited Community Centre finally rising up from the derelict site currently disfiguring the centre of Charlbury?

*Edward Fenton*

## **Jon Snow Helps Grassroots Project Grow: So Can You**

The Grassroots Project is about helping older people in rural West Oxfordshire have more of a say in decisions about policies and services that affect their lives. The project was launched by Jon Snow, broadcaster and Chancellor of Oxford Brookes earlier this summer. Led by Margaret Godel and Penny Thewlis who both live in Charlbury, it is a collaboration between Age Concern Oxfordshire and Oxford Brookes University, funded by the Big Lottery Fund. From now until January 2007 volunteers will document their lives using photography and interviews, and help more isolated older people do the same. The volunteers will analyse the information and work with policy makers to improve things for older people living the countryside. Towards the end of the project volunteers will help create audio-visual pieces, exhibitions, and an archive.

We have places for a few more volunteers, so, if you are over 65, living in West Oxfordshire, and want to find out more, get in touch with the Project Administrator, Janet Wardell on 01865 483743. Alternatively you can call Penny Thewlis at Age Concern Oxfordshire on 01235 489412. You do not need to have any previous experience, and equipment will be provided. We can cover expenses, and the cost of replacement care if you have a dependent relative. This is an opportunity to get involved with a creative project, which has significance for policy both locally, and nationally. We start in the Autumn with sessions learning about recording our everyday lives using photography and interviews. So if you're looking for something worthwhile and fun we'd love you to come and join us! As one volunteer says 'we can't wait to get started'!

*Margaret Godel*

## **Tennis Court/Hard Surface**

Some of you may have noticed a lot of work going on at the tennis courts earlier this summer. The hard surface had come to the end of its useful life, the drainage was not working and many cracks had begun to appear. Early in 2003 the Nine Acres Committee obtained quotes for a new surface from four different companies, and with the advice of the Town Council chose the company who would re-do the whole thing from scratch. As part of the deal our mature trees were carefully dug up and heeled in, and a lot of the rubble from the pitch was buried on the bank, thus saving transport costs to take it away. If the trees do not survive replanting they will have to be renewed later. A grass and wildflower mix has been sown on the bank.

The cost of the project was £27,000 of which half was paid by WODC. The balance was made up by use-of-court charges and a grant from WREN. Lines will be painted shortly and the Committee hopes everyone will enjoy the new court.

*Hilda Joy-Jones*

## **The Big Move: Year 6 to Year 7**

If you're about to move into Year 7, you may be just in time to attend the Charlbury-specific induction day at the Methodist Church Hall, Fishers Lane, on Tuesday, August 31st, 10.30-12.30. It doesn't matter which school you're moving up to - 'The Big Move' is for you! Sponsored by the Youth Deanery's 'Crucial Initiative' it will cover topics like making new friends while keeping the old, the changes you're likely to face, and how to keep a foot in each camp (home and school). There will also be pizza! Call Kat Patrick 811660 for more details.

**A LIFE'S  
DAY  
Chris Wray  
Roofing  
Contractor,  
Drama and  
Music  
Director**

I am woken at 6.15 by Georgina bringing me my breakfast. She has done this for 34 years; in the early years it was a real fry-up, sausages, eggs and tomatoes but I have a much more healthy breakfast now with plenty of fruit juice. As soon as I have

finished my breakfast, I try to snatch another five minutes kip until Georgina wakes me up with a second cup of tea. I think I'm the luckiest man in the world. From then on, it is a rush to get dressed and off to the yard in Witney. I do flat roofing and usually work with a mate. I used to be a director of two companies but I found I wasn't enjoying it. Sitting behind a desk did not suit me and my weight had gone up to fifteen stone, so I decided to change my life. I often make decisions like this to start something or give something up and usually do it on New Year's Day. I have no regrets about my decision; I like physical work and agree with the Buddhists, who believe that there is pleasure in such work. We work in about an 80 mile radius of Oxford and are never in the same place for more than a couple of weeks. I have discovered some lovely places round about. We usually work steadily through the morning and lunch depends on where we are. Last week we could have our lunch on the bank of the Thames, so had a little longer break than usual. In the afternoon we work until 4o'clock. The job is like a cocoon, it gives me a chance to mull things over - often I go over a production I am involved in, seeing what can be improved or put right.

I became interested in drama at an early age. I was born in Oxford and went to a Roman Catholic school there. There was little drama in the school but through it I joined the St John's Boys' Club. There I

took part in a workshop and read a play 'Young Chippy'. Roy Copeman, who was the drama adviser for Oxford City was involved and he was an inspiration and still is to all of us. He was the first man who didn't talk down to me; he wasn't "arty" but really workmanlike. My two sisters were acting with the Oxford Youth Theatre and I followed them. We used to do plays at Drama Festivals and usually did well. When I got married and we had a family, drama had to take a back seat. We moved out of Oxford to Chilson, where I was converting a barn for us to live in. We were there for ten years and it was idyllic with a lovely garden with a stream at the bottom. But we realised that the children were growing up and needed to be closer to things and not reliant on a car. Stefan wanted to join the Scout Group and I was very quickly roped in to help. I did this for 5 years as a Beaver leader and enjoyed being with young people but I really did want to start a drama group. Sue Cochrane, who was the assistant cub leader wanted to join me and we started the Charlbury Youth Theatre in the old primary school and then were offered the canteen at the back of the building. It really reminded of my Oxford Youth Theatre days - there was electricity but no running water. They were happy times; we wanted to produce something different and did 'The Whale Song' in the old school, which was very successful. We were then very ambitious and did 'The Caucasian Chalk Circle' and were amazed at what the youngsters achieved. When we lost the canteen we were homeless for 18 months but the Methodists took pity on us and let us use their hall. By now we had a good team together, including Trish Fraser, Anneke Hay, Teresa Laughton and Jan Quantrill. Our aim is to get the best out of everybody and give them support, when it is needed. We are now called 'The Shed' and our season runs from

September to July. We have 2 sessions; on Wednesdays it is 14 to 25 year olds and on Thursdays 12-14 year olds. We continue to try to vary what we do and have just finished our first Shakespearean production and may do more. At the beginning of our year in September we take them away to Baskerville Hall in Wales for a weekend. It is a cross between an Outward Bound Centre and a hotel. We start looking at pieces of the show - Anneke tries out dance routines and gets the youngsters to feel the music and come up with movements. We all want to produce shows that appeal to a cross section of people not just the parents, so this is why I find it wonderful that I can think about these things while I work.

At 4 o'clock, I go home. I have a shower and am a changed man. As I am home first, I start to cook the evening meal, which I do every day. I like cooking but have quite a task as Georgina has to have a wheat free diet, Stefan likes meat and I am a vegetarian (the way animals are farmed and seeing the butchers' shops in Nepal with huge carcasses covered in flies suddenly made me stop eating meat). Georgina and I fight over the washing up as it is something we both like doing. By 6 o'clock I am ready to start my evening activities – these are involved with music as well as drama. The music started when I went with Alan Jenkins to the Hothouse and I noticed that the lighting was concentrated on the performer's legs rather than his face. I suggested I could help. I had been connected with a local band, who first were known as 'Shiver' and then 'Canola', when they used the old canteen. They bemoaned the fact that it was difficult to find venues to play and so I encouraged them to use the Hothouse. When this venue was lost, I teamed up with Andy Pickard and we started the 'Lock-in' at the Memorial Hall. This

proved to be a great success with some 200 youngsters aged between 14 and 21 attending and high-flying Oxford bands asking to appear. The behaviour was great but unfortunately because of trouble elsewhere in the town we had to stop. At the Shed there were acoustic nights going on with local musicians and also some good bands from Oxford as there still are. About 14 years ago Alan Fraser thought it would be a great idea to have a jazz picnic on the riverside. I helped get the staging ready. It was very basic to begin with but it has expanded. Andy Pickard, myself and a whole host of others do the organising and Andy and Tom Sharp find the bands. We want to keep it as a family event and retain the Festival atmosphere. We don't want it to be spoiled by its success and get too big. We are always looking for new things - this year we had an acoustic tent supplied by the Beard museum and manned by youngsters. The food was different too with a pig roast and we have improved the bar to get rid of the queues. We always try for a balanced musical programme and I would love to see in the future our local choir singing rock songs.

Usually I am finished with my music and drama by 9.30 pm and then it is into 'The Rose and Crown'. This is a good time to discuss what we have been doing and there is a wonderful cross-section of people in the pub. On Wednesday night, the bell ringers and CADS are there as well and it is a good atmosphere. I go home about 11.30 pm and either switch on the telly (which I don't really like) or I'll read for a while just to wind down. I sneak upstairs and am asleep in 10 seconds. I enjoy my life. My daughter, Geraldine, is just about to present us with a grandchild, which will be great. I am lucky that Georgina is so tolerant of all the time I spend on my music and drama. She gives me the chance to light the blue touch paper and start creative things.

## MEMORIES OF OLD CHARLBURY

### **The Farmers and other Charlbury Hairdressers:**

The series of Census returns between 1861 and 1901 tells us something about the history of Charlbury's hairdressers. Pete Cahill maintains that his shop in Market Street has always been a hairdressers and this is probably true as the history of hairdressing there goes back to at least 1700, when the property belonged to Cornbury. In 1750 it is reported that John Banbury, described as "Barber and Peruke Maker", was summoned to Cornbury to attend an important, but mysterious, guest. Could it have been the Young Pretender (Bonnie Prince Charlie) on an incognito visit to England? John Banbury thought so. In 1861, a hairdresser named James Farmer (aged 44) lived at the dwelling forming part of what is now Pete Cahill's hairdressing salon. James was baptised at Charlbury church on 2nd June 1816, his parents being Peter (a Labourer) and Ann Farmer. James died in March 1875 at the age of 58 and his widow, Mary Ann, remained at the shop address, where she was living with her daughter, Louisa, in March 1881. It is thought that Mary Ann Farmer died in Littlemore Hospital on 3rd April 1901, where she had been since 1883, and was buried in her husband's grave in Charlbury 4 days later. By 1881, William Farmer had become the town's hairdresser, having married Emily Brice on 19th August 1877, but was living in a cottage nearby - probably where the archway to the Post Office is now located and was still there in 1891. Then, in 1901, he appears to be back at the present shop. Later, a third generation of Farmers took over, in the form of William's son Frederick, who, in 1901 was working for his father as an apprentice. He is known to have remained there until after 1927, when an advert for "E & F Farmer" proclaimed "Hairdressers and Tobacconists. Established over 100 years". Although James Farmer probably did not take over the business until well after 1827, it was true to say that the business had been established that long. Pete Cahill has listed the hairdressers who followed on from Frederick Farmer. These are (not necessarily in the right order): "Ginger" Burton, Mr Woodacre (during the 2nd World War, when Ginger was away in the RAF), Mr Smith, Mr Murphy and Mr Stan Atkins. Pete took over the business from Mr Atkins, for whom he had worked as an apprentice, in June 1969. If anyone can give some indication as to the dates when these people ran the business, Pete would be pleased to hear from you. It is believed that, for a while, both ladies and gentlemen were served at the Market Street shop until 1960, when there was a "parting" of the ways, so to speak! Stan and Vera Atkins, moved the ladies business to Sheep Street (later Green Fingers), before transferring to its existing shop further along Market Street, 8 years later. In 2001, Mrs Atkins' daughter, Leah Fowler, who took over from her mother, sold the Ladies Hairdresser's business to Rachel Cooper.

**Thomas Brookfield:** Last time, we raised the question of what happened to Thomas Brookfield, the Station Master. Further investigations have revealed that he died on 22nd November 1910, age 57, thus ending 35 years' service at the station. He was buried in Charlbury Cemetery three days later and his grave can be found on the right hand side if entering from Thames Street. There is now much doubt as to whether he ever worked in South Wales, as he appears to have come to Charlbury as early as 1875. He married Charlotte Sturdy at Spelsbury Church on 23rd October 1878, so the couple probably met in Charlbury. Charlotte was born in Aberdare, but her parents came from Ditchley, where her father, David, was a game keeper.

A sad part of the Brookfield family history is also recorded on Thomas' grave stone. His son, 33136 Private Bertram Brookfield, died in action in France on 5th August 1917, aged 21, while serving with the 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment.

Thanks go to Leah Fowler, Peter Bowell and Richard Jeffs for their help in this research

*John Stanley*

## CHARLBURY WHEELED SPORTS FACILITY

On July 5th WODC granted planning permission to Charlbury Town Council to build a wheeled sports facility in the field adjacent to the existing play park at the top of Ticknell Piece Road. Charlbury Freestyle, the committee set up almost 2 years ago were delighted and very relieved that at last the young people in Charlbury would have a safe, purpose-built environment in which to pursue their sport. The process of achieving this has not been without controversy, and the committee have always recognised and given great consideration to the concerns expressed by residents of the town. The impact on the landscape was the issue that provoked most reaction, which was why we adopted the approach to seek full planning consent from WODC. This allowed time and opportunity for everyone who lived in the town to express their opinions before any such facility would be built. **WODC received more letters of support than objections.** WODC granted permission with the condition that landscaping the perimeter must be carried out to help blend the facility with the existing area.

The committee was set up, at the request of the Town council, to raise funds for the project. We have achieved this and the Town Council will now manage the building and future maintenance of the facility. If you have any further comments to make please contact Roger Clark, the Clerk to the Town Council, rather than committee members.

We need to raise a little more funding for the landscaping of the surrounding area. We hope to achieve this over the next few months and would welcome any offers of help and support. Our plan at this stage would be to achieve this by organising some local events, which we will try to publicise as

widely as we can. **Please do not give money to anyone calling at your door. The committee do not consider this to be a responsible or acceptable way of raising money. Any person doing this does not represent us.**

We are hopeful that the construction of the facility will start around the beginning of September and should take a week or two to complete.

*The Charlbury Freestyle Committee*

### **Corner House & War Memorial Hall**

Those who come into the centre of the town will have noticed scaffolding on the Corner House and the disappearance of the railings. Serious repairs and renovations to the building are being done at a time when fewer people are using it. The creeper and the ivy were removed so that the stonework was accessible.

The Library and Coffee Shop remain open as usual. **A reminder about bookings** - to book the Corner House and the Memorial Hall for events etc. application forms are to be found on the table just inside the Corner House hallway. Forms should be returned to the Warden, Moe Scholl, at the Warden's office. The telephone number is 810879, and the Warden is usually available between 9am and 12 noon and from 6-7pm on weekdays. Otherwise, please use the answering service.

*Ann Gilbert*

## **Witney N.C.T.**

Nearly New Sale, Langdale Hall, Witney on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September from 10:30-12:30

### **Sellers Wanted!**

Make some cash from your nearly new babies' clothes, toys, equipment & maternity clothes! Sellers' info pack available from Lisbet on 01993 778754.

# Letters to the Editor

*From Hilda Pipe*

The article on Geoffrey Burroughs (A Life's Day in the June *Chronicle*) was enormously interesting. I hope it does not, therefore, seem too churlish to point out that Queen Elizabeth's favourite, the Earl of Leicester, was not *murdered* in a panelled room in Cornbury Park, though he certainly died there of a sudden illness, while travelling north.

*17 Sandford Park*

*From Henry Siford*

I have lived in Charlbury all my life and in that time I have never seen such a remarkable sight as this and probably will not see again. The magical sight of a pure gold and blue rolling sunset sky. The vivid colours were entwined as if they had been put together by the deft touch of a master's brush. With my wife, we stood outside our home in Jeffersons Piece and watched in wonder. I then decided to walk down to the Post House allotments to obtain a better view of this most unusual and amazing sight. I was not alone for long, when I was joined by Stan and Margaret King. As we gazed in complete awe of the colour contained in this incredible sky we were joined by Rob Jackson. The four of us on the the night of Thursday, September 17th 1998 felt we were privileged to have witnessed a truly unique display put on by Mother Nature.

*8 Jeffersons Piece*

*From Dennis Crockford*

These are some strange observations I made during 2003, mainly on my allotment. Last year was the worst and the strangest year I have experienced. Firstly we had a drought lasting some 6 weeks, from mid-March to the end of April, although this was good for working the land and planting seeds. We had about

½" of rain early in May, but because the ground was so dry it wasn't enough to make things grow, so the seedlings died off, the shallots didn't grow and it was a bad year for my allotment. Strangely there were no flea beetles to eat the early cabbage plants, no slugs or snails, no aphids, caterpillars or lady birds. No weeds, except Fat Hen which seemed to appear everywhere. I tried to burn it and the smoke put up a lot of insects and within seconds there were about a dozen swallows, swifts and house martins flying back and forth in the smoke. A few days later I saw house martins looking for insects on the runner beans - I thought they looked weak and would never make it to South Africa. Three wasp nests on the allotments did not develop which was very unusual. Finally, I heard a cuckoo singing in September! On a brighter note I saw the most beautiful blue butterfly I had ever seen with two very large eyes which shone like two blue sapphires in the sunshine.

Two other things that were strange - there were no big spiders coming up the drainpipe, and secondly the butterflies which usually came into the bedroom did not hibernate there and eventually died. If this is the result of global warming and drier summers it looks bad for our wild life and vegetation.

*27 Sturt Close*

*From Patrick Serjeant*

Following the disappearance of boards advertising the Christian Aid Shop I spoke to OCC and WODC. None of their men had removed the boards. I understand that it is now the policy to remove signs unless prior notice has been given to either and a copy to the other. As this will affect a number of Charlbury clubs I thought I should write to the *Chronicle*.

*28 Woodfield Drive*

## **CHARLBURY POST CODE - Your Support is needed!**

Over the last few years both Charlbury Chamber of Trade & Commerce and Charlbury Town Council have been working together to get Charlbury its own Post Code and 'Chipping Norton' removed from our address. The reasons for this are threefold. Firstly, the business community is fed up with having their deliveries turn up late, or lost, or delivered to Chipping Norton, as is often the case. These days most companies use a Post Code system when ordering goods. Unfortunately this means that OX7 comes out as 'Chipping Norton' and sometimes the word 'Charlbury' is completely missed off from the parcel or package. Therefore these items are delivered to Chipping Norton. The second reason, and the reason the Town Council is concerned and wants a change, is that there have been a number of cases when an ambulance has been sent for and has got lost looking for their patient in Chipping Norton and not Charlbury. The ambulance service uses the same post code system as described above and if the full address of Charlbury, Chipping Norton OX7 is not used then valuable time can be lost in trying to find their patient in Charlbury. This has serious implications for ambulance response times and for the residents of Charlbury. Thirdly, there are addresses which are the same in Chipping Norton and Charlbury i.e. The Green, Hill Close, Market Street, Church Street and others.

The Chamber and Town Council would like your help to write to the powers-that-be and express these problems, or problems you may have experienced yourself, in an effort to get Charlbury its own post code. The more people that write the better the chances of this being achieved - so do please help us to achieve our aim.

The address to write to is:  
c/o Mark Thomson  
Royal Mail Customer Service Team  
PO Box 399  
Brampton, Barnsley S73 0WW

## **VOLUNTEER READING HELP**

Volunteer Reading Help is a national charity that aims to help primary school children who are finding reading difficult. VRH recruit, train and support volunteers from the local community to work on a one-to-one basis with 6 to 11 year olds who, for a number of reasons, may be falling behind their peers and are losing confidence and self-esteem. For many children group learning is not enough. VRH provides regular, sustained, individual support to give them new motivation to learn.

Over the course of the last academic year I have witnessed first-hand the enormous benefits that a volunteer reading helper can bring. A six-year-old boy in my last class had experienced a lot of ill health in his early years at school. As a result of this he had fallen behind and lacked confidence for both reading and writing. Each week he was given time with one of our volunteer reading helpers with whom he shared a variety of books. They discussed the text, he would read to his helper, and she to him. By the end of the year he had progressed enormously with his reading. His new-found confidence and greater experience with the written word has made an impact on his writing too. Now, instead of being 'frozen' with a blank page in front of him, he can write independently and commit his ideas to paper much more fluently. In addition, he and his 'lady', as he called her, developed a close relationship over the course of the year, founded on mutual enjoyment of reading. "Will I be able to have my lady next year?" he asked me at the end of the summer term.

Unfortunately, Charlbury School has seen one of our volunteers retire after many years supporting children in school. Hopefully, we will get a replacement for her. There are lots of children in the Charlbury area who would benefit in so many ways from this kind of trained help. If you think you might be interested in becoming a Volunteer Reading Helper please consider taking one of the charity's short training courses being held in Witney during the Autumn. You can contact them on 0845 450032 for more information.

*Eve Morris  
Year 2 Teacher, Charlbury School*

## **EVENING SERVICES SAFEGUARDED AT WITNEY MINOR INJURIES UNIT**

Proposals to cut opening hours at the MIU have been scrapped because of legal action taken by WODC. It had been announced that the MIU would be closing at 6.30pm instead of 10 pm with immediate effect because of staff shortages. As a result of the court case the proposals to cut opening hours were withdrawn and undertakings were given that service levels at the Unit would not be reduced. All costs were awarded to WODC.

The Unit is unique in Oxfordshire as it has TV links with the John Radcliffe Hospital, is staffed by Nurse Practitioners, and has its own x-ray department. It is equipped to deal with most minor injuries, including bumps to the head, sprains and broken bones, burns, cuts and bruises, and simple ear, nose and eye complaints and removal of foreign bodies.

## **PATIENT ADVICE & LIAISON SERVICE (PALS)**

PALS offer an informal and confidential service for patients and their carers, focusing on improving local NHS health services. Drop-in sessions are held every third Wednesday of each month at the WODC Town Centre Shop on Welch Way in Witney. PALS offers: on the spot help and advice when things go wrong; a link between you and the people who provide your healthcare; information about NHS services; and gives information about services provided in your area. So pop in, ask questions in confidence, tell us your views, and help us to improve YOUR local services. For more information call 01235 205565 or call in on the day.

## **NEW OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY CARE SERVICES**

From September 1st our local Primary Care Trust is responsible for providing urgent health care services outside GP surgery opening times. The Charlbury Medical Centre is included in the area covered by SE and SW Oxfordshire PCTs.

The Out of Hours Service can be contacted on **0845 345 8995** - this number will also be available on our GP surgery's answerphone.

Please note that this service does NOT deal with: prescriptions for medicines that can be bought at the chemist; repeat prescriptions; second opinions on problems being dealt with by your doctor; and problems that can wait until the surgery is open.

**NHS Direct** is available for advice for example on minor ailments, coughs, colds, and headlice etc, 24 hours a day, on **0845 4647**. Your local pharmacy can also offer you a range of services, including advice on medicines

## **ELECTRIC BLANKETS**

Free safety checks are offered by WODC. If you have the slightest worry about the safety of your electric blankets do make a point of ringing 01993 861060 to book an appointment. You can go to either Witney (on September 7th) or Chipping Norton (on October 12th), but you must make an appointment beforehand and you will be told where to attend.

# CHARLBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL

**SONG AND DANCE.** Extra chairs were needed to accommodate the audience at a very full Baptist Church on June 14<sup>th</sup> - and no-one who came was disappointed. The music group 'Strings and Pipes' provided a delightful evening's entertainment with a programme of dance music through the ages, interspersed with songs sung by Margaret Thomas. The group of recorders and string instruments is led and inspired by Celia Faulkner. A retiring collection raised over £200 for the Community Centre Appeal - thanks are due to all who performed and all who attended.

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**BOOMING BED AND BREAKFAST** Many thanks to Sue Way for organising a very successful Bed & Breakfast Event around the Blenheim Game Fair. Thanks to her hard work and the splendid cooperation of many householders over £1200 was raised for the Appeal. All those who acted as hosts for one or two nights over the weekend of July 23-25 remarked on how much they had enjoyed their guests, who came from far and wide and were delighted to find accommodation available in Charlbury. Fly fishermen, followers of beagles, clay shooters, exhibitors and others were all welcomed by a number of residents - Pat and Graham Canning, Marion and Roy Coates, Anne and David Crabtree, Ann and Willem Hackmann, Helen and Trevor Jones, Joan Mann, Lisa and Alastair Law, Lynette and Brian Murphy, Liz Reason & Steve Andrews, Frances Short, Ann and Dick Simon, Louise and Alan Spicer, and Sue and James Williams. Thanks also to Banbury Hill Farm who were instrumental in passing on names when they were fully booked. Several hosts thought the event was so enjoyable that they have asked Sue to organise some more B&B - so if anyone has any ideas, please let her know on 811416.

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Have a fun evening dancing to a Ceilidh Band!

**Flowers Original Band**

will be at the Memorial Hall 7.30 pm - 11.15 pm  
on Saturday November 27th

Tickets £9.50 Bar Food and Drink

in aid of the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal

Tickets from News & Things and the Pharmacy

Further information from Jennie Jones (811014), Jenny Haxworth (810051),

Frances Iley (811564) or Susan Strachan (811808).

# CHARLBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL

**QUIZ BOOK:** Beechcroft owners on the Playing Close are putting their heads together to compile a challenging quiz book with a prize for the highest number of correct answers. Look out for this on sale later this year.

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**AUCTION OF PROMISES** Our energetic County Councillor, Brian Hodgson, has kindly offered to hold an auction of promises for the Appeal. Make a note of the date - Friday, October 22nd at the Memorial Hall. Think of the promises you can make that will make money for us - here are some ideas: Offer to do a dinner party for six; offer a few hours' gardening; do some baby sitting; do some dog walking; offer a holiday cottage for rent; bake a cake; clean a car. Make your offers to Brian Hodgson by telephone or fax on 01993 891310; or by email to [brian.hodgson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:brian.hodgson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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**SUNDAY OCTOBER 24th at St May's Church** Freddie Jones & Friends will present 'A Little Light Relief' featuring light-hearted readings and comic songs in a programme devised by Hilda Pipe. Check the October Leaflet for further details.

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**WELL DONE TO THE RESIDENTS OF LEES HEIGHTS AND LITTLE LEES** who are having a Street Party on Saturday September 4th to raise money for the Appeal. How about other streets doing the same thing - any offers?

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Thanks to all those who have organised fund-raising events or helped in any way. Aside from the set-piece events money is trickling in all the time from lunch, or tea or drinks parties too.



Many, many thanks for various donations received, some anonymous, and for messages of support and encouragement.

# Church Services in Charlbury

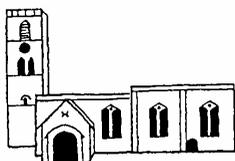
Baptist Chapel, Dyers Hill



Sunday Service at 10.30 am.

For further details ring Kay Colyer (810107)

St Mary's C of E Church



Full details of all services in Church porch or see  
The Leaflet

Rev Judy French,  
The Vicarage, Church Lane,  
tel: 810286

Friends' Meeting House, Market Street



Meeting for worship at the Friends Meeting  
House every Sunday at 10.30 am

For further details contact: Joan Rough (810704)

Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane



Morning Service normally Sundays at 10.30 am, any  
changes will be posted on church notice board. Holy  
Communion on Sundays Sep 5th, Oct 31st and  
November 28th.

*Further information from Marion Speight (811737)*

St Teresa's R.C. Church, Fishers Lane



**Sunday Mass:** 11 am (& at Enstone Youth Hall 9.30 am)  
**Daily Mass:** 9.30 am preceded by Morning Prayers at 9.15 am  
**Holydays:** Mass 9.30am and 7 pm  
**Benediction:** Fridays at 6 pm  
*Confessions before Mass or on call at the Presbytery*

Rt Rev Monsignor V F J Morgan, CBE, 5 Enstone Road, Charlbury OX7 3QR  
tel: 810576 or see [www.communicate.co.uk/oxford.stteresacharlbury](http://www.communicate.co.uk/oxford.stteresacharlbury)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY have several shared activities, such as the Bible Study Fellowship, Good News Group and Luncheon Club. Further details from Pat Owens (676541)

## *Letter to the Editor*

### **As BBC Oxford's new reporter for West Oxfordshire**

I'm hoping to hear stories from your community. I've been a reporter in the county for the last three years, but now, as part of a drive to get deeper into Oxfordshire communities, reporters for each district are being appointed. I'm aiming to get at least one story a day from West Oxfordshire on air, so you'll have a reason to tune in to BBC Radio Oxford every morning. But, I need your help! I'd like to hear your concerns and issues; perhaps you're worried about anti-social behaviour or the state of the roads? Have you had problems with health care or maybe you're frustrated with other local services? Perhaps there's a good news story you'd like to share. Whatever the issue, I'd like to hear from you. If you have a story, do call me....and feel free to get in touch if you'd simply like to find out more about me, or introduce yourself. I'm on 01865 889063, 07834 845 901 or you can email me [katy.johnstone@bbc.co.uk](mailto:katy.johnstone@bbc.co.uk)

*Katy Johnstone*

### **RACE NIGHT**

Race Night to be held on Saturday, September 25th in the Memorial Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm for 8 pm start. Licensed Bar. Raffle. All proceeds to Charlbury Pre-School. To sponsor a race, or buy a horse beforehand, call Lyn Gorton on 811865

### **CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE**

At our AGM we were able to report another successful and eventful year. Most importantly, our membership has been kept up and our waiting list reduced. So if you know of anyone who is getting on in years .... who doesn't get out much .... who spends many hours each day alone .... who might benefit from the good company of others one day a week ..... who might like to be, what we call, a member of our family ..... we should love to hear from you.

We also want some more volunteers to help us in the centre; to join our team of helpers who come one morning or afternoon once a month, from 10 am to 1 pm or from 1 pm to 3 pm. We want some drivers too, who in their own cars bring our members to and from the centre, either in the morning or take them home in the afternoon. Most of them live in Charlbury and it doesn't take very long - less than an hour a week once a month. Without the assistance of volunteers we cannot function, and we do need more of them! Could you be one more?

*Graham Canning (810421)  
Chairman, Management Committee*

### **RIDE OR STRIDE**

Saturday September 11th 2004

A sponsored event to raise money for the church of your choice and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

Your contribution will be equally divided between the two.

Sponsorship forms and details available from Sarah Potter (01608 810388).

*County Organiser: Richard Lethbridge (01993 824196)  
Registered Charity 235644*

## **The Royal British Legion – Charlbury Branch**

The Branch AGM will be held in the Corner House at 8.00pm on Thursday 21 October 2004. All members are encouraged to attend. Anyone who would like to join the Branch also most welcome. The Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning will be held in the Corner House on Saturday 6 November 2004, with raffle, cakes and poppies for sale. Helen Clarke, the Poppy Appeal Organiser, would be glad to hear from anyone who would like to help with the Appeal in any way. Please telephone her on 810608. Poppies will be on sale at Charlbury Station on the mornings of Tuesday 2 and 9 November 2004.

The British Legion Darts Cup will be competed for in the Annual Open Pairs Competition in aid of the Poppy Appeal at the Old Three Horseshoes [more recently known as the Farmer's or the Railway Arms on Saturday 6 November 2004. Pete Scarrott has kindly agreed to organise the competition. He can be contacted for details on 810921.

The National Two Minutes Silence will be at 11.00am on Tuesday 11 November 2004. Please support this small yet significant event.

The Annual Band Concert will be held in the War Memorial Hall on Friday 12 November 2004 with the award winning Stonesfield Silver Band. There will be a raffle, light refreshments and a licensed bar. Details may be obtained from the Branch Secretary on 810822 or from posters in the usual places nearer the time. All proceeds are for the Poppy Appeal.

Remembrance Day Parade and Service – Sunday 14 November 2004. The Charlbury Parade forms up at the Spendlove Car Park at 2.30pm and the Service is at 3.00pm in St. Mary's Church. All are welcome to join the parade and/or the service. The parade will be led by Pipers and Drummers of 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 John Hannis who served with the Coldstream Guards during World War 2. John is a Life Vice President of The Royal

British Legion Oxfordshire County Branch, a Gold Badge holder and a stalwart supporter of the Charlbury Branch, not to mention all that he does for the Chipping Norton Branch. Wreaths will be laid by the Legion, Charlbury Town Council and Thames Valley Police. After the Service and Parade tea and biscuits will be available for all marchers, Legion members, serving and ex-serving service personnel. The rehearsal for all standard and flag bearers, wreath layers and readers etc will be at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm on Thursday 11 November 2004.

For more information about the work of the Royal British Legion, becoming a member or for assistance, please contact Nick Potter [Branch President] on 810388, Derek Fowler [Branch Chairman] on 811706 or Jane Parsons [Branch Secretary] on 810822.

### **Voices of War An Entertainment in Words and Music**

A performance of Voices of War will take place in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund (Oxfordshire) at Dorchester Abbey at 8 pm on Saturday 30th October with Freddie Jones, the Fijian Choir of 23 Pioneer Regiment, the Royal Logistic Corps, and the Pipes and Drums of the Scots Guards Association (Berks, Bucks and Oxon Branch). Tickets are £12.00 each including refreshments and can be obtained from David Heather 01488 71388, or email [dmurrayheather@aol.com](mailto:dmurrayheather@aol.com) If sufficient people from Charlbury would like to go it may be possible to lay on a bus. Anybody who is interested in this idea is asked to telephone Sarah or Nick Potter on 01608 810388

# CLUBS, DRAMA, SPORT, GROUPS

## **CHARLBURY SOCIETY**

This autumn the Charlbury Society has an exceptionally varied programme of meetings. We start on September 10th with a talk on Industrial Archaeology from Philip Morris, who will be well-known to Charlbury WEA members for his classes on Family History and other topics. On October 8th we welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Hugo Brunner, who will be talking about the history and functions of his ancient office. This will be followed on November 12th by Craig Blackwell, the County Ecologist, on the Landscapes and Habitats of Oxfordshire. Finally, on December 10th, local artist Di Gold will be describing Stained Glass Windows and the techniques used in making them. We hope that everyone will find something to interest them in this programme. Meetings will be in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm (except for November 12th, which will be in the Methodist Church Hall). Tea and coffee will be served after the talks. Admission free to Society members (subscription only £7.50 per year); non-members pay £1.50 per meeting. Children free.

*Charles Tyzack*

## **CHARLBURY ART SOCIETY**

New members will be warmly welcomed – no need to be an artist to join, just to have an interest in art.

On Sept 15<sup>th</sup> Dr Willem Hackmann will give an illustrated talk about perspective. On October 13<sup>th</sup> October, following the AGM, Glenda Chadwick will talk about Kelmscott, the home of William Morris. In November we hope to have a demonstration by an artist. Next year's varied programme includes demonstrations in oils, watercolour, and pen-and-wash, and talks by an Ashmolean guide and by the painter of

the now widely acclaimed "Yellow Hat Tribe".

Meetings are in the Morris room at the Corner House, 7.30 pm, normally on the second Wednesday each month. Annual membership is currently £10, covering eight meetings, opportunities to sell your work at twice yearly exhibitions, and discounts on framing and art supplies. (As non-members pay £3 a visit, joining in September gives excellent value!)

*For further information please ring Brian Bullen, Chairman 01993 868200; John Lethbridge, Membership Secretary & Treasurer 01608 810274; or Pamela Neville, Secretary 01608 810594.*

## **FRIENDS OF CHARLBURY LIBRARY**

Saturday, October 30th, Coffee Morning, 9.30 - noon at the Corner House. Offers of help and donations would be much appreciated. Contact Amanda Epps on 810573, or Janet Walker on 810681. It is also hoped to arrange two talks in the autumn. See the Leaflet and notice boards for further details.

## **CHARLBURY TENNIS CLUB**

With the resurfacing of the multi play area at Nine Acres Recreation Ground there is now even more opportunity to play tennis over the Autumn and Winter months. Charlbury Tennis Club, based at Nine Acres, offers tennis for everyone throughout the year.

We run 4 teams in the Winter to cater for everyone who wants to play tennis competitively, two at the weekends and two mid week. We also have regular social sessions throughout the winter (see noticeboard on the courts for

# CLUBS, DRAMA, SPORT, GROUPS

details).

Winter membership entitles you to:

- Free court use during club sessions; reduced court fees outside club times (please book at the newsagents); and opportunities to compete in tournaments and inter-club league matches.

For further details about the tennis club phone 01608 810777 or call into Vincent Pharmacy for an application form.

## WEA COURSES

10 week course on wildlife by Alan Spicer in the Garden Room, starting September 27th 7.45 pm - 9.45 pm.- £60. Alan Spicer also gives a day school, including field trip, on 'All fungi great and small' on Saturday, October 16th, 10am-4pm at Charlbury Primary School. £24, including lunch.

There will be a 20-week course on early 20th century English literature given by Ros Lacey in the Friends' Meeting House from 10.30am-12.30pm, starting on September 28th. - £120

Michael Davies gives a 5 week course on International Organisations, focussing on UN systems, financial institutions and the EU, starting on October 4th 10.30am-12.30pm in the Downer Room at the Corner House. £32

**WEA Enstone Branch** at Enstone Parish Hall: Dramatic Sculpture with Clay - Tutor Mitch Thompson. 7 weeks from Oct 5, 7.30-9.30 pm. Fee £38. Creative Writing - Tutor Helen Clarke, 7 weeks from Oct 5th, 2-4 pm. Fee £38. All enrolments to Moira Low on 01608 677 443. (Help with fees may be available for those in receipt of benefits.)

## CHARLBURY WINE & BEER CIRCLE

We normally meet on the third Monday of the month at 8.15 pm in the Corner House - but note some changes. The 2004-2005 programme is as follows: Sep 27th: AGM, cheese & biscuits, quiz and chat.

Oct 18th: Booze-Runner's Wine Guide - wine tasting  
Nov. meeting yet to be finalised  
Dec 20th: Christmas Party, 7.30 pm - Bring and share evening

## 2005

Jan 17th: Cards evening (whist)

Feb 21st: Wine tasting

March 21st: Beer tasting

April 19th (Tuesday): Dog racing and meal, Oxford Stadium, 6.15 pm pick-up

May 16th: Ten pin bowling, Eynsham, 7 pm pick up

June 19th (Sunday) : Barbecue, 12 noon

July 18th: Garden Party, 7 pm, bring and share evening.

No meeting during August.

Unless otherwise stated meetings are held on Mondays. New members always welcome.

For further information and full programme please telephone the Secretary, John Moore on 810700 or Laurie Baughan on 810235

*Please contact Julia Caston (810240) if you wish to submit copy for this section*



## **OUT AND ABOUT**

Now the school holidays are over and the crowds have left it is a good time to visit some of the more popular local attractions. One of our favourites (weather permitting) is the Cotswold Wildlife Park just the other side of Burford. Hannah loves the big animals – especially the lions and the giant green anacondas and 20 foot long reticulated pythons. Another big hit with small children is the penguin feeding at 11am and again in the afternoon. There is a well stocked children's farm with opportunities to pat the animals and a very exciting play ground. We usually take a picnic (there is a shady picnic ground just next to the lions), but there are refreshments available. If you have very small children there are useful unisex baby changing facilities scattered around the site and there is a lot of walking so take a stroller for younger toddlers.

Cotswold Wildlife Park is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 10am. Last admissions are 4 o'clock in September and 3 o'clock from October. The cost is £8.00 for adults, £5.50 for children, under threes are free.

## **Charlbury Preschool**

The new term at Charlbury Pre-School starts on September 2nd. Note that 2½ Club will be running sessions on Friday mornings this term, instead of Thursday afternoons.

Charlbury Pre-School is a thriving, voluntary-run organisation that provides education through play for children from 2½ to 5. The pre-school is open to every family in the community. It is run by enthusiastic parents and employs six

dedicated and experienced staff. Sessions take place in the morning from Monday to Friday in The Old Grammar School in Park Street.

There is an excellent selection of play and learning materials which, together with the activities of the daily sessions, offer the pre-school child an ideal opportunity to interact with others and learn through play.

Please ring 01608 811200 during session time to arrange a visit.

## **Charlbury Toddler Group**

The playgroup continues to meet on Monday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30 in the memorial hall during term time. There are plenty of toys, song time and refreshments. All are welcome.

## **Ace Family Centre Drop In**

Don't forget the Family Centre Drop-In sessions at the ACE centre in Burford Road, Chipping Norton. These operate most days from 9.00 until 12.30 during term time and cost 50p per family. On Mondays (not the first Monday of term), as well as the usual learning by play opportunities, there is a music session for half an hour from 10.30 which is very popular and will be running in the hall this term to give extra space. In addition they have a speech therapist visiting at 11am on Mondays who can answer any questions. The ACE centre produce a monthly flyer with all the details of the Drop-In sessions for that month. Ring the family centre on 01608 644440 for more details.

## NEW POOLS FOR OLD

Following the formal opening of Charlbury Primary School's new swimming pool on July 13th, the Charlbury Chronicle talked to two of the children who took part in the opening ceremony.

### **CHRONICLE: Why did the old pool have to be demolished?**

BETH: It was falling apart - and there was a leak somewhere.

CHARLOTTE: It was too small and broken, and it was a bit like a bath. It had a plug in it, and someone could just dive down and pull it out.

### **CHRONICLE: What would happen then?**

CHARLOTTE: They'd get told off, and all the water would come out.

BETH: It'd take a month to fill it up again.

### **CHRONICLE: Why's the new pool better?**

CHARLOTTE: It's much warmer. The old one was always cold and everyone came out freezing.

BETH: The new one has a new cover. And it's deeper.

### **CHRONICLE: How did the school raise all the money?**

BETH: My mum did a job for free. . . . I think she designed the pool.

CHARLOTTE: We did some skipping - half the money went to the Radcliffe Hospital, and half went to the pool.

BETH: And a lady from the Pottery Place gave the school some tiles, and we painted pictures on them and put them around the pool.

### **CHRONICLE: What happened at the opening ceremony?**

BETH: Each class did a different thing. We made a whirlpool - and some people from Mr Lester's class had a relay race.

CHARLOTTE: Mrs Campbell's class played water basketball. And the little ones did synchronised swimming.

### **CHRONICLE: So would you have been disappointed if the school hadn't**

### **replaced the old pool?**

BETH: I would be really angry. . . .

CHARLOTTE: And everyone would be really upset. We're lucky!

I can't confirm the story about the plug. . . But the new pool - thanks to the Charlbury School Association, and all the people who donated their services or helped to raise funds - is real enough, and looks like a great improvement on the old one.

*Edward Fenton*

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At the opening ceremony of Charlbury Primary School's new Swimming Pool Professor Geoffrey Walton spoke on behalf of the school's governing body and welcomed what he called 'an important and notable achievement'. He said that his primary function was to thank all those involved in raising the £20,000 for rebuilding the pool (originally built in the 1970s) for the next generation. Professor Walton thanked his fellow governors, the many parents who helped both at the pool and in fundraising, the Beer Festival Committee and the CSA, the builder, structural engineer and the architect, and donors, individual organisations and companies and shops in the town who had given generously, as well as those who were ensuring the children's safety by organising lifeguard training.

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## CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The CAB is one of the UK's largest and best known voluntary organisations. In 2003 the West Oxfordshire CAB (with bureaux in Witney and Chipping Norton) responded to over 17,500 requests for advice from the local community. A recent survey of clients showed that 92% felt that visiting the bureaux had been a great help. West Oxon CAB is currently recruiting for volunteers to join the next training programmes due to start over the next few months. Ring Liz on 01993 708492; call in at 33a High Street, Witney;

## FOREST FAIR 2004

The highly popular 'Wychwood Forest Fair' will this year be at Lower Farm, Ramsden, and will run from 12 noon to 5 pm on Sunday September 5th. It is being organised by The Friends of Wychwood in support of the Wychwood Project which aims to encourage local people to understand, conserve and restore the rich mosaic of local landscapes and wildlife habitats of the former Royal Hunting Forest of Wychwood. Among the highlights will be: Rural craft demonstrations with the opportunity for visitors to try their hand; fresh environmentally friendly food from members of the Oxfordshire Food Group; a wide range of craft stalls; plants, trees, and shrubs for your garden; a story-teller with stories and songs of forest and countryside; Hatwell's funfair, with its family connections to the great Forest Fairs of the 19th century; beer from Wychwood Brewery and teas, cakes and other refreshments; three Morris Dancing teams; farm animals from Cogges Manor Farm Museum, and locally bred cart horses; fundraising game stalls; conservation group and local history displays; Wychwood Project exhibition, local school children's painting of 'Veteran Trees' and exhibition by professional photographer Terry Wigley. Entrance will be £2 for adults, 50p for children, with free parking.

*For more information contact  
Ken Betteridge, Chairman of the Friends*

## ENJOYING YOUR HOUSE SPARROWS

People living in Charlbury may not realise that we are extremely lucky to have a very healthy population of house sparrows. This could well be due to the number of old houses with small crevices in walls or gaps between walls and roofs

where house sparrows can build their nests. They are very sociable and like to nest communally. When houses are renovated house sparrows can be accommodated by the provision of specially constructed bird boxes with several nesting compartments. In some places sparrows have completely disappeared and due to their dramatic decline they are now classed as endangered! I have been told that Watlington has none, and on a recent cultural tour of Oxford I did not hear a single calling male house sparrow.

Sometimes sparrows looking for a nest site will take over a house martin's nest, which can be upsetting if you were looking forward to the return of these summer visitors. Two solutions are possible. Either put up a sparrow box, not too close to the house martins' nest as they may fight over territory space, but in a similar location. Or put up an artificial house martin nest. Details of where to purchase these can be obtained from me, [www.ernest-charles.com](http://www.ernest-charles.com), or [www.birdfood.co.uk](http://www.birdfood.co.uk) or [www.wildbirdnews.com](http://www.wildbirdnews.com)

However if all fails and the house martins move on, they are able to build a new nest (provided mud is available) and are quite happy to nest within 3 k. of their original home, whereas house sparrows are very dependant on a nesting hole being available. So if you are lucky enough to have house sparrows, enjoy them!

## The Oxfordshire Befriending

**Network** is looking for reliable & trustworthy people to befriend someone in this area who has a life-threatening or terminal illness. We offer excellent free training and on-going support. Next training starts October. To find out more please ring Catherine Gundry on 01865 316200 or [oxford@befriending.net](mailto:oxford@befriending.net)

## HANDING OVER THE CAMPBELL COPSE

Thanks to the generosity of local people and the many *Guardian* readers of W D (Bill) Campbell's articles, a corner of the Mill Field was planted with shrubs and trees in the autumn of 1995. This was done under the aegis of the Charlbury Society, with the aim of handing over the copse, when well established, to the Town Council. The copse has grown very well (see Christopher Betts' article in the *March Chronicle*), in spite of a few losses; the fencing has been removed, save for that protecting the three black poplars, and the moment for handing over arrived this summer.

On June 15th, at an informal ceremony in the Mill Field, this was done. The Town Council was represented by Nick Potter, Roger Clarke and John Harrison, and the small *ad hoc* Copse Committee by Christopher Betts, Jo Dunn, Hilda Pipe and Alan Spicer. Apologies were received from Peter Mond, who had charge of the copse in its early stages. A cheque for £500 accompanied this agreement, for the maintenance of the copse in the next few years.

The Copse Committee also plan to have some memorial to Bill Campbell in the grounds of the new Community Centre, perhaps in the form of a tree with an inscribed plaque. The Centre will cover ground where Bill, then a master at Charlbury School, created some beautiful public gardens which won renown far beyond Charlbury. Boys who were then pupils in the school helped in the work, and if any of them are still living in or near Charlbury I should be very grateful if they would kindly contact me so that they can be present at the installation of the tree, or whatever form of memorial to Bill is chosen.

## CHARLBURY WEATHER



**May** was a month of no real extremes. Starting off relatively cool, there was a pleasantly warm spell in the middle of the month, then, after a sharp 9° drop, temperatures gradually rose again. Overall, May 2004 came out 1.33° above the average of 63.77° for the previous 15 years. No air frosts were recorded.

**June** started off with a long, nearly dry, spell with record breaking temperatures and some days being hotter than the published figures anywhere in the United Kingdom. Up to 16th, at 74.81°, we were a massive 5.73° above average. Had this continued, it would have been one of the warmest months on record and certainly the hottest June. Then, from 17th onwards, temperatures dropped sharply and the weather became unsettled, and occasionally rather windy for the time of year. The second part of the month only averaged 67.5° which is a little below the average of 69.08°. Overall, June 2004 came out at 71.4°, 1.32° above the average for the previous 15 years.

The first part of **July** followed the trend set in the second half of June, with temperatures which were generally well below average. The second half of July did warm up a little, but with sunshine at a premium, no spectacular figures were recorded. Overall, July 2004 came out at 71.1°, which is 2.2° below the average for the previous 15 years and, for only the third time in this period, below the average recorded for June. The highest temperature was 80° on 29th and the lowest night temperature, 45°, occurred on 9th/10th (during the Cornbury Festival) and on 12th/13th.

*John Stanley*

## THE THOMAS GIFFORD CHARITY

An application to the Community Fund (part of the lottery) has been made for funding towards the Charlbury Community Centre project. We will keep you informed of any feedback in the next edition of the *Chronicle* but on the Community Fund's own timetable we should not expect a decision before January 2005. If successful this alone would not be sufficient to meet the balance of funds required but would be a strong catalyst for other organisations who have expressed interest and for the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal. We wish to express our thanks to Lynette Murphy, Diana Potten, and Richard Neville for their work on the Appeal and to all those who have organised and helped with events to date – a great success. As previously reported, given the difficulties of the past, our priority is to seek sufficient funding for the Centre to satisfy the local authorities who have promised substantial grants that the Centre will be built. As soon as we have a clear indication of support from a large third party funding organisation we will start a new comprehensive round of consultation with prospective users. We recognise that it is some time since the last round of consultations and that there are younger groups who have developed successfully since that time who we would wish to have on board. We also recognise that the Sports & Social Club have concerns which we hope to address although we can only build what we can get funding for – and this is not an area which trusts and funds are seeking to support.

The Charlbury community has an excellent record with respect to environmental issues, being responsible for the highest recycling rates in West Oxfordshire. The local waste recycling group has been innovative and effective. A number of residents interested in the

Community Centre have suggested that we should demonstrate our commitment to the environment by designing the Centre on an innovative, energy efficient, 'carbon-neutral' basis. This could also be an additional route to funding as government seeks to assist movement in this direction. Liz Reason has volunteered to lead the development of this concept for us, and we are looking for widespread support for it.

The trustees continue to have discussions with the Charity Commission, which moves extremely slowly. However the Commission has formally confirmed that we can continue with the current Community Centre project and hence we keep separate the development of the Centre from the issues surrounding the purchase of the Spendlove site. The Charity Commission have promised to provide a decision on whether the Charlbury Town Council has a liability with respect to losses incurred in the period 1997-9 very shortly.

The fair was held on the Playing Close from July 29 to 31. We have been asked why the Fair does not come to Charlbury on the traditional dates in early July. The reason is that the Fair operators are not prepared to come then as they are able to do better commercially elsewhere. We continue to request them to come on those dates but believe it is better for the Town if the Fair comes when an operator is willing to come rather than not at all.

There are Farmers Markets on the Playing Close on Saturdays, September 11 and December 11. Please come along.

Anyone who wishes to offer their help or find out more about the position on the proposed Community Centre project can get in touch with Willem Hackmann (811110) or myself.

**Report from County Councillor Brian Hodgson** - tel/fax 01993 891310 or  
e-mail: [brian.hodgson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:brian.hodgson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

I am a member of a "Best Value" review of Road Safety in Oxfordshire. If you have any ideas, comments or complaints please contact me.

Some key facts may be of interest and concern:

- 1 - every single day in the UK 9 or 10 people die because of road accidents
- 2 - during the summer 40% of serious crashes on the motorways in the Thames Valley are caused by TIREDNESS; the advice is: a break of at least 15 minutes in every 2 hours
- 3 - traffic is the number 1 cause of death among teenagers in the UK
- 4 - the lack of use of seat belts by adults is apparent in road checks at a number of venues across the county - should there be penalty points and/or a bigger fine than the current £30 for non-wearing of seat belts?
- 5 - Oxfordshire County Council has a "Sitting Tight" scheme to help parents ensure that young children are safely seated in the car ( 4 out of 5 CHILD SEATS ARE FITTED INCORRECTLY) - for more information contact Julie Jones on 01865 815657
- 6 - There is an excellent DES scheme in Oxfordshire whereby a DESignated driver of 4 or more people, who has agreed not to drink alcohol because they are the driver, will receive free or reduced price soft drinks - a large number of pubs in this county have joined this scheme (for details contact the road safety website: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk))

**REPORT FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR Glena Chadwick, 01609 810555**

I want to express my gratitude at being re-elected as one of your district councillors. Mike and I will continue to do our best to represent the interests of all the people of Charlbury, Finstock and Fawler. These are exciting times; the skateboard park and the new pavilion for Nine Acres were given planning permission at the Uplands Planning meeting. It is hoped that these will both be built as soon as possible and will be enjoyed and looked after by our community. I am continuing to try and establish some guidelines with the Environment officers and the cabinet member responsible, so that local organisations can publicise their events effectively. It is extremely frustrating if a group has worked hard to put on an event for a good cause, like supporting the primary school, and then their notice boards are removed. One has support for the Environment officers in their drive to stop commercial fly posting and tidy up our surroundings but one would expect that local good causes could be given a little leeway. I have been working away at this for a few years now and hope that negotiations will bear fruit soon.



## **CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT – No. 32**

*by Councillor Trevor Jones*

**Town Council:** There were only 9 candidates for the Town Council's 12 seats so there was no Town Council election on 10 June. This is the first time that this has happened in Charlbury since the introduction of local councils in 1894. The 9 candidates were elected unopposed – Amanda Epps, Susie Finch, Willem Hackmann, John Harrison, Reg James, Trevor Jones, Patricia Perry, Nick Potter and Ron Prew. (Bernard Dod, Gareth Epps, Carol Jackson and Lynette Murphy did not seek re-election and all are thanked for their contributions to the last council). Under the Local Government Act the Council had to co-opt 3 people to fill the vacancies and advertised for interested persons. There were three applicants who were appointed as Councillors on 26 July – Ian Cox, Carolyn Hazeel and Nicolette Lethbridge. All of the present Councillors sit as Independent although a few are well known in local party politics.

**Town Council Annual Meeting (23rd June 2004):** Nick Potter and John Harrison were elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for 10th and 5th successive year. John Harrison was previously Vice-Chairman 1990-92 and Chairman 1992-95. Appointments were made to all the Council Committees and for Council nominations to other bodies. Details can be obtained from the Town Clerk, Roger Clarke, 9 Hill Close, 01608 810608.

**District Councillor:** Councillor Glenna Chadwick (Lib Dem) was re-elected on 10 June to represent the Charlbury and Finstock Ward at West Oxfordshire District Council for a further 4 years. The other Councillor for the Ward is Mike Breakell (Lib Dem).

**Town Council Grants:** Any organisation which would like to be considered for a financial grant from the Town Council for the financial year 2005/6 must send their request in writing to the Town Clerk before 1 November 2004. Roger Clarke is able to advise applicants on what the Council can and cannot support within the constraints of the Local Government Act.

**Member of Parliament:** At his own suggestion David Cameron, the MP for the Witney Constituency, which includes Charlbury, met with the Town Council on 26 July. The following topics were discussed: the station (car park, train service), postal service and address, state of the roads, police, Charity Commission, local councils (lack of candidates) and car parking in the town, planning issues and health care matters.

**Home Zone:** An exhibition was held in the Fire Station on 3 July to enable the residents of Hughes and Sturt Close to view and comment on the design for the scheme. Once this is agreed, perhaps with some amendments, the work can begin.

**Nine Acres Pavilion:** At their meeting on 5 July the Uplands Area Planning Sub-committee of West Oxfordshire District Council approved the Town Council's planning application to demolish the existing pavilion on Nine Acres playing field and replace it with a new one. Applications for funding will now be made.

**Wheeled Sports Area:** At their meeting on 5 July the District Council granted consent to the Town Council for the erection of a wheeled sports area (skateboard park) on a site between the Ticknell Piece Road play area and Centenary Wood. It is anticipated that an order will be placed shortly for the work to start.

**The Campbell Copse:** This was planted on the Mill Field by the Charlbury Society in memory of the late Bill Campbell and was formally handed over to the Town Council on 15 June together with a small fund for its maintenance. In practice the copse will be managed by the Charlbury Town Council Nature Conservation Advisory Committee.

**Roadside Notices:** Strictly speaking the placing of notices on grass verges is not legal and the notices are liable to be removed by staff from the District/ County Council no matter how worthy the event. However Council staff realise that community events need advertising. Before putting out notices you are advised to discuss the details with Bob Lightfoot, Operations Manager, at the District Council – 01993 861731 or [bob.lightfoot@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:bob.lightfoot@westoxon.gov.uk)

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