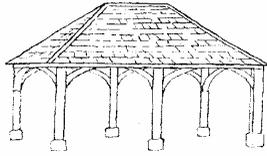


# The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 10 Number 3 September 2006

The theme for this year's Street Fair celebrations is '1256 And All That' and that theme also runs through this edition of the *Charlbury Chronicle*.

We are grateful to Caroline Shenton, a Charlbury resident who is an Archivist at the Parliamentary Archives at Westminster, who has written an interesting article explaining what exactly it is that we are celebrating. You can also buy a colour photocopy of the Royal Charter, complete with a translation of the medieval Latin in which it is written, as a souvenir of this very special date in our town's history. You can see details of all the various events that are marking this date, and contact numbers are given in case you need further information. There is also the opportunity to buy a commemorative bottle of beer to mark the anniversary!

It is encouraging to see that Charlbury Medical Centre has scored 100% in something called the 'Quality & Outcome Framework' across south and west Oxfordshire. There is a long article from the Practice Manager keeping patients informed of new initiatives, including a Minor Illness Clinic now available four days a week from 8.30 to 10.30 am. Read all the details on page 10.

Youth drama is obviously thriving and very well supported in Charlbury and there are two interesting articles on two aspects of it. We wish the group from SHED theatre good luck in their venture to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and will look forward to hearing about it in the next edition.

There are all the usual favourites too, plus some new items of interest - singing, slimming, WW2 experiences, yoga, waste disposal and more - it's all there to give you a good read.

Please note that the deadline for copy for the December edition is November 3rd, so that the editor can get it out of the way before Christmas comes! As always, please do reserve space well in advance for any articles of more than a quarter of a page (about 125 words) in length. The editor prefers to receive copy via email, but if this is not possible hard copy can be left in the *Chronicle* box in the Corner House hall.

Lynette Murphy  
Editor

**HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL** will be paying a short visit to Charlbury on Friday, September 15th from 9.30am to 10.20am when she will unveil a plaque outside the Museum to commemorate the granting of the town's Charter in 1256. Read more about the town's history and what is being done to celebrate this important event on pp4-5

### **LOTTERY CHOICE MAY HELP COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL**

It was announced in *The Times* news-paper on July 13th that 'people are to have a greater say in the way that Lottery money is spent. A **Your Pound, Your Choice** pilot scheme will be started next month, allowing the public to vote for their favourite local causes when they buy tickets from outlets'. One of the most frequently asked questions about the Community Centre Appeal concerns the Lottery. People are always surprised to hear that our bid was turned down on every one of the twelve conditions set by the National Lottery (see *Charlbury Chronicle*, vol 9, no. 1, March 2005) Those who feel they wish to support the Appeal and who regularly play the Lottery can now indicate that they want the Lottery to consider granting an award to this much-needed local facility.

### **CHARITY CYCLE-RIDE FROM LAND'S END TO JOHN O'GROATS**

Richard Peet would like to thank everyone who sponsored and supported him on his bike ride from Land's End to John O'Groats recently. All the money he raised will be going to the MIND charity. Anyone wishing to contact Richard with their sponsorship money can do so by ringing him on 07814 997 682

### **CHARLBURY EXHIBITION FOUNDATION**

Student Grants: If you are under 25, live in Charlbury and have a guaranteed place for a University, College, vocational course or apprenticeship, you may apply to the CEF for a grant. Write to CEF c/o Mrs Kate Gerish, 62 Ticknell Piece Road Charlbury OX7 3TW by Oct 1st giving age, schools attended, details of course and University or College. Those attending short training courses sponsored by Charlbury Youth Organisations may also apply.

### **SUPPORT MACMILLAN CANCER CARE**

Liz and Bob Tait will hold another 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in aid of this important charity on Thursday, Sep 28 from 10.30 to 12.30 at Brice House, Thames Street. Last year the event worldwide raised £6.5m when two million people had a coffee and helped the Macmillan charity find more nurses, health care professionals and cancer centres. Any help will be gratefully received by the Tait's, and you can ring them on 810150

### **OXFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES RIDE OR STRIDE**

Thank you to all who took part or helped in last year's Stride. The total for Charlbury was £1,321.50p, which was £373.50p more than last year. All the Charlbury churches took part. All Charlbury churches have received grants from the Trust and remember that half the money you raise goes to your nominated church or chapel. Walkers, bikers, sponsors and welcomers will be needed and Sponsorship Forms are available in the churches. A wonderful day for whole families to enjoy. Saturday, September 9th. Further information from Sarah Potter on 810388

### **SEPTEMBER FARMERS' MARKET**

Don't miss the Farmers' Market on the Playing Close on Saturday, September 9th from 9am to 1 pm. The Farmers' Market has proved very successful in bringing shoppers into Charlbury as well as being a popular local event with residents who appreciate meeting the producers of fresh local produce.

# CHARLBURY STREET FAIR SEPTEMBER 16th 2006

**This year's theme is '1256 and all that'**

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

TRY YOUR SKILL ON THE 'LIVE WIRE' – FRIDAY NIGHT EVENT; SKATE & CLIMB; ART SOCIETY IN CORNER HOUSE; DEMONSTRATION FROM CHARLBURY FIRE SERVICE; GEORGE HATWELL'S FUNFAIR; CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER & WORKSHOP; TRACTORS & VINTAGE VEHICLES; CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS; MORRIS DANCING; BELLY DANCERS; GRAND EVENING PARADE; BBQ; DANCING IN THE STREET WITH STANNAH & THE STAIRLIFTS; FUN RUN—SUNDAY ...AND MORE!      PARKING ON WYCHWOOD PADDOCKS

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

Events will kick off with a flying start on Friday 15th at 7.30pm with the Live Wire Event. See posters around the town and in the pubs.

Events on the day will start at 1.30pm with the judging of the Children's Fancy Dress competition on the Playing Close by our celebrity. 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. Any late stallholders wishing to book a space can contact Teresa on 811000.

**Evening Parade and Costume Workshop:** Fancy joining the evening parade? Call Teresa Laughton on 811000 (email: [teresa@beeb.net](mailto:teresa@beeb.net)) who will give you all the information you require. This year we are holding a free workshop where you can go and make flags for the evening parade. Date for this is Saturday 2nd September from 10-4pm. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Teresa.

**Help and Assistance:** 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 Vic Allison 811262.

**Open Gardens:** Thank you to all those gardeners who opened their gardens this year. Net proceeds of £1800 were raised.....not only a record but a fantastic achievement.

**Just a little request:** We have injected some new blood on the committee so that we can continue and build on past successes. 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 now thinking ahead for next year. For all you interested people, contact Margaret Jowett 810666 or any red-shirted person at Street Fair this year.

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! Draw tickets are also on sale now.

NB: A road closure order has been granted for Church Street and part of Park Street for Saturday 16th 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.



## COMMUNITY SINGING ALIVE AND WELL

*...if you are looking for the chance to sing, look no further, says Kath Lucas*

Charlbury's very own community choir – or call it community singing group if the word 'choir' sits uncomfortably – is up and running and here to stay. With 40 on the role and an average of 20 -25 people at each session a wonderful, warm, rich singing experience is to be had. The songs taught are from various cultural traditions – African, Eastern European, Irish/Scottish, contemporary British. They are part songs which are taught either orally or with music. Don't be put off if reading music isn't your forte! The parts are gone over many times until everyone is happy and the atmosphere of the sessions is very relaxed so saying 'help!' is not a problem. Men – if you are out there – we love you and need you – do not be shy! We are a very lovely group!

The group is lead by Kath Lucas who has been teaching community singing in and around Charlbury for many years. Sessions are run with the understanding that we can all sing and that, given accessible music and an atmosphere of acceptance, we can improve our voices and singing confidence hugely.

**Details:** Sessions are on Tuesdays from 7.15-9.15pm at the Friends Meeting House in Charlbury. We begin from Tuesday 5 September and will run for the school term. The cost of the sessions is £6/£5/£4 depending on income and commitment to pay by the half term. Do ring Kath on 01608 811293 for a chat or come along for a trial run. Hope to see you there!

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## What is Charlbury doing to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the granting of our Charter by Henry III?

**Brief details are given below with a contact number for further information:**

1. Charlbury 'Art or Article' competition held by the Charlbury Society. Contact Harry Speight 811737
2. Charlbury Charter Ale (see ad on page 14)
3. Churches Together in Charlbury event. Contact Leah Fowler 811706
4. Sale of copies of Charter, read all about it in article on page 5
5. Royal Visit to Charlbury by HRH the Princess Royal, Friday September 15th 9.30am to 10.20 am Contact Town Clerk 810608
6. Street Fair theme this year is '1256 & All That'. Contact Margaret Jowett 810666
7. Charlbury Museum - see article on page 17. Contact Ron Prew 810060
8. Gala Evening at St Mary's Church by CADS, Saturday September 30th at 7.30. Contact Sue Haffenden 676642
- 9.

Many of you will be aware by now that Charlbury is celebrating its 750th birthday this year. But what does this actually mean? Well, in 1256 King Henry III (1216-1272) granted to the Abbot of Eynsham the right to hold a market and a fair in Charlbury, one of the manors - or estates - owned by the Abbey. Charlbury was allowed a weekly market on Mondays, and a fair lasting for four days from 14-17 August every year, provided that they did not cause a nuisance to other nearby markets and fairs (competition from new shopping centres was clearly a concern even in the 13th century!). Holding a regular market conferred the status of a town on Charlbury, which is what we are all celebrating in 2006. In 1440, market day was changed to Friday because of the lack of popularity of the Monday one. By the sixteenth century the market was very small scale and may have fallen into disuse. The annual fair disappeared in the middle of the seventeenth century. Happily the Street Fair in September has revived this occasion.

This grant came in the form of a royal charter, but sadly the original from 1256 does not survive. We only know about it because of a copy that was carefully recorded in the Eynsham Cartulary, now held in the archives at Christ Church, Oxford, which took over the estates of Eynsham Abbey at the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530s. Cartularies were collections of deeds, rights and other grants transcribed from the originals and listed together as a way of preserving the institutional memory and legal titles of monasteries and abbeys for ease of reference. As in this case, they often provide the only evidence of earlier records which have long since been destroyed or lost.

To mark our 750th anniversary as a town, and as a way of linking it to Charlbury's modern life, facsimiles of the Charter are now available for sale until the end of the year in aid of the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal. Many thanks to Judith Curtoys, Archivist of Christ Church, for arranging for the photography and giving permission for the charter to be used in this way. All costs of scanning and production have been donated so all the purchase price will go to the CCCA.

For £2 you can buy a colour photocopy with an explanatory note and an English translation of the Latin. Digital scans are also available for £5. Buy one now as a souvenir of this very special year, or more than one for family and friends!

To obtain a piece of our town's fascinating history, please telephone me on 810855 (evenings and weekends) or you can email me at [shentonc@parliament.uk](mailto:shentonc@parliament.uk) to order a copy.

*Caroline Shenton, Archivist at the Parliamentary Archives at Westminster*

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## IN MEMORIAM

**MACDONALD WATSON:** Rowena (nee Shilson), formerly of Crowborough, Sussex and Charlbury, Oxfordshire died May 24th 2006, aged 90

**PIPE:** Hilda May, on May 30th, of Pooles Lane, Charlbury, at Katharine House Hospice, Adderbury, aged 86

*May they rest in peace*

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## CPRE NEWS

Owing to a lack of enough volunteers to keep a separate committee going, Chipping Norton, Charlbury and Woodstock District of the Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) recently merged with Witney District to create the West Oxfordshire District under the chairmanship of Gillian Salway. Representatives of the former CNCW area - Catherine Hitchens with her long experience and detailed knowledge of the planning system, Holly McGee as a local farmer, and Serena Moore as an administrator - agreed to continue to monitor and voice CNCW matters and serve on the new committee.

Meanwhile, news of two local forthcoming events:

**Saturday 14 October:** Oxfordshire Branch are organising a visit to Stonesfield Community Land Trust to look at an example of affordable housing in a rural setting. Further details from Andy Boddington, Campaign Manager, CPRE Oxfordshire, Punches Barn, Waterperry Road, Holton, OX33 1PP, 01865 874780 [campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk](mailto:campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk); [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

**Saturday 28 October:** Annual Autumn Plant Sale, The Farmhouse, Radford, near Enstone between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. High quality plants. Ample parking. Further details from Holly McGee, 01608 677230; [mcgee@sibfordfreeserve.co.uk](mailto:mcgee@sibfordfreeserve.co.uk)

Both events are free and everyone is welcome.

*Serena Moore*

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### SUSCHA... SUSCHA..... SUSCHA (Sustainable Charlbury)

**I worry about climate change  
I know how much energy I use  
I want to do something but ....**

A little /A lot/ It's nothing to do with me  
Exactly / Approximately /Haven't a clue  
Don't know what to do / Want to see others  
act too/ Don't want to change my lifestyle

**I don't know what a sustainable lifestyle would look like, let alone a SUSTAINABLE CHARLBURY/** But it might be interesting to find out....

Why not find out with lots of other people? A group is launching the quest to create Charlbury as a sustainable community. We would like hundreds to join us. We'll explore what action we can take individually and together. Please do come along and help get the ball rolling.

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October in the Memorial Hall at 8.00pm

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## The Charlbury Slimming World Group meets at the Primary School at 7pm on Thursday evenings, 52 weeks a year.

A new consultant, Louise Pharis, will be taking over the group on September 7<sup>th</sup>. She has lost 6 stone so far following the Slimming World Food Optimising plan and is keen to help anyone who has ever struggled with their weight, to finally get it under control. If anyone can understand the battle, she can, as she has tried and failed so many times before. But not any more! She has finally found a diet, that doesn't feel like a diet! No counting calories, no forbidden foods, no more feeling hungry and deprived! It doesn't seem possible does it? But it is. Please come along and join us. It is an enjoyable evening where you will make new friends and possibly change your life for ever.

For more information please phone Louise on 01869 340073 or e-mail her at [lulu19@madasafish.com](mailto:lulu19@madasafish.com)

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### CHARLBURY BUSINESS

Following the Charlbury Chamber of Trade and Commerce's AGM in July, new appointees are in position to help businesses in and around Charlbury prosper:

**Chairman:** Peter Smith, PSA - Architects

**Vice Chairman:** Jon Carpenter, Evenlode Books

**Treasurer:** Leah Fowler (re-elected)

**Secretary:** Cally Robson, ideas-into-action (re-elected)

**Committee:** Roger Watts, Business Focus (re-elected); Peter Cahill, Peter's Gentlemen's Hairdressers (re-elected); Dean Vincent, The Pharmacy; Bill Jones, News and Things

The Chamber thanks outgoing Chairman Dean Vincent (The Pharmacy) for his steady leadership and commitment to Charlbury businesses over the last 8 years. Thanks also to outgoing committee members Mike Mahony (Acorn Vehicle Airconditioning) and Andy Maclean (Stewart Design) for their contributions.

The Chamber currently has 50+ members and is open to all businesses in and around Charlbury. Contact Cally Robson, the Secretary, for more information. [cally-robson@ideas-into-action.co.uk](mailto:cally-robson@ideas-into-action.co.uk) tel: 01608 811227

The Charlbury Chamber of Trade and Commerce supports and represents retail and all other businesses in and around Charlbury, with the aim of building a thriving business community as part of the town's wider community.

*Cally Robson*

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**YOGA WITH NIKKI JACKSON:** Do you wish you had more energy? Would you like to be able to concentrate better and learn to cope with everyday stresses? Do you wish you could relieve those aches and pains in the body during the winter months? Would you like to be more flexible, stronger and healthier? And would you like to feel calmer, more peaceful and be more accepting of what life throws at you ?

Yoga is the oldest recorded system of physical and mental exercise. During a yoga class you will learn to release tension and strengthen the body by stretching and toning in either 'held' yoga postures (asanas) or moving through flowing sequences. You will learn to breathe correctly using a variety of traditional breathing techniques (pranayama) that are proven to improve energy levels and reduce stress. You will also learn to relax and use basic meditation techniques to enable you to feel calmer generally throughout your daily life and improve your concentration and ability to deal with stress.

Nikki has been practising yoga for over 20 years and teaching for 14 years, and is qualified with The British Wheel of Yoga which is the governing body of Yoga teaching in Britain. She is also a practising Occupational Therapist, and is well experienced in working with people suffering from stress – either physical or emotional.

Classes are held weekly in Charlbury on Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings and this year Nikki is also running regular Saturday workshops throughout the Autumn. Please see advert on this page for more details, or phone Nikki on 01608 11683/07816 786656 or email Nikki@yogafocus.co.uk

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## **NEW SHOP OPENS AT NEWINGTON HOUSE, SHEEP STREET**

We are glad to offer a welcome to **Cotswold Frames** at Newington House, Sheep St, Charlbury (next to the Bull) which offers an on-site picture framing service, Gallery and Gift Shop. All types of framing work is available whether it is a new piece of glass that is required or a complete frame and mount service for your favourite print, painting or tapestry.

The Gallery and Gift shop offers a selection of quality presents ranging from handmade cards, limited edition prints, jewellery, stained glass ware, carved birds, pottery and many more gift ideas.

'Local talent is encouraged to exhibit and sell their work and these exhibits are constantly changing, so please come and take a look' says Tim Widdows.

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## SPARE ROOM FOR PAYING VISITOR? JAN-APRIL 2007

Canadian students from the 2007 Atlantic Baptist University Oxford Study Programme will be staying in Charlbury from 20 January to 16 April, while they undertake their studies in Art History, Science and Religion, Archaeology and Landscape Poetry.

The local organisers are looking for people willing to assist with home based B&B accommodation in Charlbury for one (or two?) of these students. Past experience has shown that students really appreciate contact with local people and endeavour to be caring and sensitive towards their hosts. The requirement is for a study bedroom and access, by agreement with hosts, to washing and kitchen facilities.

Breakfast materials would be provided on a self-serve basis. Reimbursement for B&B is paid at the rate of £60 per week. If you feel you can assist for part of the time but not the whole duration, it is perfectly possible for students to be moved to another home during their time here. Programme dates: Jan 20 - students arrive; Feb 25 to Mar 4, students away on Travel Break; Easter April 5 to 9, students away on long weekend at Stourhead; April 16 – students depart.

For further details, please contact Madeleine Wheare (810092 ; [mad@wheare.org](mailto:mad@wheare.org)) or Peter Colyer (810107)

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## CHARLBURY MUSEUM NEWS

**For the second year running, the Charlbury Museum has been awarded a Heritage Grant from the West Oxfordshire District Council. This year it is for two display cases, to exhibit two historic garments which have been in the Museum's store for some time**

The first is a 'Quaker Cape', which belonged to Caroline Pumphrey (1845-1925), and has since been carefully preserved by local Quakers. Caroline Pumphrey, who is best remembered today as the author of *Charlbury of our Childhood*, published in 1990, lived most of her life at Hazeldean in Enstone Road. She was also a leading member of the Society of Friends at the national level, with a particular interest in Quaker missionary work. Quakers were a very important group in old Charlbury, and are said to have continued to wear their traditional plain dress longer than elsewhere, and we are lucky to have this surviving example to put on display. The second garment is a rabbit-fur cape, which was given to Charlbury Church by Marjorie Kilby some 30 years ago. It was to be worn by brides at winter weddings, to keep them warm in days when churches were less well heated than today. Many years before, she had worn it at her own wedding, and a photograph of this will be displayed with the cape. Both these items will be on display before this edition of the *Charlbury Chronicle* is published.

Over the summer the Museum is also preparing an exhibition relating to the 750<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the granting of the Town Charter in 1256. This will show how the layout of the town reflects its status as a market, and also includes stories from Charlbury's past, its connection with national events like the Civil War, and local events like the coming of public services to the town. The exhibition will be complete by Street Fair, when it will extend from the Museum into the Ann Downer Room in the Corner House. *Charles Tyzack*

# NEWS FROM CHARLBURY MEDICAL CENTRE

## **Top Points for Charlbury Medical Centre:**

*"Doctors' surgeries across south and west Oxfordshire are set to be among the best in the country. Fourteen of the area's 32 practices scored 100 per cent in the Quality and Outcome Framework – netting 1,050 points out of 1,050. The lowest score in the area was 951".* (Oxford Mail July 7 2006) The article then goes on to announce the top 14 surgeries who are jointly in first place in the league tables and I am proud to announce that Charlbury Medical Centre is one of them. Despite comments made previously about our achievement in the 2004/5 league tables in the *Charlbury Chronicle* issue of December 2005 we are pleased to have answered our patients and critics alike in such a positive way.

This year the government has once again changed the criteria and made things harder for surgeries to achieve maximum points. Dr Stephen Richards, chairman of the Primary Care Trust (PCT) professional executive committee, said *"The bar has been raised as expected. I don't expect any practice to get 100 per cent in the coming year"*.

I can assure you all that our dedicated and committed team at the Charlbury Medical Centre will endeavour to achieve 100 per cent and succeed, as we have in recent months, in being among the best in the country.

## **Telephone System**

In the coming months, the surgery will be upgrading its telephone system to a Network Europe Group Surgery Line. Approximately 300 surgeries across the country have adopted this innovative new phone system. The Network Europe Group reports that the service provides patients with a more direct route to their medical centre.

To facilitate the change the surgery's number will change to an 0844 number. In the majority of cases, patients will pay less to call their GP than before. Those calling the old number will hear a recording with details of the new number that they need to call. Obviously we will keep all our patients informed when this change will take effect.

The PCT are encouraging GP surgeries to use the 0844 numbers for their main surgery to enable patients to have just the one number to call the surgery regardless of whether they are calling the surgery or an out of hours emergency clinic.

## **Charlbury Medical Centre Website**

Over the next two months we will be preparing our website where you may access information relating to the Charlbury Medical Centre. The web site address is [www.yourgpguide.org.uk](http://www.yourgpguide.org.uk)

We have used this site as it is an independent guide for patients. It will have information regarding the Doctors, Nurses and Staff along with clinic times.

The GP Guide aims to provide a complete view of the practice; this includes views from the practice itself, the patients and an independent researcher. It also contains some performance data taken from the Quality and Outcomes Framework.

## **Minor Illness clinic**

This clinic is run by our Practice Nurse Cathie Beale who over the past six months attended Oxford Brookes University to gain qualifications as an extended nurse prescriber. Nurse prescribers provide an alternative to seeing the doctor, especially if you need to be seen urgently. It is held on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from

8.30 to 10.30. Appointments can be booked from 8am on the morning of the clinic. This clinic is used to see patients with Allergies, common Ear, Nose and Throat conditions, Eye infections, Coughs and Colds, Gastroenteritis, Spots, Rashes, Chicken Pox, Urinary Tract infections, Injuries, Emergency Contraception etc.

### **Missed Appointments**

If you have had difficulty making an appointment, you may be interested to know that in the first six months of this year 128 appointments were wasted by patients failing to turn up. If you are therefore unable to keep your appointment, please inform the surgery as soon as possible in order that the appointment can be given to another patient.

### **And finally .....**

As you can see we are making positive changes here at the Medical Centre and I for one realise that patients can find any change threatening and uncomfortable. In this day and age however, we have to be a forward-thinking practice to keep and enhance the services we already provide. As we are sure you are aware nothing can be taken for granted in today's NHS. To conclude, we would like to take this opportunity in wishing you all a happy summer holiday - and, of course, Good Health.

*Wesley Rouse, Practice Manager  
Charlbury Medical Centre*

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### **A Winters Ale by Bill Brakespear**

A tale of greed, lust, intrigue and real ale.

23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2006 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

In 1850, the new Lord of the Manor, Lord Grotney, brewing millionaire and father of the delectable Maria tries to impose keg beer on the people of Charlbury and from thereon, children disappear, the population revolts and everything that can go nastily wrong with or without the help of Mma Ramotswe, Stella and Ivanna Pint, Bob Goblin, some people called Ant and Dec, Vicky Pollard, Hermione and of course, Brucie...

This is a fund-raising event, organised with the help of **Charlbury Beer Festival**. The pantomime is new and dynamic and has been entirely put together within the confines of Charlbury for the people of Charlbury with a brand new script, loads of songs and entertainment for the whole family...

Keep an eye on the publicity!

## **STREET STAGE NEWS**

Street Stage, Charlbury's touring youth arts fusion company, has recently received some amazing news. We have been selected by the South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) and the Arts Council, to become their demonstration project in the cultural sector of the Cultural Shift South East initiative.

Competition was fierce for this prestigious position, which is funded by the European fund, and we are lucky to have been chosen from all projects in the South East.

The award is non-monetary, but will be invaluable to us as SEEDA will work intensively with Street Stage for a year, insuring the growth and sustainability of our project.

Street Stage's season ended on a high with a successful show at the Pegasus Theatre in Oxford. One audience member commented "Stunning! The confidence and professionalism was amazing. They really used the whole stage brilliantly. They really owned the piece."

This year Street Stage has proved to be a true touring company, performing at the Re:action Festival, The Mill, Banbury (twice), Pegasus Theatre, Oxford, Cornbury Festival, Charlbury Beer Festival and even the Memorial Hall, Charlbury!

During this period the young people have been lucky to work with leading Oxfordshire artists , including directors, designers and choreographers.

The line up for this coming year looks set to be excellent too, as Street Stage plans to work alongside musicians, animators/film-makers and visual artists, aiming to make a film and record a song before the year is out!

During the summer holidays, Street Stage ran a residential course, spending a week working with a director, choreographer, circus artiste and designer creating a play in a week at the Pegasus Theatre. The nights were spent at Hill End chilling out and cooking our own food.

For further information on **Street Stage**, please contact Anneke Hay on 01608 811269

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## SHED Theatre Summer Term

In April SHED Thursday performed "A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum" at the Memorial Hall. A farce and a musical, very much of its time, it has recently been revived in the West End to rave reviews. I sat in the audience alongside Chris on Saturday night and laughed and laughed with the audience. Teresa was completely in charge of this production and she and the company received three encores and a standing ovation from a great audience that left laughing.

Following this great excitement we had two easy weeks of SHED Shorts and Park Bench before we set our attention to our dance for the Cornbury Music Festival. The group worked incredibly hard and in just a few weeks choreographed a piece to perform in front of both the main and Riverside stages throughout the weekend. I know I'm biased but I thought they were fantastic. Dressed in black, in couples, in a tightly choreographed dance they performed to "Around the World in a Day" by Prince. SHED Wednesday meanwhile spent the Festival fund raising. All wearing their SHED T-shirts they went out in pairs and sold snacks to festival goers. We would like to thank everyone who supported us, we raised £350. Thanks are also due to Hugh Phillimore the festival organiser who invited us back for the third year and to the Riverside Crew who looked after us and made us welcome all weekend.

Whilst all this has been going on Edinburgh rushes on apace. Trish is now in possession of the railway tickets. We have reserved nearly a whole carriage. You've got to feel for the four other people who will travel with us. Our wonderful poster designed by Robbie Craig has been entered into the ZEBRA Award 2007 for original artwork and the play will be reviewed by the *New Scotsman* newspaper for its New Writing Award. Promotional photographs of the company and the directors are off to Edinburgh to be displayed in the foyer and the final wording for programme and poster is in print. New fringe/SHED t-shirts are arriving and all the food for the week is ordered on-line. The company is rehearsing twice a week and as I write this it is four weeks to our UK premiere. Many thanks from all at SHED to everyone who has helped us get to Edinburgh.

The last week of July was Summer School which this year included a camp out and the new term will begin with Street Fair closely followed by a SHED open weekend where we will perform three minute shorts for your entertainment, more information to follow. The new term will see an expansion and everyone on the waiting list will be contacted.

In the next issue we will report back on our adventure but right now we are looking forward to performing 'Victims of Freedom' by SHED Theatre on 20-26 August at Cvenue 34 at the 'Fringe'.

Watch out Edinburgh here we come!

*Sue Cochrane,  
SHED Theatre*

## **CELEBRATE THE GRANTING OF THE MARKET CHARTER TO CHARLBURY 750 YEARS AGO WITH A COMMEMORATIVE BOTTLE OF BEER!**

Brewed by the Vale Brewery, in Haddenham Buckinghamshire, this is a delicious ruby-coloured premium ale, with complex malt and hop flavours and a moreish smack.

With an ABV of 4.6% in 500 ml bottles with a commemorative label, this is a limited brew of 996 bottles, and will never be repeated.

**The launch will be at the Charlbury Farmers Market on the Playing Close on Saturday September 9th from 9am to 1 pm.**

There will also be a special stall at Charlbury Street Fair on Saturday September 16th . The price is £2.50 per bottle, or £30 for a case of 12 bottles.

For advance orders, please contact Anne Ockleston on 01608 811985

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**Sue Cave has taught in Adult Education in Charlbury for many years** - She began with her Friday Portrait classes in the old primary school under Ann Grierson, and when that moved to Chipping Norton continued to take Drawing & Painting classes in the Memorial Hall. Sue was also the tutor - representative on the committee for the proposed new Spendlove Centre. Sue is now combining her Charlbury & Chipping Norton groups and moving to a new venue in Great Tew.

She would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone - both students past & present, & the office staff - for all their help & encouragement over the years.....and above all their unfailing enthusiasm! Details of Sue's new classes can be found in the Sports & Clubs section are given below.

### **SUE CAVE'S ART GROUPS AUTUMN TERM 2006**

*NB All classes at new venues*

**LIFE DRAWING & PAINTING WORKSHOPS** at Charlbury Memorial Hall, all day Saturdays, Sep 30 & Nov 4, 10am to 4pm

**DRAWING & PAINTING** at The Tew Centre, Great Tew: Thursdays, 10 to 12.30 and 2 to 4.30 (whole or half day) from Sep 21 to Nov 30 (half term on Oct 26)

**PORTRAIT DRAWING & PAINTING WORKSHOPS**, Taynton near Burford, Fridays 10 to 4 (all day) Sep 22, Oct 6, Oct 20, Nov 10, Nov 24, Dec 8

*For all enquiries and enrolment details please ring Sue Cave on 01869 3361*

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# THE SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE CENTRE

Would you like to share your memories of the war for inclusion in **The Second World War Experience Centre's** archive? We're looking for stories from all walks of life, not only servicemen and women, but also from civilians, children, factory workers, or anyone who has memories from that time.

We make the recording in an informal setting and send it to the Centre to transcribe and put in the archive. If you wish, you can have a copy of the tape to share with your family.

Who uses the archive? Authors working on Second World War books, TV researchers, Post-Graduate and Undergraduate researchers, veterans groups and historical societies.

The Centre is a registered museum and charity, and exists to document the lives of men and women who lived through 1939-1945. More than 7,000 people have their younger years covered in the Centre by original documents, memorabilia and recorded memories. You can find it on the net at [www.war-experience.org](http://www.war-experience.org).

If you're interested in being recorded, or would like further information, please contact me at: 4 St Edmunds Lane, Abingdon, OX14 5BU, telephone 01235 526734 (please leave a message if there is no answer) or email me at [matthew.smaldon@googlemail.com](mailto:matthew.smaldon@googlemail.com).

*Matthew Smaldon*

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## THE CORNER HOUSE & MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE

The Committee's main news is the preparation of two new rooms to add to the advantages of the Corner House as an excellent central location to hold meetings, classes, talks and social occasions.

These rooms are upstairs, one over the kitchen called The Weaver's Room, as it has the historic long window which enabled a weaver to get plenty of light for his work. The other room, over the Museum, will have kitchen facilities and the proposed name is that of an important local man, Larcum Kendal. Why? Wait and see!

Enquiries for bookings for these rooms are welcome and the new Diary is available for all reservations.

*Ann Gilbert*

# CHARLBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL

The last few months have been very busy as our committee of seventeen worked hard to prepare for our major event at Ditchley Park on June 30th. As many of you will have heard, we made the princely sum of over £22,000 on the day, which was immensely satisfying. I really can't thank my committee enough for their good will, hard work and support which culminated in a lovely, happy day and evening. The wonderful weather and the graceful setting could not have been better and everything went well. I would like to thank Christopher Galloway and the Ditchley staff for all their help, the flower arrangers, the catering team, the musicians, those who ran the bar and all whose help made the occasion such a success.

Money has continued to trickle in and our total is now over £75,000. We are glad to acknowledge that the pledge made on behalf of the Charlbury Dental Practice was made good when we received a cheque for £1000, for which we are very grateful. We have received several donations recently, including £500 from the HDH Wills Charitable Trust. Not all donors wish their names to be given, but I hope our anonymous benefactors know how grateful we are for their generosity. At short notice we were given the opportunity to provide teas for the National Gardens Scheme visitors to Charlbury on July 30th. Zilvia Pumfrey and her band of helpers worked flat out from 2 - 6 pm and made £514 for our fund, which was wonderful. Over this last three months we received funds from the Cha Cha Cha Fun Run, from the Charlbury Society talk given by Robert Hardy, from the 'Wooing & Winning' concert at St Mary's in May, from the ChOC opera and various other events. We still have a long way to go, but I am sure that as the newly set-up Trust swings into action the Community Centre will have a higher profile and it will be easier to get people's support when we actually have some plans to talk about.

I would like to mention our dear friend and supporter, Hilda Pipe, who did so much for our Appeal with three concerts which she compiled and planned meticulously over the last couple of years. She also performed in two of them, but by the time the third was being prepared her final illness caught up with her and she was unable to take part. However, all the planning had been so carefully done and she had been as involved as she could possibly have been. She knew what a success the concert was and heard all the details of the evening from those who wrote to her or visited her in the Hospice. She died on May 30th at the age of 86.

Our next big event in support of the Appeal is the Gala Evening at St Mary's on Saturday September 30th. Sue Haffenden is producing an evening of words and music to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the granting of the town's charter. CADS members and many others will be taking part and it is sure to be a splendid occasion. It starts at 7.30pm and tickets will cost £7.50 and will be on sale at the Street Fair on September 16th. Please make a note of the date and make sure to come along.

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

## THOMAS GIFFORD'S CHARITY - *A report by Chairman Trevor Jones*

A draft new scheme for the Charity was advertised as required on the Town Council notice boards for three weeks from June 19 to July 10 and in the *Oxford Mail* on June 20. As set out in the notices, details of the proposed scheme were available in Charlbury Library for review by members of the public. Comments on the scheme were to be made to the Charity Commission by July 20. At the time of writing we are aware that the Charity Commission have only received one letter which is under consideration. We are hopeful that this will not cause further delay and that the new scheme will be sealed by September. The new trustee structure will then be in place.

We are holding meetings with officers of the Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council on the possible shape of development on the Spendlove site and its financial feasibility. At the same time the new trustees are starting an updated needs analysis for community facilities in Charlbury. This will start with questionnaires to existing groups and to those responsible for existing facilities to be followed up by individual discussions. The aim is to build up an up to date picture of the facilities we already have and the demands for them. This will help us make renewed proposals for the Spendlove site which can be in harmony with the other facilities in the Town. We are aware that much has been done before but demands do change over time and the new trustees wish to have a clear picture of the present situation. When we have the results of the questionnaires we will hold a much wider consultation to enable everyone to comment.

Unfortunately no fairground operator has requested to run a fair on the Playing Close this summer. We will try again next year.

The trustees are very grateful for the fundraising work of the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal reported on elsewhere in the *Chronicle*. The event at Ditchley Park on June 30th was exceptional, raising some £22,000, and our thanks go to Lynette Murphy, Diana Potten and all who helped with the organisation of the event .

Now that there is a new trustee structure we look forward to developing financially feasible proposals which will use the funds raised for the benefit of the community.

Our secretary, Audrey Hereford, has decided that now is a sensible time to retire after 12 years of sterling service to the Charity through some difficult times. Our thanks go to Audrey along with our best wishes for the future. This is a key role for supporting the Charity – Audrey deals with the accounts and banking as well as the usual secretarial duties, including those that relate to the specific requirements of a charity. We need a successor as this is critical for the proper administration of the charity.

If anyone is interested in what we hope will be a fascinating future for the Charity please get in touch with me (even if you feel that you can only carry out some of the tasks) on 01608 810644 or by email: [trevor.jones@ophiopogon.com](mailto:trevor.jones@ophiopogon.com)

## The Royal British Legion – Charlbury Branch

**The Branch AGM** will be held in the Corner House at 8.00pm on Thursday 19 October 2006. All members are encouraged to attend. Anyone who would like to join the Branch is most welcome to attend.

**The Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning** will be held in the Corner House on Saturday 4 November 2006, 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 in Charlbury 28 October – 11 November 2006.

**The Annual Band Concert** will be held in the War Memorial Hall on Friday 10 November 2006 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 to the Poppy Appeal. Everyone welcome.

**The National Two Minutes Silence** will be at 11.00am on Saturday 11 November 2006. Please support this small yet significant event.

**The British Legion Darts Cup** will be competed for in the Annual Open Pairs Competition in aid of the Poppy Appeal at the Olde Three Horseshoes on Saturday 11 November. Pete Scarrott has kindly agreed to organise the competition. He can be contacted for details on 810921.

**Remembrance Day Parade and Service** – Sunday 12 November 2006. 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. Everyone is 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 Lady Clarke, a Charlbury resident, who served with WTS/FANY for SOE during the Second World War. 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, in the War Memorial Hall. 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 9 November 2006.

**Festival of Remembrance – Royal Albert Hall:** The branch may be allocated two tickets for the evening performance on Saturday 11 November 2006. The ticket allocation is normally confirmed during September. Any member who would like to express an interest, please contact Jane Parsons on 810822.

**Veterans' Badges** are now available for everybody who served in the Armed Forces up to 31 December 1959. For details of how to apply or assistance with an application please contact Jane Parsons on 810822. Information is also available on the internet at [www.veteransagency.mod.uk/vets\\_badge/vets\\_badge.htm](http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk/vets_badge/vets_badge.htm)

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**Volunteers:** The Legion always needs people to help:

- (1) Members are needed to serve on the Oxfordshire County Committee (it is not necessary to be or have been a member of the Charlbury Branch Committee).
- (2) Caseworkers are needed to visit people in need of assistance from the Legion. Training is provided and caseworkers do not have to be members.
- (3) Volunteers are needed to help 'man' the Legion's display stand at Thame Show on 21 September. Entrance and travel costs will be refunded. Further information on all the above is available from the Branch Secretary, Jane Parsons, Tel: 810822

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.

## Where the recycling really goes

All the materials put out for recycling are separated; some go straight into 'kerbside-sort' vehicles which have different sections. Others go into vehicles which have one section for glass and one for everything else and are sorted at the Recycling Facility at Enstone. The material is then sold to Contractors and, as far as possible the Council ensures that the material is treated responsibly but some of the following details might change. However, at the moment this is what happens:

Glass 70% of glass is sold to the UK glass industry and recycled for bottle making and fibre glass manufacture. A small amount is used in road aggregate. (West Oxfordshire glass goes to a recycler in West Yorkshire). The other 30% goes to the European glass market, mainly to Italy, France, Spain and Portugal, making bottles of a darker green because of having been made from a variety of colours.

Cans Our food and drink cans go to South Wales. The steel is recovered and sold globally and the aluminium is sold within the UK and made into new drinks cans. (The process of recycling used drinks cans to make new ones can take as little as six weeks from bin to supermarket).

Garden Waste The green waste is taken either to Dean Pit and then composted in Chipping Norton and used to fertilise the land of local farms, or to Dix Pit where the compost is used in the same way around Hinton Waldrist.

Paper West Oxfordshire's paper goes to Kent where it is made into newsprint. Higher grade office paper from the WODC offices is sold on to be made into tissue paper products.

Plastics Plastics go to a recycler in Lancashire where mixed plastics make a wide range of products such as drain pipes, insulation materials, flower pots, watering cans and fleece material.

Cardboard Our cardboard goes to a processor in Doncaster where it is recovered, bulked and sold to paper and cardboard mills. This process involves soaking and agitating to release fibres and turn them back to pulp. Metal and ink contaminants are removed, finishing chemicals added and the pulp pressed into sheets. Each time cardboard is pulped the fibres get shorter but even so cardboard can be recycled four or five times. Uses include boxes and packaging, stationery and animal bedding.

Textiles Textiles from recycling centres are collected by Scope and taken to their charity shops for resale. Those not suitable for that are sold to rag merchants. Materials collected at the kerbside are sent as second-hand clothes to the third world. Other materials are baled and produce wiping cloths or sold to make into insulating material and other products.

**RECYCLING REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

# CLUBS, SPORT, GROUPS

## **WEA Charlbury/Enstone Branch**

Courses for Autumn 2006 and Spring 2007 are as follows: *Please note courses will only be run if sufficient people have signed up at least a week beforehand. For further details of these courses contact Dawn Colvin 810545*

**Literature:** Love & Family in Victorian Literature. 20 weeks starting Sep 26th from 10.15 to 12.15 at Friends Meeting House. Tutor David Grylls.

**Music:** Edward Elgar 3 week music course starting Oct 12 from 2 to 4 pm at Memorial Hall. Tutor Tim Porter.

**Post Impressionism:** 5 week course starting Nov 8 from 10 to noon, Morris Room, Corner House. Tutor Alice Foster.

**Art & the Industrial Revolution:** From Iron Bridge to the Machine Age. 7 weeks starting Feb 7 2007 from 2 to 4 pm at the Memorial Hall. Tutor Willem Hackmann.

**The Archers of Ancient Egypt:** Day School on Mar 20 2007, Primary School. 10 to 4pm (lunch inc). Tutor Rosalind Janssen.

**Local Organics:** An introduction to organic gardening. 5 week course. First meeting Memorial Hall Chadlington at 2pm May 17 2007, followed by visits to 4 local gardens. Tutor Ian Gourlay.

## **LADIES NETBALL**

Beginning Thursday September 7th at Charlbury Primary School. Evenings from 6—7 pm. £1 per week. All money raised goes to Charlbury Primary School. If you are aged 18-80, then why not come along and have a game. Bring a friend! It's a fun way to keep fit. Interested? Then contact Elaine on 01608 810577

## **WHIST DRIVES AT SPELSBURY**

The fortnightly Whist Drives held in Spelsbury Memorial Hall will start again on Monday September 18th at 7.30 pm .

Please do come and join us for a very friendly and enjoyable evening. Proceeds in aid of Spelsbury Memorial Hall. For further information ring 01608 810918

## **CHARLBURY CRICKET CLUB**

*Adult Section:* A pulverising innings of 46 off just 29 balls by opening batsman Rob Garrett propelled Charlbury to a deserved win over Windrush Valley in the final of the Ernie Clack Memorial Cup at the end of July. Set 112 to win off their 16 overs after an excellent performance in the field, Charlbury got home with five balls to spare thanks to Garrett and a mature innings of 30 not out by Marcus Rump. The competition, which was revived by Charlbury this season after a one-year absence from the calendar, proved to be a great success and we look forward to running it again in 2007. It is not the first time that Charlbury have tasted cup success this year: we also won the annual Chadlington knockout tournament in June.

Unfortunately, things have not been quite so rosy in the bread-and-butter world of league cricket. Heavy rain in May meant a disjointed start to the season for all three of our teams but as soon as the hot, dry weather arrived some encouraging wins were recorded. As we enter August our Second Team are well placed in their division and if they can gain promotion for a second consecutive season that would be a tremendous achievement.

*Youth Section:* The Youth Section continues to provide training and matches for boys and girls from Charlbury and the surrounding area. The Section is in the process of improving its administration with the creation of a manual covering training, child welfare, an anti-bullying policy and its constitution. We now have a club photo album showing many members enjoying their cricket and full statistics are maintained so that parents can follow their children's progress over time. The Girls Section is one of the strongest in Oxfordshire and many of the county team come from Charlbury. The Boys Under-15 team won their league this year and all of the age groups have achieved some fine individual and team performances, too many to mention here. The annual presentation evening for the Youth Section will be held at the club on 4th September.

**Lastly, a plea for help:** we desperately need more volunteers willing to train as coaches. There is no financial outlay involved, all you need is to be able to spare some time to help young people enjoy playing a great outdoor sport. If you can assist please contact Geoff Lowe, the Youth Section Secretary, on 01608 810580.

*Derek Collett*

## **CHARLBURY SOCIETY MEETINGS**

Friday 8 September - Mr Aylwin Samson - *Cotswold Enigmas*.

Friday 13 October - Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill - *Blenheim and the Churchill Family*

Thursday 9 November the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

N.B. Meeting 9 Nov. 7.30 pm in St Mary's Church - otherwise 7.30 pm The Memorial Hall. Visitors welcome.

*Brian Murray*

## **CHARLBURY CHESS CLUB**

The 06/07 season begins on Thursday 28th September - 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm at the Methodist Hall, Fishers Lane.

The Club is now 75 years old and earlier this year we won a 'friendly' against Witney.

Players of all ages - children to OAPs - are welcome, and we particularly encourage beginners - coaching willingly given in a friendly atmosphere.

Why not come and play this fascinating game? £2 , or 50p for the under 18s.

Either telephone Bob Douglas on 811083 or just turn up on the night .

*Roger Farrow*

**CHARLBURY PROBUS CLUB** continues to meet at the Witney Lakes Resort on the first Wednesday of each month. Our meetings take the form of a lunch followed by a talk - recent speakers include Colin Dexter, who talked about his life in general and Inspector Morse in particular. The Club also makes frequent visits to theatres and concerts, and has days out to country houses; visits to Kingston Bagpuize House and Milton Manor House are planned for September 12th. Anyone who would like further information about the Club is asked to contact our Secretary, Graham Keighley, at 24 Play-ing Close, Charlbury OX7 3RJ, telephone 811616)

*John Hereford*

*For inclusion in this section ring Julia Caston 810240*

## **Back to Basics** *by Edward Fenton*

In September 1993, *Charlbury News* published a brief item under the heading LATEST NEWS. 'Alan Fraser and his TJOPS ensemble gave a performance on the riverside lands,' it reported. 'This seems to have taken on the appearance of an annual event. Long may it continue!' The tradition did not just continue: it flourished and grew, eventually metamorphosing into the Riverside Festival, Charlbury's hugely successful and popular weekend-long free festival featuring aspiring and established bands from all over the region.

In 2006, sadly, a variety of factors prevented the Riverside Festival from taking place for the first time for many years (though a well attended 'Riverside Stage' was added to this year's Cornbury set-up). So Alan Fraser and friends decided to go back to basics, and on the evening of Friday 21 July they staged an old-style jazz picnic in the orchard at the bottom of Pound Hill. It was a private event, but walkers and picnickers on the other side of the River Evenlode were delighted to find themselves caught up in a great Charlbury tradition, as they listened to Alan Fraser on sax, Geoff Holmberg on bass, Paul Wisby on guitar and Nick Potter on drums. Later, by candlelight, Jess Goyder played a hauntingly beautiful selection of self-penned songs.

I am unable to provide a full track-listing, but it evidently included a rain dance, as a few hours later Charlbury's fortnight-long drought came to a dramatic end, when torrential thunderstorms gave our fields and gardens some much-needed rain.

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### **The Fourshires LETS group will be meeting in Charlbury on Wednesday September 20th at the Friends Meeting House from 7.30pm**

We welcome interested people to come and meet our friendly group and see what the LETS system is all about. The Local Exchange Trading Scheme - LETS for short - offers a way of getting help with jobs and it is absolutely true that you can use any of them without parting with a single penny. All you have to do is offer something in return, as LETS provides a non-profit, non-cash based way of swapping favours. For example; you might dig Bill's garden, Bill washes Harry's car, Harry gives Ann's daughter some maths coaching, and Ann supplies you with honey from her bees.

As well as being an excellent way to get things done and to swap goods without money changing hands, the local LETS group is a sociable crowd of people of all ages and from all walks of life, who meet monthly in the rooms of local pubs and at fun socials throughout the year. The Fourshires LETS Group covers Chipping Norton, Moreton in Marsh, Shipston on Stour, Charlbury and all surrounding villages. The group is keen to welcome new members.

For further information please ring Ann or David on 676302, Tracy on 676534 or Penny 01295 680700.

## **NEWS FROM CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE**

At our A.G.M. in July we recorded another good year during which we appointed Ruth Gould our new co-ordinator to replace Val Milford who had to resign because of ill health. Like Val, Ruth was also a nurse and we are very pleased to have her. Our membership has been well maintained over the last year. This we have done by bringing forward those on our waiting list. This list always needs renewing and I should be very pleased to hear from anyone who wants to know more about us – who the Day Centre is for and what we are able to share with older people who spend most of their time at home alone and don't get about much. We also need more helpers. Being a volunteer is not too onerous, once or twice a month for a morning or afternoon. We also need drivers for only an hour once or twice a month. I should welcome any enquiries. Another cook would lessen the load of our team!

*Graham Canning , telephone: 810421*

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THE CHARLBURY CHRONICLE?**

The Charlbury Chronicle has a print run of 1500 copies and is delivered free to every house in Charlbury four times a year

Ring Jack Potten 01608 810991  
for further details



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

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

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

# TotBits

**BACK TO NORMALCY:** Have you had enough of summer? If it hasn't been scorching hot, it has been dumping rain on us in such torrents that most people's garages have flooded. Either way, it seems like the best course of action has been to simply turn on the television for the kiddoes and let them stay either cool or dry, depending on the freakish weather we're having that day.

But now we're creeping toward autumn. It's hard to believe that the season doesn't officially end until September 23<sup>rd</sup> (I'll admit I had to look this up – I can't ever remember if it's the 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> or whatever, but according to Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autumnal\\_equinox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autumnal_equinox), the date is a changeable feast from year to year).

For all intents and purposes, however, autumn will begin when the children return to school, and when all the groups and meetings for toddlers get underway again. It's also the time of year when I remind people who run these groups that I can't report any newsworthy items for their organisations unless they tell me, so it's also my annual encouragement for those people to contact me with the information they want printed in TotBits.

Finally, I've had one or two successes hooking people up with used items for swapping. Have you got anything you are looking for this Christmas that perhaps someone else may have lurking about their house? Is there something you want to off-load so you can make room for this year's prezzies? Let me know and I'll include it in the Swap Shop.

Speaking of Swap Shop: one Wednesday in the Spring, I came across a lovely pink denim jacket in Church Street about lunchtime, not too far from the Rose and Crown pub. Unfortunately, it doesn't fit me, or I might have tried less hard to find its owner! If you think it might be yours or belong to someone you know, please get in touch.

**LITTLE FISHES:** After the success of the Teddy Bears' Picnic in July, when 30 children came along to the Vicar's garden to bounce on the castle, sing songs, and decorate gingerbread men, we're really hoping to welcome more new people along to see what a treasure is in store on Wednesday mornings. You don't have to be someone's mum to bring a child along – childminders, grannies, nannies ... all are encouraged to come down to St Mary's church at 10:30 and enjoy the company, the coffee, and the activities for the Under 5s. Contact Kate on 811579.

**PRE-SCHOOL:** The Pre-School is available for birthday parties from 2 p.m. onwards on Saturdays, and at any time on Sundays or during school holidays. For only a £15 fee, you have the use of two rooms (one vinyl floor and one carpeted), child-friendly tables and chairs, a kitchen, and space even for a 10x10 foot bouncy castle! The heating of rooms can be arranged, if required, for a small extra cost.

Pre-school premises are also available for hire in the afternoons during the week, either on a temporary or regular basis. Why not arrange a visit to see the venue and find out if it's for you? Telephone: 811200.

**CHILDREN'S YOGA:** Does your child never seem to sit still? Well, children's yoga can teach him or her the benefit of lying quietly as well as moving meditatively, stretching, and strengthening those young bones. Classes run at the Pre-School on Tuesday afternoons, the fees for which go to the Pre-School. The Yoga Club meets at Charlbury School for Years 2-6 on Mondays and Tuesdays after school. Phone Nirosha on 810676 for further details.

**BABY AND TODDLER GROUP:** Though this is generally known as "the toddler group" around town, it's nevertheless open to mums-to-be and very young babies as well as pre-school children. The group meets every Monday during term time, from 9:30-11:30 at the Memorial Hall. Children especially love the chance to run, jump, and ride on toys when the weather is wet and grey – and you'll love the hot cuppa and conversation. £1.50 per family.

**SPANISH FOR CHILDREN:** The Spanish Club is a morning of classes for small groups of children. It takes place every Saturday at the Old Grammar School in Charlbury (the Pre-School). The objective of the club is to provide an enjoyable environment in which the children can learn basic Spanish.

Last term the children worked mostly on the well-known story of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears". At the end of the term we held a little performance in which some children acted the story out. They were very convincing in their roles!

This autumn will see the children focus on "The Three Billy Goats Gruff," as well as some Christmas carols. For more information and to arrange a visit to a session, ring Elizabeth on 811128 or e-mail her at [elivergaravera@hotmail.com](mailto:elivergaravera@hotmail.com).

**RHYTHM TIME:** A new music group for babies and toddlers has started up in Chip-ping Norton on Thursday mornings. It's called "Rhythm Time" which is a local franchise run by Sandra Carter (Tele: 01386 430241). You can find out more about Rhythm Time from their website at <http://www.rtfg.co.uk>.

*TotBits is compiled by Kat Patrick (811660)  
Kat.patrick@alumni.southwestern.edu*

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## FILM FOR SEPTEMBER

ChOC will be screening "A Constant Gardener" in September. Please see local publicity nearer the time for further details.

**Report from District Councillor Glena Chadwick** Telephone: 01608 810555 or email [chadwick@glena.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:chadwick@glena.fsnet.co.uk))

**Firstly huge congratulations to the Wychwood Project** which has many Charlbury volunteer members and especially to Alan Spicer its project chairman. WODC, which has always supported it, suggested it for the Queen's Award for Voluntary service; it was successful and the award was presented at the end of June by Hugo Brunner, the Lord Lieutenant---well done!!

**On the green theme**, I asked at an Environment meeting a few months ago if we could have a report about what actually does happen to our recycling. So many negative rumours fly about---'it all gets mixed together'---'it all goes into landfill anyway' etc--- that I thought it would be helpful to dispel these myths. An extremely clear and detailed report was presented to us by one of the Environmental officers at the next meeting and we all felt that it deserved to be widely circulated. See page 25 for a shortened version.

Staying on this subject, the bring site at Spendlove is slightly better, I think, though occasionally I find it overflowing. However, the response when I ring up is usually very quick. The Mind container which had proved unsatisfactory, has been replaced by one from the Salvation Army which we hope will prove better. Recently we had a seminar on the new Clean Neighbourhoods Act, bringing together powers concerning graffiti, dog mess, litter etc. It is legally very complicated and many of these powers are not new; most of us felt that the only real solution to these problems is personal responsibility.

**WODC is considering installing a Ground Source Heat Pump** in its depot in Witney so that solar energy from the ground could provide heat to replace the present gas and electric heating. This would be cheaper and, of course, environmentally much better.

**Report from District Councillor Mike Breakell** Telephone 01993 868201 or e mail on [michael.breakell@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:michael.breakell@westoxon.gov.uk) or [mjbreakell@aol.com](mailto:mjbreakell@aol.com).

**Planning issues are always challenging in Charlbury** especially when these relate to traffic or trees. Many issues are delegated to be dealt with by officers but the more contentious issues go before elected members of the Uplands Area Sub Committee, which meets at 2pm on the first Monday in every month and the public are invited to attend as observers. Most decisions have to be made in accordance with established policies at local and increasingly at regional level, and the government's laudable intentions to 'engage with the local community' are not always easily achieved. Two big issues shortly to be considered by the Development Control Committee involve the redevelopment of the former Marriotts Close football field in Witney for additional retail facilities and the outline proposal by Cornbury Park to construct 90 holiday lodges at Finstock Heath.

**The public debate in Charlbury on traffic and public transport** is likely to raise some challenging issues. When 21% of the population of West Oxfordshire is already over 60 and entitled to free bus travel, when 25% are still under 19, and when almost 14% have a limiting long term illness there are opportunities to contribute to lower emissions by reducing travel by car. Meanwhile ideas like the Parish rail forum or the station adoption scheme are being proposed whilst new Cotswold Line Promotion Group notice boards have been provided as part of a new rural transport strategy.

**The new Licensing system** relating to public houses appears to be working quite well in Charlbury and ever larger scale events like those in Cornbury Park appear to have produced few problems.

**Report from County Councillor Sue Haffenden.** Telephone 01608 676642 or email [Sue.Haffenden@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Sue.Haffenden@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

June and July at County Hall have been largely dominated by briefings about the NHS cuts and the re-structuring of services. Moorview in Witney, run by the Mental Health Trust, was a victim of these financial cuts. The building is now being re-furbished by the County Council and the Trust and will re-open in the Spring as a larger, modernised Day Centre for older people and with provision for specialist day care for the mentally ill. Those patients requiring beds will, however, have to be accommodated either in Oxford or Banbury and for local people this is distressing and inconvenient with transport problems and time constraints. The changes in service at the Horton have also been announced and the consultation period lasts until September. Children's services may be moved to the John Radcliffe and there will be some changes to the maternity and general surgery units. Services for older people should be expanded. The five Primary Care Trusts, set up in 1997, are now reverting to their original status of one Primary Care Trust for the whole of Oxfordshire. It is hoped to be able to cut administrative staff and reduce costs. The way in which the NHS will be run in future is under review by the Government and we are currently reading and thinking through the implications of the Government's latest White Paper, with its emphasis on patients being moved out of acute hospital beds as soon as possible after their operations (within 24 hrs if possible) and out into the community hospitals for on-going treatment. But where are these Community Hospitals going to be sited and how will these changes impact on already hard-pressed Social Services and ultimately on carers, whether paid or family carers? Many pressures lurk behind these optimistic sounding policies and we, at County level, have to respond to them.

My Social and Community Services Scrutiny Committee has just published our Review, entitled "Support for Adult Carers" It could not be more relevant, as future demands on all carers will undoubtedly increase. The issues we dealt with were a desire from present carers for adequate respite care, advice and information, access to allowances, assessments for the cared –for and the carer, training, emergency planning and use of their local Carers' Centre. Our Centre is in Banbury and anyone who needs help in any way would be well advised to phone the Centre first for excellent information on any aspect of caring for an elderly member of your family or someone with a learning or physical disability. The address is North and West Carers Centre, 27 Horsefair, Banbury, OX16 0AE Tel: 01295 264545. Ask for their excellent Carers Pack.

## **SHOEBOX CHALLENGE!**

If you are buying new footwear for the autumn, you might like to express your gratitude for such a common "luxury" by filling the shoebox with suitable gifts for a deprived child somewhere in the world. Think of the difference we could make if every household were to offer just one box!

The Baptist Church will once again act as a collecting-point for your boxes in mid-November, so look out for details which will be delivered to your home with the October leaflet. Meanwhile, if you are a knitter, you can get busy making scarves, gloves and hats to add to the boxes.

*Kay Colyer*

## JOHN STANLEY'S WEATHER REPORT

**May 2006** was a pretty average month. All except 7 days recorded temperatures in the 60s, with just 3 higher and 4 lower. The warmest day was 78° on 4th and the coolest, 56 on 30th. Overall, the average maximum temperature for the month was 63.77° compared with the 1989 to 2005 average of 63.78°. The coldest nights were 39° on 1st/2nd and 30th/31st. The warmest night was 54° on 26th/27th.

The Spring months of March to May, were comparatively cool, producing an average day time maximum temperature of 55.97°. The average for the previous 17 years was 57.26°.

With temperatures not really rising during the month, May gave no indication of what was about to happen.

Right from the start of **June 2006**, temperatures were on the rise. We reached our first 80° of the year on 10th (81°) and temperatures peaked at 85° on 12th. This equalled the 1989-2005 record for June. The temperature then dropped dramatically and two days later was only 64°, before rising sharply again, with 82° being achieved on 17th. A temperature of 80°, or above, was recorded on 5 days during the month. The coldest day was, in fact, 63° on 26th. Overall, June 2006, at 73.73°, was the hottest during the 18 year period that these records have been kept, beating 2003 by just 0.73°. The normal day-time maximum for June is 69.30°, so 2006 was way above that. At night, temperatures ranged from 42° on 31st May/1st June up to 63° on 11th/12th.

**July 2006** will go on record as a heatwave. It started with four days in the 80s, with 88° on 2nd, before dropping back to 68° on 10th - the coolest day in the month. Then, temperatures rose steadily to a peak of 91° (about 32.8° C) on 19th. This was a record high for July, the previous one being 90° on 22nd July 1989. It also equalled the all time record, set on 3rd August 1990. Unfortunately, the high temperature on 19th July appeared to thin the mercury in my thermometer so that, during the following night, it squeezed past the needle, which is supposed to record the night time low, which jammed showing 70°. Whether that night was the warmest cannot be determined, but 66° was recorded on 21st/22nd. A torrential thunderstorm on 22nd temporarily cooled things down, then, after another period in the mid 80s, temperatures tailed off towards the end of the month. Temperatures reached 80°, or above, on 14 days during the month. The average daytime maximum temperature of 78.94° (about 26° C) was a record high. The 17 year average for July is 73.06° and the previous hottest July was in 1989 at 77.19°. July 2006 was also the hottest month during the last 18 years, nothing in August having even approached that figure since 1990. The coolest night was 50° on 11th/12th.

# Charlbury Church Services

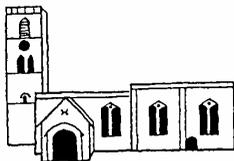
Baptist Chapel, Dyers Hill



Sunday Worship at 10.30am. Fri Oct 10: Join us for a Day of Prayer for our town (look out for details); Sat Nov 18: Coffee at Corner House; Mid Nov: collection of shoebox gifts, see article page

**Ministers:** Rev Malcolm Cook, 4 Churchill Road, Chipping Norton (tel: 646637); Rev Claudette Oddy, 6 Wychwood Close, Charlbury (tel 810152)

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

[www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscharlbury.co.uk)

Friends' Meeting House, Market Street



Meeting for worship at the Friends Meeting  
House at 10.30 am

For further details contact: Joan Rough ( 810704)

Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane



Morning Service normally each Sunday at 10.30 am  
Holy Communion: Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 12

*Further information from Gil Grason (810154)*

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



Sunday Mass: 11 am; 9 am at St Kenelm, Enstone  
Daily Mass: 9.30 am, preceded by Morning Prayers, 9.15 am  
Holydays: Mass 9.30 am and 7.30 pm  
Benediction: Saturdays after 9.30 am Mass

*Confessions before Mass or on call at Presbytery*

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

## CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL - REPORT NO. 40

**Town Council Annual Meeting:** This took place on 24th May when Nick Potter and Ron Prew were elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman for the 12th and 2nd successive year. Ron took over as Vice Chairman during 2005 and had previously held the office from 1997 to 1999. John Harrison is the longest serving Councillor (Chairman 1992 - 1995, Vice Chairman 1990 - 1992 and 2000 - 2005). The other Councillors are Ian Cox, Amanda Epps, Susie Finch, Willem Hackmann, Carolyn Hazeel, Reg James, Trevor Jones, Nicolette Lethbridge and Patricia Parry. 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, Charlbury, tel: 01608 810608. At present all the Councillors sit as Independents although some are well known in local party politics. The Council is now just over half way through its term of office which ends in May 2008 when all 12 seats will be available for election. Details of how to stand as a candidate in that election can be obtained from the Town Clerk.

**Town Council Grants:** Any organization which would like to be considered for a financial grant from the Town Council for the financial year 2007/08 must send their request in writing to the Town Clerk before 1 November 2006. Roger Clarke is able to advise applicants on what the Council can and cannot support within the constraints of the Local Government Act.

**Church Street:** The Church Street Working Group continues to meet. When Andrew Lawson is unavailable Sir John Birch deputises for him. Some pavement re-surfacing has been completed and the conservation grade street lights are on order and should be installed soon. The committee selected a design for a new bus shelter which has been agreed by the Town Council. The bus shelter will be in the same place as the old one but will not be installed until work on the pavement has been completed. It is likely that the scheduled gas repairs will involve digging up the pavement and so there is no point in installing the shelter before that is done. The dates for the gas pipe repair work are still under negotiation to ensure that the Street Fair is not disrupted and Christmas trade is not affected. The work also includes Park Street, Market Street and parts of Thames Street and Dyers Hill. OCC Highways will re-surface the road once the trench has settled.

**Public Meeting:** The Town Council will hold a Public Meeting in the War Memorial Hall at 8pm on Friday 13 October to consider traffic matters. Further details will be on the notice boards and in the Leaflet.

**Thomas Gifford's Charity:** The proposed new scheme for the Charity which removes the Town Council as Trustee was available for Public Consultation from 20th June to 20th July. It is generally assumed that there has been little reaction or comment and so it is hoped that the scheme can soon be granted and that the new board of trustees can take over before the end of this calendar year.

**Meetings:** The details of all Town Council Meetings which are open to the public are on the Town Council Notice Boards outside the Corner House and opposite 5 Ways Stores. Minutes of Town Council meetings are available in the library. Members of the public may address the Town Council for up to 5 minutes before Council meetings but must make arrangements to do so with the Town Clerk who can also advise on attendance at meetings etc.

**West Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan:** This has now been agreed by the District Council. Despite the recommendation of the Government Inspector and the representations of the Town Council and others, the old Town Quarry site is no longer zoned for

employment use. This decision was made by the WODC Cabinet without reference to local Councillors.

**Overhanging Branches:** It would be helpful if branches and other vegetation that obstruct pavements were cut back. This is often dangerous by forcing pedestrians to walk on the road or by impairing visibility for both pedestrians and road users. Your assistance would be appreciated.

**Wigwell:** As part of their 'AGM' Europarc will be visiting Wigwell on the morning of 22nd September. Europarc is the 'association' of all the areas of outstanding natural beauty and their equivalents throughout the EEC. It is UK's turn to be the host and the task of organiser has fallen to the Cotswold Conservation Board, manager of the Cotswold AONB. Delegates will be based in Oxford and Charlbury has been chosen for the 'field visit'. As well as Wigwell delegates will visit Centenary Wood, owned by Oxfordshire County Council and the Cornbury Park SSSI.

**Royal Visit:** As part of the celebration of the 750th anniversary of Charlbury's Royal Charter which was granted to the Town in 1256 by King Henry III, H.R.H. the Princess Royal will visit Charlbury on the morning of Friday 15th September. Her visit will focus on the Corner House and the Museum. The outside timings are 09.30 - 10.20. At the time of writing (last week of July) the detailed programme has yet to be finalised. Details will be available from the Town Clerk nearer the time. The last Royal Visit to Charlbury was by H.M. Queen Victoria in 1886 on her way to visit Lady Churchill at Cornbury Park. In more recent times the Queen has passed through the town on her way from Ditchley Park; the late Princess Margaret was a frequent guest at Lee Place; and HRH the Earl of Wessex dropped in on this year's Cornbury Festival!

*Councillor Trevor Jones*

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## THE CHARLBURY CHRONICLE

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