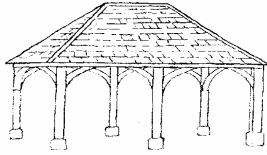


# The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 9 Number 4      December 2005

There is an extraordinary mixture of articles in this issue of the *Charlbury Chronicle*. A BBCTV Blue Peter award to a young Charlbury writer; suggestions as to how to celebrate the granting of our Charter 750 years ago; poetry inspired by the wonderful summer's Test Match cricket; news that the Charlbury Beer Festival is now so successful it has become a registered charity and is proposing to make grants to local projects; the moving story behind a CD made by a local young man in support of his Bosnian girlfriend; the setting up of an internet business directory for Charlbury; showbiz news with local interest — and there's more. After nine years at this job one never ceases to be amazed at the diversity of interests in our town.

This is the time of the year to say thank you to all those who help to produce the *Charlbury Chronicle*. Many of those who help in one way or another have been with us since the first issue which came out in March 1997— their loyalty is very much appreciated. A special thank you to the 37 people who help to distribute the *Chronicle* to every home. (Sometimes we hear that someone has been missed out — do please get in touch and let us know. There are usually spare copies to be found in the chemist, at News & Things, and occasionally on the Corner House table.)

We wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year

Lynette Murphy

*Please note that the deadline for copy for the March 2006 issue is February 5th*

# Late night Christmas shopping in Charlbury Wednesday December 14th

For a fabulous festive feeling and an escape from the crushing crowds in the big town centres, why not come along to the annual late night Christmas shopping evening in Charlbury , on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December.**

All our shops will be open until 8pm, and from 6pm carol singers will be circulating through the streets and the offer of free drinks and tasty fayre in some of our shops...the smell of complimentary hot mulled wine from the Pharmacy and steaming mince pies from the Good Food Shop is very enticing!!

Why not come along and join us and find out that Christmas shopping does not have to be a chore!

## **Lucy McDonagh is our new Police Community Support Officer for Chipping Norton, Charlbury, The Wychwoods and Surrounding areas.**

Firstly, let me start by answering a question which has been raised several times recently. Many Charlbury residents have been wondering where local Beat Officer PC Bob Gillett has been for the past few months. Unfortunately, PC Gillett sustained an injury to his shoulder, which subsequently required an operation. However, you'll be pleased to know that the operation was a success and Bob is recovering well. PC Gillett will be back on the Neighbourhood Policing Team shortly.

In the meantime, with the support of the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood team, I will be taking on the responsibility of Charlbury until Bob is back with us. I will endeavour to provide a consistent and highly visible police presence in the area. Please feel free to approach me and share any issues or comments you may have. You can contact me either via the Charlbury Police Office, located in the Spendlove Centre, or alternatively contact me on 08458 505 505.

Finally, it was pleasing to see so many people attend the Public Meeting, held at St Mary's Church on 20<sup>th</sup> October. I got to hear first hand the desires of Charlbury residents and developed contacts as a result. I am very much looking forward to spending more time in Charlbury and engaging with local residents and dealing with community issues.

# THE ANNUAL SHOW

On Saturday September 3rd 2005 the Annual Show took place in the Memorial Hall. It is run by the Charlbury Horticultural Society and while it is time for people to display their vegetables and flowers, there are many other categories as well. There is a cookery section for jams, chutneys, cakes, bread and even pizza. The handicraft section includes handmade toys, photographs, paintings, sketches, wooden articles and knitting, crochet, patchwork and embroidery. There is also a section for children.

The variety of exhibits that the show attracts is especially evident this year because the best exhibit came from the handicraft section. It was won by Dinah Clements. She had made a patterned hand-woven table runner. It was made in cotton mostly of yarn that she had dyed herself with dye extracted from plants that she had grown. Dinah said that it was the first time she had entered and was really pleased to have won. She hoped that more people would be encouraged to enter the craft section. Entrants do not only come from Charlbury. The winner for most points in the vegetable and fruit section was Ian Tolputt from Spelsbury. This is only the second time he has entered. He first came to enter the photography section and thought he would have a fair chance with his vegetables. He now goes to 5 local shows and says he has only really been doing it for three years and has picked up tips from other gardeners at the competitions. Peter Bridgeman, who won the most points in the flowers section, said he just went out in the garden and picked what was available. He said that it is important to present your exhibits in a way that brings out their best qualities. He said that members of the committee would be happy to advise people on presentation beforehand. There are of course areas where experienced growers are in evidence – in the flower section there are beautiful dahlias and chrysanthemums. What is a real bonus is that after the show, they can be bought, so that anyone can have a prize-winning exhibit in their house! Sarah Potter, who is a regular exhibitor won the cup for most points in the cookery section. This class is not a female preserve and there have often been several male winners.

The show is always seeking for new ideas and listens to suggestions. Jenny Haxworth, who won prizes with her bread and vegetables, said she thought there could be an organic sub-category within the classes. Perhaps this will happen. The great thing about the show is that it brings together all sorts of people from Charlbury and beyond. It is open to everyone; you do not have to be a member of the society. The atmosphere is friendly, people compare notes and help each other. Recently some stalwarts of the show have retired and the society is looking for new exhibitors. The message from the winners this year is that anyone can take part and whether they are successful or not, it is great fun.

*Diana Potten*

## 'LATEST NEWS: CHRISTMAS IS COMING'

CHARLBURY NEWS HEADLINE , DECEMBER 1996

It's that time of year again: as you start compiling your Christmas card list, and checking on last posting-times for overseas mail, you suddenly realise that you still haven't come up with a proper answer for all those far-scattered friends who've ever asked you: 'So what's Charlbury actually like?'

Until a couple of years ago, the best answer to that question was to send along a copy of Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson's enchanting collection of watercolours of the town. But now that *A Charlbury Sketch-book* has gone out of print, the best way to give a flavour of the town is through the brilliantly eccentric writings of 'the father of Charlbury journalism', Professor Robert Leslie.

Professor Leslie loved meeting new people and telling them about the town; he would regularly patrol the crossroads between the Rose & Crown and the Bull, looking out for anyone whom he could greet with his favourite question: 'Are you strangers here?' People who had recently come to live in Charlbury were often greeted in the same way — and even if he didn't manage to accost you in person, he would soon be regaling you with the town's gossip and folklore through the pages of his quirky (and not infrequently libellous) *Charlbury News*.

When my family and I first came to live in Charlbury in 1992, it was Professor Leslie's newsletter which first made me feel at home; and 12 years later I felt privileged to be able to collaborate with his daughter Fran, when I decided to publish an anthology entitled *Six Years in a Country Town*. The picture of Charlbury which emerges may not be recognised by everyone, but it's guaranteed to give you a lot of fun along the way ... and the book is also small enough to slip into any envelope, along with the Christmas card!

*Edward Fenton*

*Six Years in a Country Town: Pages from R.F. Leslie's Charlbury News* is available from Evenlode Books, News and Things, and Charlbury Post Office. It can be ordered through any bookshop in the UK, and is also available direct from the Charlbury Press, Orchard Piece, Crawborough, Charlbury (01608 811196) at just £3.99, including p+p. All proceeds to the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal.

### ChOC UPDATE

An average of 50 people turned up, many with a cushion tucked under one arm, to see **The Aviator** in September and **A Good Woman** in November. Thanks to all those that made the effort, as ChOC can only show films as long as they continue to be well attended. The next screenings will be:

- **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, Tim Burton's interpretation of Roald Dahl's children's classic, starring Johnny Depp, on 4th January 2006.
- **Casablanca**, the all time classic with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall in March 2006.

ChOC is also finalising arrangements to stage a live production of Mozart's Don Giovanni, put on by a professional opera company, next June. Watch this space for further details. To contact ChOC please ring: Paul Dawsey: 07974 353443 or Russell Robson: 07760148745

## **Teenager from Charlbury wins Blue Peter writing competition**

14 year old Nina Landale from Charlbury was picked out of 33,000 entries when she entered a writing competition on Blue Peter.

Nina Landale (14) from Charlbury, who goes to Chipping Norton School, entered a writing competition on Blue Peter, with a 7 in 33,000 chance that her story would come top, but she tried her hardest and came through as a star. Nina wrote an out standing story about a girl who could read people's thoughts if she looked them in the eyes, and this winning story was started by one of her favourite authors, Malorie Blackman.

For this competition Blue Peter asked viewers to finish stories started by award-winning authors including Eoin Colfer, Raymond Briggs, Lauren Child and Jacqueline Wilson.

Nina said: "I chose Malorie Blackman's story because I really enjoyed her *Noughts and Crosses* trilogy. Malorie Blackman had written: "Mind your own business, that's always been a major rule of my life, that is until the accident" ..... I thought that it sounded as if it was suggesting that she wasn't minding her own business after the accident and thought it would be interesting if she could suddenly mind read, meaning that she wouldn't be minding her own business anymore. I also really enjoy Jacqueline Wilson's books but they are getting a bit young for me now".

As well as having her picture on telly Nina gets her story published in a book which will be illustrated by Quentin Blake and will be in the shops around Christmas to help raise money for the Blue Peter Appeal. Nina also gets a brand new laptop computer which she has said she will use to write many more stories. She and the other winners will be filmed in Suffolk in early November where they will visit the printing company.

Nina said 'I sometimes write an occasional story for English at school but they are usually quite short. I also sometimes write the beginning of stories when I am bored but I never get round to finishing them. This is probably one of the first proper stories I have written and finished which wasn't to do with school.'

*The Charlbury Chronicle congratulates Nina for her splendid achievement and wishes her well for the future. We are indebted to her younger sister, 11 year old Becky, who wrote this article.*

## NEWS OF CHARLBURY MEDICAL PRACTICE

Patients of the Charlbury Medical Centre (CMC) were somewhat dismayed recently to learn that their practice was almost at the bottom of the 'league tables' of Oxfordshire medical practices. The *Charlbury Chronicle* interviewed the Practice Manager, Wesley Rouse, to find out the facts.

It appears that *clinically* the CMC did extremely well, scoring 100 percent on several of the criteria. However, on the *practical and administrative* side there was some failings which caused a loss of points — one important one being that the CMC did not wish to change to the recently introduced appointments system (which requires patients to telephone for their appointments from 8 am). This was introduced in order to achieve the targets which have been set by the government. Eventually the CMC had to conform to the wishes of the Primary Care Trust and, as we know, the new system was introduced here in Charlbury in the summer. In spite of their eventual compliance they were penalised, and lost further bonus points because they had not joined the scheme earlier.

Many changes are in the pipe-line, one of which is that there will be a queuing system for telephone calls, which should make it easier for patients to make contact without having to keep ringing back.

There have been so many changes to the way medical practices are run that it can be confusing to know what to do in the case of emergency. Always dial 999 and ask for an ambulance if something serious happens. If the situation does not warrant an ambulance you should get yourself to the Minor Injuries Unit in Witney which is open SEVEN DAYS A WEEK from 10 am to 10.30 pm. If you have a medical problem when the CMC is shut ring the practice number and there will be a recorded message giving a number which you can ring for the out-of-hours service where you can get help and advice from a duty doctor (*so have a pencil and paper to hand when you ring*).

You can also get advice on minor ailments, coughs, colds and so on) 24 hours a day by calling NHS Direct on 0845 4647. Our local pharmacy also offers advice and over the counter medication to relieve symptoms of minor ailments.

Charlbury Medical Centre is considering forming a Patient Group which would meet a few times a year to discuss matters of interest to the smooth running of the practice. Wesley Rouse would be glad to hear from anyone who would like to join this panel, so if you are interested please get in touch with him at the Medical Centre.

*Lynette Murphy*

## CHARLBURY BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Charlbury now has a business directory that will enable you to find people in the town who can help out in numerous different ways. Whether you need a locksmith, a builder or an electrician, or you need something you have written edited or printed, or you have a leak in one of your Middle East oil pipelines (yes really!), or you need counselling, want to learn african drumming, get your back sorted, or just want the opening hours of the chemist, the butcher, the post office, the surgery or the vet -- the directory gives detailed information on over 80 different Charlbury businesses.

By 'businesses' we don't just mean people working in shops and offices. Indeed, most of the entries are for self-employed people working from home. And the directory isn't just for locals. People visiting the town, or thinking of moving here, will find some of the contacts really useful. Professionals may also find that there is someone just down the road who works in their field, hitherto unbeknown to them. **The directory is available online at [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info)**

There are still significant omissions. Several of us have worked hard over the last eight weeks to locate and inform well over a hundred businesses of what we were doing, but some have very deaf ears! If you want to be included, please email [jon@joncarpenter.co.uk](mailto:jon@joncarpenter.co.uk) for a questionnaire. If you find a business that is not listed, please tell the business concerned what they are missing. All our thanks go in particular to Cally Robson, secretary of the Charlbury Chamber of Trade, and Richard Fairhurst, who runs an extremely efficient website for no return whatever except (hopefully) a warm glow of satisfaction at a job well done.

*Jon Carpenter (Evenlode Books 01608 819117)*

### **Community groups can now set up their own page on the Charlbury Website [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info).**

The pages are, of course, free and provide an easy alternative to setting up your own website. Alternatively, if your group already has a website, we can happily carry a link to it. The page can contain any information you want. It can be edited using an easy-to-use method which requires no special software or web knowledge - just go to a special editing page and start typing. The most recently updated pages are highlighted on the website's front page.

#### **Community pages arrive on Charlbury Website**

Ten groups have already set up their own pages, including the Street Fair, the Chamber of Trade and Commerce, the Youth Football Club, and Charlbury Morris, to name but a few. The Charlbury Website is highly ranked by search engines (it's the top result for 'Charlbury' on Google, Yahoo and MSN) and attracts hundreds of visits every day, making this an effective way to promote your society or group. To set up your own page, just e-mail [info@charlbury.info](mailto:info@charlbury.info).

#### **Other website developments:**

Hand-in-hand with the community pages comes the new business directory, as described by Jon Carpenter on this page. There are now 12 photo galleries on the website, ranging from old photographs of the town to snapshots from this year's Street Fair and Mini In The Park..... And the old favourites continue: news, events, free ads and a discussion forum.

You can access the website at [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info).

## CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2005

**WOW** – what a Street Fair! This year we were able to give the Corner House and Memorial Hall Committee **£10,000** – which is £2000 more than we have ever given before. This truly was a bumper year and we would like to say a big thank you to all of you who so generously gave of your time, money etc to make it such a success. There are too many people to thank – but you know who you are, so a BIG thank you from all the Street Fair Committee.

**2006 DATES:** Next year's Open Gardens will be on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June and Street Fair will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2006 – so don't you dare be away! The first meeting to organise next year's fair will be on 8<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm in the Garden Room.

**HELP!!:** Some of the existing committee are standing down this year, so we do need **lots** of help and new ideas in organising the fair; it's not too much work if we have lots of people to help – and it's good fun too (we go to the pub afterwards!). If we are to continue the success of Street Fair we really do need help. So to all of you, who enjoyed this year's fair, please think about even giving just a few hours of your time. Please don't just read this, and say well maybe I will help – and then forget about it. Contact me **NOW!** I look forward to hearing from you all. Please contact Susie Finch if you are interested in helping – even if it's only on the day. Phone number is 01608 810861 or by email at susanna\_finch@hotmail.com.

*Susie Finch, Street Fair Committee*

### Street Fair Fun Run and 10K race

Our annual run in aid of the Street Fair was held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, the day after the Street Fair. This year saw a record turn out with 101 finishers in the 10km race and 33 fun run finishers. Full results and a race-day report have been posted onto the Charlbury website, as well as a useful feedback of runners' comments and reflections on the event which were posted on from the "Runner's World" running magazine. Thanks for compiling those are due to Neil Macalpine who handled this year's entries. It was all good fun, hard graft, and a healthy profit of just over £500 was earned for the Street Fair. Thanks also to all marshals and helpers on the day, and all you runners who keep coming back for more.

*Dean Vincent*

### SHED THEATRE

Due to the continuing success of Shed Theatre, both weekly sessions are now full for the current academic year. To avoid disappointment, any one wishing to join Shed Theatre should contact Trish Fraser on 01608 810276 to join the waiting list.

### WYCHWAYZ BORDER MORRIS

We are a mixed group of very laid back Morris dancers who like to have fun. We practice regularly on Tuesday nights in the Scout hut, Nineacres Lane (from 8pm). If you would like to come along and dance with us, or you play an instrument and would like to join the band please call in on any Tuesday evening or contact Dave (01608 811056) or Judy (01608 810517). No experience necessary! Everyone welcome!



## SPARE ROOM FOR A PAYING VISITOR?

The Canadian students from the 2006 Atlantic Baptist University Oxford Study Programme will be staying in Charlbury from 14 January to 10 April, while they undertake their studies in Drama and Shakespeare in Charlbury and Oxford. 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 the students really appreciate contact with local people, and endeavour to be caring and sensitive towards their hosts. The requirement is for a private 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 costs is paid.

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 during their stay here. The programme includes a one week break while the students are away, approximately in the middle of the schedule.

For further details, please contact Madeleine Wheare (810092) or Peter Colyer (810107)

## NEWS FROM THE SHOWS

Charlbury's **Freddie Jones** has just joined the cast of the daily ITV soap 'Emmerdale' playing the part of Sandy, the father of Ashley. His character is 'enigmatic, unpredictable, an incurable romantic fantasist' and we are assured that there will be 'fun and games where Sandy is'.

Freddie's son, **Toby Jones**, was recently seen playing the part of Robert Cecil (Pygmy) in 'Elizabeth 1st' with Helen Mirren. The play was filmed in Lithuania, and Toby is now filming Somerset Maugham's 'The Painted Veil' in a very remote part of China.

Charlbury actress **Catherine Potter**, daughter of Sarah and Nick Potter of Lees Rest, having graduated from the Oxford School of Drama in August, is making her first professional appearance in 'Puss In Boots'

## **Charlbury at 750? Charlbury's 750th? Charlbury Charter? Charter 750?**

As you may have read in previous editions of the Chronicle, next year will see 750 years since the granting, to the Abbot of Eynsham, of a Royal charter allowing a market to be held here in Charlbury.

There have been requests for the anniversary to be marked, perhaps with a party or maybe with a variety of events throughout the year but certainly the year should not pass without this significant charter being remembered.

In January, the Charlbury Society will host a meeting for everyone who has an interest and can organise an event to ensure that we do not miss the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary. Whether it be history, music, sport, drama, dance, or party that you would like - indoor or outdoor, if there is something that you can organise, come to the meeting.

The nation has had Trafalgar 200 and Guy Fawkes 400 and now let us have a 'Charlbury 750' but remember things will only happen if you take your share of the organising.

Please write to Brian Murray, Chimney Cottage, Dancers Hill, Charlbury, OX7 3RZ or [brian@murray977.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:brian@murray977.freeserve.co.uk) for details of the meeting date, time & venue.

**The Editor says:** As well as some of the ideas proposed by Brian Murray, there have been suggestions that perhaps a tree might be planted, a bench or gate dedicated, a piece of artwork commissioned. It has also been suggested that the event might be used to raise funds for whatever cause people wish to support. Keep the ideas coming .....

### **NEW LOCAL FOOD GUIDE**

Foodlinks 2005—your guide to locally produced food has been prepared by Berks, Bucks & Oxon (BBO) food group and is currently being distributed. If you would like a FREE copy of the guide, or are interested in becoming a member of the food group contact Susie Ohlenschlager 01865 810148

**SCIENCE OXFORD** 1—5 London Place, Oxford OX4 1BD  
Tel: 01865 728953 [events@oxtrust.org.uk](mailto:events@oxtrust.org.uk) [www.oxtrust.org.uk](http://www.oxtrust.org.uk)

**CHRISTMAS CRACKER;** Wed Dec 14 7.30pm—8.30 pm (adult show); Thurs Dec 15, 6—7 pm (Family Show suitable for 7-14 years) £4 pp or £13 family ticket  
Expert Science Communicators from The Oxford Trust will perform a series of intriguing and unusual experiments with a festive theme. Find out about science linked to candles, cocktails, games, food, drink and inevitably indigestion!

*For all events please book in advance by telephone or email as above*

# FIRE AND ASHES

*By Rob Stepney*

Vaughan's phlegm fires Flintoff  
And, when flints fire, even age-cold Ashes catch alight.

Strauss flowers  
The hairy Hoggard shows his well-timed flair  
And Bell peels catches from short-leg mid-air.

Giles weaves with all the wiles of Spain's ballfighters  
Pietersen plays planets with the battered leather  
And Jones the gloves and Jones the ball  
Sing in Harmison to it all.  
But it's the latter's one-fingered slower fling  
That really makes stumps rear.

Then there's that risky run,  
Too little thought.  
"Howzat?" ask England  
And the answer's "Out".  
No racing heartbeat of a doubt:  
The Aussie captain is caught short.

Ponting's tantrum tires,  
But there's no real bloke without ire.

Colling wood have fought even more  
To keep the Aussies from the door.  
But spare a thought for Anderson,  
So close but far from all the fun.

Tall Trescothick stood his ground,  
Though Man of Corn he be,  
Unbending in the storm of wild McGrath,  
And even of Brett Lee.

The like of this we will not live  
In several lifetimes more.  
Despite the guts and balls of Warne  
From Oz the Ashes fairly shorn,  
And all downunder mourn.

## **LIFE'S DAY- JOHN FITZGERALD, Electrical Engineer, Treasurer and Manager of Charlbury Football Club**

I usually get up at 7.15 a.m. I have a quiet cup of tea and make sure that my son is getting up for work and my daughter for school. At five to eight my son and I set off for Witney where I work for the SEC as an electrical contracts engineer. I am office-based with a work force of thirty electricians. My role is to sort out problems, do estimates and manage jobs. I am also responsible for looking after the transport and tools that are needed. All this will keep me at my desk all morning and I do not really stop for lunch, eating the packed lunch that my wife has kindly prepared for me there.

I enjoy the afternoons because that is when I get a chance to have site meetings with builders and clients. One of our clients is Cottesway Housing, which refurbishes houses ; in our last job for them we worked on 1,000 houses changing fuse boards, adding points and testing the electrics. Another regular customer is St. John's College Oxford; recently we worked on the Bagley Sawmill, which they own and had been burnt down. We have been involved with the college for 25 years, checking wiring on the staircases and replacing it when necessary. I really like this; going there is like stepping out of the real world. Working with the Windrush Leisure Centre is a change again. Here we are advising on the electrics for new changing rooms.

I count myself lucky to have work I really enjoy. I was brought up in Leafield and went to school there and then onto Woodgreen in Witney. After school I was influenced by my brother to go into the electrical industry and decided to do an apprenticeship with Southern Electrical Contracting; I have been there for 32 years. My working day finishes at 5o'clock and my son and I return home where Nicola, my daughter will be back from school. I start to cook the evening meal as my wife Karen is still at work at the chemists in Charlbury. I enjoy cooking, so it is no hardship. After supper I do a variety of things in the evening. I go to see my father, who lives in Leafield, twice a week and my wife and I go shopping on Thursdays. On Monday I play football with my three sons in Abingdon; I am involved with football too on Tuesday, when I meet Martin Prew, the reserve team manager and the sides are picked for the weekend games. I usually stay and have a drink afterwards. Wednesday is a home night when I like to sit and relax and watch television unless there is some decorating to do.

One thing about my life is that my Saturday is very different from the rest of the week. To start with I have a lie-in unless I have to take my son to work. I have a breakfast of tea and toast. If I have time I do a few jobs and some gardening but then it is time to get ready for the day's football. I have always loved football and as a boy played for Shipton-under-Wychwood. In men's football through my brother I got into the Ascot-under-Wychwood team. There were a lot of Charlbury blokes in the side. In 1973 Charlbury asked me to play for them. I was a right wing and I went on to play for Enstone and Chadlington as well. When I was over 35, I started to play for the veterans in Witney and Stonesfield. I have had great times in the sport and seen some funny things. I once saw a goal scored from a kick off, which is very unusual and once the referee sent off two players from our opponents because they were fighting each other. Needless to say we won that game. In 1991 I also began coaching the Charlbury boys with Gordon Benfield. My wife, who is a Charlbury girl, and I had come to live in the town in 1979. It seemed a logical step from playing and coaching to go into management of the game in the town.

Mid-morning Saturday I start to get the Charlbury kits together, fill the water bottles and make squash. The balls have to be checked and pumped up. I make a start on the paperwork and anxiously hope that no-one has dropped out and that I will have to change it later. A book has to be filled out detailing who plays, the match fees and a record of finances. I grab a quick bite of lunch and by 12.50 p.m I am off to Nine Acres. I check the First Aid kits, gather together the flags and go out to the pitch. The goals have to be unlocked and separated and the flags put out. By now others are arriving, Andy Sullivan, Mark Holloway (assistant manager) and Keith Claridge, who is a linesman or as they are now called a referee's assistant. I make sure the away team is properly settled in and I check with the referee that he has all he requires. There is more paperwork to be done and if it is not correct, we will be fined. Finally there is the chat with the team, discussing what the tactics will be. The chat continues as they go out on the pitch to warm up. During the game I deal with injuries if there are any. At half-time drinks are taken out for both teams and there is also a talk with the team as to how the game is going and what tactics will be used in the second half. When the game is finished, the referee must be thanked, also the away manager. The pitch has to be cleared and the goals put back. We always make sure that the pitch is left tidy. Once again there is more paperwork filling out the result and the names of the goal scorers. Andy collects together the kit to give to Keith, whose wife washes them. I collect the match fees from the players; these go towards the cost of washing the kit and marking the pitch After the lads have had their showers we make sure that the changing rooms are tidy, then it is round to the club for refreshments with the teams. The refreshments are paid for by the sale of a scratch football card. By now it is 4.30 p.m. and I know that at last I can sit down and relax with a drink. I go home about six o'clock, have a meal and put my feet up.

Although I do a lot in the evenings, I never go to bed early. I am often still watching television between 11 o'clock and 1 o'clock in the morning; it is my way of relaxing. I consider myself fortunate with my home and family. I enjoy my work and I appreciate what football has given me, enjoyment and lots of friends. I also met my wife through football. I look forward to many more years involvement in the sport and perhaps soon getting new premises up and running. I would like to see Charlbury on a par with other villages that have very good changing facilities and areas for entertaining the visiting teams

*John Fitzgerald was interviewed by Diana Potten.*

## **BRIDEWELL ORGANIC GARDENS**

Bridewell Organic Gardens and Vineyard will be selling the first bottles of their award-winning white wine at the Ramsden Christmas Market on December 3rd 2005 from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Memorial Hall Ramsden. Telephone 01993 868445 for orders and information.

## **THE THOMAS GIFFORD CHARITY**

### ***A Report from the Chairman, Trevor Jones***

The change in the trustee structure is progressing. The Town Council nominated the first three - Ian Cox, Willem Hackmann and myself - and the local County and District Councillors selected three from those who had confirmed their interest in response to requests in the *Chronicle* or at public meetings - Tony Morgan, Russell Robson and Steve Vaux. These six are now considering the selection of the final three bearing in mind the need for diversity (for example, including women) in the trustee body as a whole.

Meanwhile the Charity Commission is due to provide shortly their proposal for a new draft Scheme for the Charity. Once the Town Council, as the present Trustee, has reviewed the draft, the Charity Commission will make the new draft available for public comment for a period of time which will be advertised on the public notice boards. Once the final Scheme has been agreed the new trustee body will take over. We are currently working on a timetable for this change over to take place at the end of March, which is the Charity's financial year end.

You will have heard that West Oxfordshire District Council has withdrawn from its Preparation Pool the £250,000 funding for the proposed community centre on the Spendlove site. The main reason for this was that the funding was put in place seven years ago for a scheme (which was different in many respects from the current one) and has yet to be used. It is not considered good financial management to keep rolling forward funding indefinitely. Mr. Norton, Leader of the District Council, advised that the Council remained supportive of the project, wished to see a new scheme come forward and would then consider its position with an open mind as and when it did. The decision was still disappointing as was the fact that there had been no prior notice to the Charity. I would like to thank the many people who helped make a last minute attempt to change the decision including Glenda Chadwick, Sue Haffenden, Lynette Murphy, Carolyn Hazeel, and Amanda Epps - special thanks too to Diana Potten who joined me in addressing the Council meeting directly.

We had previously commenced discussions with County Council officers as to how we might work out a phased programme for the Community Centre with the County Council taking the lead for the first phase. This was in the context of the anticipated funding from the District Council. We are therefore re-starting discussions with the officers at both local authorities. It does show the importance of the Community Centre Appeal as we need to continue to demonstrate that the community is ready and capable of raising funds towards improved facilities for the future.

One of the Trust's major responsibilities is the maintenance of the Playing Close. There is a charge for commercial events such as the Fair or the Farmers Markets - don't forget the next one on Saturday, December 10 - but these are few in number and the income does not cover the basic maintenance costs such as grass-cutting, tree care, painting, insurance etc. We do therefore ask that organisers of other events on the Playing Close make a meaningful donation.



## CHARLBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL

The Appeal Committee continues to press on doggedly regardless of the occasional setback. The recent decision of WODC to withdraw the Community Centre funding from their Preparation Pool caused us to react strongly and we all came out fighting on behalf of the project. It has had the unexpected advantage of bringing the Community Centre Project to the fore and it seems highly likely that when we are ready to go forward we will be able to request that the money is reinstated in the Preparation Pool. No WODC Cabinet member was left in any doubt that 'Charlbury Expects....'

Barry Norton, Chairman of the WODC Cabinet, responded to the many letters, emails and calls that were made with a letter dated October 18th 2005 explaining the reasons for withdrawing the sum from the preparation pool. The letter is too long to reproduce in full, but here are a few quotes from it: '...the Council is keen to work with Charlbury Community Centre Committee and the Oxfordshire County Council in taking this scheme forward ..... It is normal Council procedure if earmarked grants are not taken up after twelve months to reassess the offer .... In the case of the Thomas Gifford it has been six years ..... We have agreed .....that we will consider any application for grant aid based on the new proposals ..... **We have not said we will not help** (these are Barrie Norton's highlights).....'

We are now around the £50,000 mark, which is not bad going considering what knocks we have had to take over the last year or so. However, the Appeal Committee remains enthusiastic and upbeat as you will see from the following quotes from some members:

**Diana Potten:** *'Several people from Charlbury made presentations at the District Council where it was proposed that the £250,000 set aside for Charlbury should be removed from the preparation pool. Despite the representations this was agreed. Although it would seem a blow to the fund raising for the Community Centre such a strong case was made for the Centre that it seems likely that it will be restored when plans are drawn up. A tremendous argument in Charlbury's favour was the amount the community has already raised.'*

**Liz Reason:** *'I'm looking forward to the day when the Gifford Trust can really start getting high energy behind the new community centre. Luckily, as a result of the delay, we should be able to get funding for making it a very low energy building!*

**Ed Fenton:** *'Almost every day I think about the facilities that we used to have on the Playing Close, and which were lost, and I would love to get them back again - though not at the expense of any of the remaining facilities in the town.'*

**Richard Neville:** *'Despite the recent WODC knockback until our scheme is more clearly defined by the County Council and the Gifford Trust, the fact that the Appeal has raised nearly £50,000 in the last 18 months is a tangible demonstration of how our community wants this much needed project to succeed. We must continue with our local fund raising efforts in order to convince the funding agencies of our serious intentions and to support our claim for the reinstatement of funding for the new community centre for the town.'*

## COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL (cont'd)

**Nicola Morgan:** *'I feel that Charlbury could really use an up-to-date facility, and as the people of this town have so many skills and abilities, let those that are able politicians sort out the politics, and let those that can raise money do so. Pulling together has got to be good for Charlbury - so let's do it.'*

**Susie Finch:** *'We all really need to put the past behind us, support this project and make sure that the Community Centre becomes a reality, for the sake of all Charlbury residents, now and those to come. You know we CAN do it.'*

**Trevor Jones:** *'Charlbury needs more and better community facilities. The Thomas Gifford Charity has a large site in an excellent location in the town which it would like to be developed for the benefit of the community. This will only happen if the residents help to raise funds for those facilities. The Appeal is the best way to do this led by its team of enthusiastic, respected residents.'*

We are delighted to acknowledge a donation of £50 from Charlbury Art Society who say 'With the current pressure on space for our activities we are very much looking forward to the completion of the new Community Centre'.

Former County Councillor Brian Hodgson has generously said that he wishes to share any profits from the evening entertainment organised by his supporters on November 26th to acknowledge his 12 years in office, between the Charlbury Community Centre and the Adopt A Minefield charity.

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

*Comments, suggestions, offers of help, or ideas for events will all be gratefully received by the Appeal Coordinator, Lynette Murphy (810549)*

## THE OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE RSPCA

*(Charity number 205156)*

The Oxfordshire Branch of the RSPCA is legally and financially separate from the National Society and receives no financial assistance from them. Indeed the only assistance and money we receive is that provided and raised by local Oxfordshire people! This does mean that what money raised in Oxfordshire goes to help Oxfordshire animals.

We are currently looking for local people who want to help local animals by helping to reform the Oxfordshire Branch.

If you would like to help with fundraising – say organize an event; becoming the coordinator for static collecting boxes; producing a newsletter; assisting with clerical work; helping to form a committee; raising awareness of National RSPCA campaigns; or fostering animals in your own home then please contact Judith Garvey on 01869 340329 or email [judithgarvey@fsmail.net](mailto:judithgarvey@fsmail.net). *Judith Garvey, tel 01869 340329*



## WEATHER REPORT *By John Stanley*

**August 2005** continued the trend set in July and was a rather cool month. Temperatures fluctuated up and down and it was not until the last day of the month that we had a really hot day, when 82° was recorded. The lowest day temperature was 63° on 24th August and the average maximum for the month was 71.23°, which is 1.09° below the average for the previous 16 years. The highest night temperature was 58° on 4 nights - 2nd/3rd, 9th/10th, 29th/30th and 30th/31st. The lowest night temperature was 46° on 25th/26th. Taking the summer as being June to August, we had slightly below average temperatures at 71.07°, compared with 71.59° for the previous 16 years.

**September 2005**, by comparison, was a warm month. It started off really warm, and the temperature of 79° recorded on 4th equalled the record for the month. From around the middle of the month, temperatures did drop to around normal, but, overall, at 67.2°, the month was 2.46° above average. The coldest day was 58° on 28th. At night, we recorded one exceptionally high temperature, 63° on 4th/5th which was only 1° lower than the highest for the year, recorded in June. The lowest night temperature was 39° on 16th/17th.

**October 2005** continued where September left off, with generally warm temperatures. In fact, October 2005 was unusual in that temperatures did not really drop towards the end of the month as the hours of daylight get shorter. In fact, aided by some southerly winds straight from Africa, we had 7 consecutive days from 24th to 30th when the temperature reached at least 60°, with 64°, on a lovely sunny 27th, being the highest recorded in the last 7 days of October in 17 years. The warmest day was 69° on 11th and the lowest 54° on 18th. Nights also remained relatively warm. The highest night temperature was 59° on 11th/12th and the lowest 40° on 8th/9th. Overall the month averaged 59.97°, compared with the 16 year average of 56.38°, although this was not a record, having been slightly exceeded twice, in 1995 and 2001.

Finally, **November** has already produced a record high temperature - 61° on 2nd. This is the first time that 60° has been reached in November. More details next time.

**REPORT ON CHARLBURY CEMETERY 2005:** Another excellent year for spring flowers which continue to spread. The meadow saxifrage is also doing very well with several new clumps emerging north of the original site in the goldilocks buttercup area. The total flowering stems are again about 600.

At a meeting with Helen D'Ayala from BBOWT it was suggested that we retain grass strips against the south wall and also leave a patch of cow parsley standing, to provide over wintering habitat for insects. The longer grass will also help to hide the unsightly blue water pipe.

The flowering patches in the grassland were very successful and approximately 20 curbed graves were left unmown providing a good display of ox-eye daisies, yellow bedstraw, shining cranesbill and other limestone flowers.

A few plants of orange hawkweed grew successfully in the old cemetery but the best display was in the new section. Some of these have been transplanted.

BBOWT are changing the criteria for the living sanctuaries project award, which we have held for the past 5 years. In order to qualify in the future we have to show community involvement and have some interpretation in place. We qualify for the former by an annual press release to the Chronicle, an annual inspection by the CTNCAC and two art classes that have been held on site this year. However we have no interpretation at the moment so need to attend to this.

We would like the Town Council, particularly Roger Clarke, for their support for this project.

*Louise Spicer, October 2005*

# CLUBS, DRAMA, SPORT, GROUPS

**THE CHARLBURY SOCIETY:** The first two meetings of the Society's new programme have been well attended with members hearing about recording details of the county's historic buildings, and the plants of West Oxfordshire.

The next meeting is on December 9th, when Frank Johnson will speak about Arts and Crafts in the Cotswolds. 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. Former members and visitors are of course very welcome to what promises to be an interesting evening.

To enable Lesley to keep details up to date, it would be helpful if any member who has not yet returned to her their renewal notice and membership fee of £7.50 could do so. Membership forms and the programme of meetings can be obtained by phoning Brian Murray (819091) or Lesley Deane (810849)

*Brian Murray, Chairman*

**CHARLBURY TENNIS CLUB:** If you think that tennis is just a summer sport then think again. Charlbury tennis club, based at Nine Acres Recreation Ground, runs all through the winter, offering members plenty of opportunity to play.

Club social times are Sunday, 2pm-4pm, Monday, 1.30pm-3pm and Tuesdays 7pm-9.30pm. All abilities are very welcome and as long as there isn't torrential rain there should always be a club member to play with at the beginning of the session. For more competitive players we run 3 teams throughout the winter who compete against other local clubs. If you feel that you need a little coaching to either get you going or to brush up your skills then tennis coach Peter Barnes maybe able to help. He is available for adult individual and group coaching sessions. He also runs very popular junior tennis lessons on a Saturday morning and for teenagers on Monday nights. To get in touch with him phone 01608 659934. Joining the tennis club not only gives you free use of courts during club sessions but also allows you to take advantage of reduced court fees outside club time. We also run a number of social events and are presently planning a Jazz evening in the New Year. Looking forward to the summer you will of course be entitled to enter the draw for Wimbledon tickets. For further details of the tennis club ask at Vincent Pharmacy for an application form or ring 01608 810777. *Diana Jarman*

**CHARLBURY ANGLING CLUB:** The Club is holding a Christmas Bingo at the Memorial Hall on Friday December 16th, doors open at 7.30 pm. *Jane Parsons, Secretary (810822)*

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MUSIC?:** As there are no WEA or other classes in music arranged for Charlbury in 2006, would anyone be interested in joining a group (with a professional leader) to meet in each other's houses (no fees)? Please get in touch with Elizabeth Hardie on 01608 810088.

*If you want to contribute to this section please contact Julia Gaston 810240*

## Exciting changes for Charlbury Beer festival

The Charlbury Beer Festival has been raising funds for the Primary School for eight years, handing over about £36,000 during that period. All this money has been used to provide additional equipment and improvements to the school.

Over the last year the committee has been thinking about how to make the event bigger & better, with the aim of raising yet more money as a result. A small problem is that the event is expensive to stage, and we had to think of a way of raising some cash to support a bigger festival.

We agreed to form the Charlbury Beer Festival Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, with the Directors being some of the committee members. This will be the company that raises the cash each year. We have also formed Charlbury Community Projects, a charity registered with the Charity Commission as a way of making grants to local groups.

The way it works is that the CBF stages the festival each year and ends up with a profit, which in 2005 was £6,000. The CBF has gift aided £3,000 of this to the CCP so that this money is available to grant fund local groups, but we also decided that at least 50% of any money had to go the school each year. This ensures that we keep our links with the school and that they continue to benefit from the festival.

That means we have £3,000 in the bank that we can use to stage an event next year.

We may use this to stage the event somewhere other than the Memorial Hall, possibly in a marquee, with space for more people, more beer and hopefully generating more profit for the local community. We are currently working out exactly what we want to do, where, and how much this will cost and hope to announce our plans before Christmas 2005.

As the CBF Ltd, we can also run other events, possibly a "Winter Ale" festival or maybe another Murder Mystery evening, or possibly a panto in association with other Charlbury Groups. In fact anything that is fun, involves local people, preferably has some beer in it and makes a profit that we can recycle.

If you want to make an application for funds, please contact our Grants Secretary, Glenn Chapman on 01608 811077 or download an application from the website,

[www.charlburybeerfestival.org](http://www.charlburybeerfestival.org)

*Jim Holah, Chairman, Charlbury Beer Festival jimholah50@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 810620*

## **CHARLBURY CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE**

Some residents and traders at the centre of Charlbury received notification in early October from Southern Gas Networks (formerly BritishGas and then Transco) that they were about to begin works along Park St and the Bull Corner end of Market St, possibly upper part of Dyers Hill and down Pound Hill too.

The works would have closed off access to the centre of town in the run-up to Christmas and had considerable impact on traders at what is traditionally the busiest time of year. After meeting with the Charlbury Chamber of Commerce, British Gas contacted the Chamber to say they understood the traders' concern and are rescheduling the works to February/March.

Although the works will not noticeably affect the gas supply to properties, it is hoped that forward notice will allow Charlbury residents and businesses to be prepared for the disruption to access to the middle of Charlbury.

*Cally Robson, Secretary, Charlbury Chamber of Trade and Commerce*  
[callyrobson@ideas-into-action.co.uk](mailto:callyrobson@ideas-into-action.co.uk) tel: 01608 811227

## **CHARLBURY BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

I have organised the Best Kept Garden competition on behalf of the Town Council for the past ten years and feel that it is time to hand over to someone else. A younger point of view would be refreshing. Judging has usually involved four people each of whom views a quarter of the town. Then, a few days later, the judges have toured Charlbury together looking at the best kept gardens/baskets etc in order to agree upon a final 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category.

It is not a greatly onerous task but I wish to step down and invite any Charlbury residents who would like to take over to telephone me (810700) for further information.

*John Moore*

## **HOPE RISING:** The story behind the CD

*A selection of musical, popular and folk songs sung by Mark Powys-Smith*

Two years ago I travelled to the Balkans for the first time to take part in a forum for reconciliation in Croatia. The three week summer camp brought together young people from the different ethnic groups within the region and its aim through activities was to create friendships where before there was hatred. As an observer from the west I was touched by the courage of people the same age as me, who having experienced the loss of family members, torture and abuse in war, were determined to forgive and love their enemies so as to ensure a future of hope. I heard stories of tragedy that saddened my heart but also tales of hope that uplifted my spirit.

The idea for this CD was born this summer whilst sitting on a beach in Croatia! This time in Croatia I was not attending a summer camp but rather on holiday in the sun recovering from a bout of glandular fever! Asja, a Bosnian girl I met back in 2003 and who subsequently became my girlfriend, was the inspiration for the project. Her story is one of transformation and is replicated in the lives of many other young people in the region and shows that there is a 'hope' that is 'rising' from the grass roots up that will in time heal the wounds that scar the Balkans. Here's Asja's story:

In 1992 Asja Mujačić, then 8 years old, was living near Srebrenica when war and hatred enveloped her homeland, Bosnia. She and her family escaped the town on the last commercial bus leaving the region before Srebrenica was taken by paramilitaries and descended into a place of mass killing and torture.

The Mujačić family took flight to Tuzla, a town in N.E Bosnia and Asja and her Grandmother left on a bus for the relative safety of Croatia. The rest of the family never followed as the roads were then blocked around Tuzla as the enemy forces encircled the town. Asja lived as a refugee for four years and did not see her parents and brother again until she was 12 years old.

As a result of the war 250,000 Bosnians were killed, 1.3 million Bosnians were displaced from their homes, and the economy left in tatters with 40% of the population out of work. Asja's family lost their home and livelihood as a result of the war and started life anew in Tuzla.

In 2001 at a summer camp Asja came to understand that the different ethnic peoples in Bosnia with their various faiths must forgive each other in order to overcome a legacy of hatred and division. Asja has been offered a place to study International Relations at Oxford Brookes University. Her dream is to return to Bosnia fully trained in order to be able to contribute to the work of reconciliation and restoration in her nation. All proceeds from the sale of this album will go directly to an educational fund for Asja within the Penny Trust (*registered charity number 265887*).

*Mark Powys-Smith*

CDs will be on sale in Evenlode Books, Alder House, Market Street  
or alternatively order a CD by calling 811108  
or emailing [markpowys\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:markpowys_smith@hotmail.com)

# TOTBITS

## THE GIVING SEASON

December is known as the season for giving, but those of us with Under-5s know this isn't an accurate name. Instead, it should be called the season of "gimme, gimme, gimme!" If it isn't adverts on telly, it's pages of catalogues, the back cover of magazines, or even well-meaning grannies that constantly bombard the little 'uns with Christmas ideas. But here's a more radical idea: let them have a chance to give something back, something of themselves. Giving can take so many different forms, and while a general rule of thumb might be to think about offering one's time, talent, and treasure, a child may have to take more innovative routes when trying to be charitable. This may range from long-term projects like collecting used stamps for the RNIB (a box for which is kept at the post office), intense projects like seeking sponsorship for a Fun Run/Walk, or short-term projects like helping to make biscuits for local fund-raising events. Giving to charity, however, needn't be so formal as these suggestions. It can be really quite simple, especially if we keep in mind that the word "charity" comes from a Greek word that means "love". Even very small children have enormous capabilities when it comes to showing love to others: sharing toys, cuddling a sad friend, drawing pictures for a neighbour. Sometimes, they need someone to hang a label on such acts of kindness, and to be encouraged in the performing of them. So, this giving season, I urge you to find ways for your "tots" to be givers, too – help them to think of others, and don't forget to praise them when they do.

*Kat Patrick (811660) Kat.patrick@alumni.southwestern.edu*

**REMEMBER!** If you run a group that targets the Under-5s, then please drop me a note, send me an e-mail, or ring me with details so you can be included in next issue's Tot Bits.

## LITTLE FISHES

Little Fishes is a group for Under-5s and their carers which meets every Wednesday during term time, 10:30-11:45 a.m. at St. Mary's Parish Church. The bold decision to move from fortnightly to weekly has paid off, as now there are regularly fifteen or more children who enjoy music, stories, crafts, and play. The show-and-tell session at the end is also proving extremely popular!! If you are a mum, dad, grandma, or any other carer for young children, then you are most welcome to come along for the lively sessions and friendly conversation. For details, ring Kate (811579).

## PRE-SCHOOL

Did you know that Charlbury Pre-School, located in the Old Grammar School on Park Street, can be hired for children's parties? It is available 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

The **Pre-School Christmas Bazaar** will be held in the Corner House on December 10th. Make a date in your diary to visit Father Christmas in his grotto. Come and browse the various stalls where, amongst other things, you will have the opportunity to buy hand-crafted Christmas wreaths, cakes, and other goodies.

## **CHILDREN'S YOGA**

You may be wondering, "How on earth do you teach yoga to three-year-olds" or even, "Why?"

Teaching yoga to young children is a far cry from any adult yoga experiences you may have had of lying quietly and moving meditatively into various postures. However, the principles of correct breathing, posture, and concentration are the same, and the benefits are almost immediately apparent.

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.

*TotBits is compiled by Kat Patrick*

*Contact her (810660) if you wish to submit any news or information*

## **CHILDREN'S STORY BY COTSWOLD WRITER**

October 11<sup>th</sup> saw the launch of '**Tangleton**', a children's story set in the Cotswolds and written by Gordon Ottewell, who in a previous career was head of a number of primary schools, among them Burford and Kingham. The book is aimed at the 8-11 age group and is an adventure story with a strong conservationist theme.

A native of Derbyshire, Gordon Ottewell has lived in the Cotswolds for forty years, over twenty of which were spent as a primary school head. He is the author of several books on the region, most of which are walking guides. This is his second novel for children. He lectures widely on various aspects of countryside interpretation and has broadcast regularly on local radio. **Tangleton** is available from local bookshops, and Green Branch Press, Kencot Lodge, Kencot, Lechlade, Glos GL7 3QX (01367 860588) price £4.99 post free.

*Further information from Chris Yapp at Green Branch Press.*

## Cranial Osteopathy and Children

*Charlbury Osteopath, Laura Humphreys, explains one aspect of her work*

Every day our bodies have to fight off numerous attacks from bacteria & viruses and deal with the effects of falls, pollution and other insults. Its amazing that most of us are as healthy as we seem to be. Many of the mechanisms that help to protect us against damage and repair our bodies are well known such as immunity and inflammation but I am sure that many are not.

Osteopaths believe that we succumb to disease or lack of health when a stress is too great or the body has been weakened in some way maybe by a prior insult or infection. A major stress in all our lives is that involved in labour and birth. At this stage of our development the skull is very flexible to allow the head to pass down the relatively narrow birth canal and also to allow for growth during the first years of life. This flexibility comes from the fact that a baby's skull is made up of a number of different pieces which are primarily cartilaginous. ( Cartilage is the flexible tissue used to shape your ears and the end of your nose) When a baby passes down the birth canal, usually head first, its skull will mould in order to fit through the available space, when it comes into contact with the mother's bony pelvis the weaker cartilage will distort in order for the infant to complete its passage. Once again the body's aim is to maintain health and this is aided by the first vigorous cries when a child is born. Things will usually return to normal over the first hours and days of life. When forceps or surgery has been required or a baby has been weakened in other ways a cranial osteopath can help.

The role of the osteopath is to support the body so that any such distortions can unwind and release. Similar to a twisted telephone wire which is difficult to unwind until it is held at one end and allowed to unwind itself. Alternatively you could think of a pop-up tent which gets stuck in in its flattened position until a quite simple manoeuvre allows it to open out.

If a baby is unable to release the distortions this can make it uncomfortable as the spaces through which arteries, veins, lymph and nerves pass are compromised. This can cause congestion as the skull cannot clear blood and lymph or impair impulses from the nerves causing problems with suckling, digestion and many other things.

This is only a brief attempt to explain one aspect of cranial work. In reality the whole body needs to be considered and addressed and can be treated in a similar way.

Menmarsh Road, Worminghall, Bucks HP18 9JZ Tel/Fax 01844 338380

[www.thomleyhall.org](http://www.thomleyhall.org) [www.enquiries@thomleyhall.org](mailto:www.enquiries@thomleyhall.org) [www.booking@thomleyhall.org](mailto:www.booking@thomleyhall.org)

Registered charity No.1089224

Thomley Activity Centre is a unique recreational and educational facility for children (aged 0-16) with disabilities, their families, friends and schools. The centre is open from 10am-3.30pm including Saturdays and bookings must be made in advance.

Facilities include: Art and Craft room; Soft play room with ball pool; Sensory room with light and dark area; Music room; Parent resource room; Soft tarmac area and bikes; Playing field with accessible swings and roundabout; Play rooms

Thomley Activity Centre offers a safe and supportive environment that promotes a child's freedom to explore and make personal choices.

*"I don't know of any other place where I can take the whole family with complete confidence that it will be a good day for everyone" - parent.*



## CHARLBURY CARING COMMUNITY

'I don't know about you, but I think its great living in a **caring** community', says the Reverend Jan Fielden. 'The people of Charlbury value each other and their community, and often want to show that they do, in practical ways. One way of doing this is by transporting to hospital appointments etc, those who find getting about difficult. It's amazing how many new friendships are made this way, and how community life is strengthened. You may be someone who has this type of need. If so, help is only a phone call or e-mail away! If you **need transport**, or wish to offer transport please ring me on 810286, in the morning if possible, on Mon/Tues/Wed or Friday. If the answerphone is on please leave your name and number and I will get back to you as soon as possible, or you could e-mail : [jan@cnfogies.co.uk](mailto:jan@cnfogies.co.uk). I am looking forward to making a practical contribution to the community by co-ordinating this scheme'.

We are very grateful to Jan for offering to take over the running of this long-standing community service from Johanna Callaghan. We thank Johanna for all the time and care she gave over several years.

Do please use this valuable service which is available to Charlbury residents who have not got their own means of transport. A contribution equivalent to the bus fare is asked for, except in special circumstances.

**PLEASE** volunteer to be a driver. Many of the faithful supporters of this scheme have been driving for many years and can no longer help and we are looking for some new names to add to our register. You can do as much or as little as you wish. If you are newly retired and have a little time to spare **please help**.

## CHARLBURY MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum is now closed for the winter, but visits can be arranged by ringing the Curator, Ron Prew, 01608 810060. Meanwhile, the Museum always welcomes local items and objects of interest. Also old house deeds, which are no longer needed by their owners, would help to form a valuable local collection for future reference.

## THE CORNER HOUSE & MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

- **The Committee is immensely appreciative of the splendid effort made by so many people at the Street Fair which raised over £10,000 in support of the Corner House and Memorial Hall.**

There are several projects for the two premises, including the refurbishment of the rooms formerly occupied by caretakers. Also restoration of the railings is continuing. We are very pleased to welcome our new secretary, Kate Hilton. The patio project will quite soon be ready to start work and we hope that you will support the coffee morning which will be held to raise funds for it. A reminder for those who can use it — the Memorial Hall has an induction loop. *Ann Gilbert*

# Church Services at Christmas

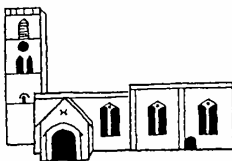
Baptist Chapel, Dyers Hill



December 18th: Christmas Special at 10.30 am. All welcome.  
December 25th: Join with Methodists in Church Lane for Christmas morning worship at 10 am

**Minister:** Rev Malcolm Cook, 4 Churchill Road,  
Chipping Norton (tel: 646637)

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 on Christmas Day at 10.30 am

For further details contact: Joan Rough ( 810704)

Methodist Chapel, Fishers Lane



**Christmas Day Service at 10.00 am will be shared with the Baptists.** Holy Communion on December 18th, January 15th and February 19th at usual time of 10.30 am. This year our customary Service of Candlelit Carols is not being held.

*Further information from Marion Speight (811737)*

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



**Sunday December 11:** 3.30pm Carols at St Teresa's  
**Saturday December 24:** Confessions 11-12 (*Visiting Priest*)  
**Christmas Eve:** 8pm Holy Mass ( in place of Midnight Mass)  
**Christmas Day:** 9am St Kenelm's, Church Enstone)  
11am at St Teresa's

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)

## **CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE:**

I am sorry to report that Val Milford will cease to be our Coordinator at the beginning of the New Year, because of the pressure of increasing family commitments. Following her appointment in May of this year she soon picked up the threads of our organisation from her predecessor, and we could not have had anyone better to come and share the life of our members, keep our volunteer helpers and drivers in order, and ensure the smooth running of our Day Centre. She will leave us on Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup> 2005 with every good wish for her future happiness. *Graham Canning, Chairman*

## **SITUATION VACANT - CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE**

Applications are invited for the post of **Day Centre Coordinator** at Charlbury. The Centre provides care for people in later life who can benefit by being part of a small group of people meeting one day a week (Wednesdays).

The person appointed will be expected to show good organising skills and be able to co-ordinate all the activities of the Centre, including the work of the volunteers. Previous experience in the care of elderly people would be desirable although training would be available. *For a job description and application form, please write or telephone the Revd. Graham Canning, Moredays, 36 The Slade, Charlbury OX7 3SJ (01608 8104210*

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE MEALS ON WHEELS?**

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

## **THOMAS MCDONALD SCOTT 1916 — 2005**

June Scott and family would like to thank their friends for the many kindnesses and expressions of sympathy they have received on the occasion of Thomas's death on October 31st. May he rest in peace



## CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT Number 37

*By Councillor Trevor Jones*

**HARD SURFACE PLAY AREA:** In conjunction with the Nine Acres Management Committee the Council intend to upgrade and modernise the lights at the Hard Surface Play Area so that sport can carry on later without the lights disturbing the immediate neighbours.

**CHURCH STREET BUS SHELTER:** During the summer a Stagecoach double decker bus managed to completely destroy the Church Street bus shelter and cause sufficient damage to the public telephone kiosk as to render it unsafe, which is why British Telecom have removed it. They have also announced that they do not intend to replace it. The bus shelter was subject to an insurance claim which has taken a while to resolve. For some time the Council has been considering improvements to the Town Centre and replacement of the damaged facilities will be included in this consideration. At the October meeting the Council decided to set up a Committee of Town Councillors, Chamber of Trade and Church Street residents to make recommendations to the Council.

**COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN:** Councillor John Harrison resigned as Vice-Chairman of the Council in August for personal reasons. He remains a member of the Council and is currently Charlbury's longest-serving Town Councillor. Councillor Ron Prew was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council at the October Council meeting.

**LICENSING:** The 2003 Licensing Act came into force in November. As a result the Town Council has been advised by West Oxfordshire District Council and Thames Valley Police to consider future arrangements for the Riverside Festival. At its October meeting the Council asked the organising Committee of the Festival to make their proposal after consulting with the appropriate officers at the District Council and the Police.

**GAS PIPE REPAIRS:** Major repairs to the gas pipes in Park Street, Church Street, Thames Street, Pound Hill and Dyers Hill are planned for February/March 2006. There will be major disruption to traffic in the town centre with diversions in place. At some stage the whole of Bull Corner (all four roads) will be closed for about a fortnight. The work is essential for safety and the gas engineers apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused.

**ROAD SIGNS:** The new signs on all the main approach roads to the town were manufactured in the wrong size and will be replaced free of charge.

**COUNCILLOR ACTIVITIES:** Councillors Nicolette Lethbridge and Patricia Perry, accompanied by their husbands, represented the Town Council at the Lord Lieutenant's celebration and commemoration of VE and VJ days at Christ Church cathedral in July. Councillor Ron Prew laid the Town Council's wreath at the War Memorial in St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday. Councillor Ron Prew was also appointed by the Town Council to judge the Street Fair floats.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The Town Council will shortly be sending a questionnaire to Charlbury residents seeking their views and needs in order to help assess the requirement for further affordable housing in the town.

**DOG FOULING:** Please use the bins provided. There has been a noticeable increase in dog fouling, particularly on Nine Acres where children are playing — this is unacceptable.

**Charlbury Town Council would like to wish all residents  
A Very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year**

## **Report from County Councillor Sue Haffenden**

**Telephone: 01608 676642; email: Sue.Haffenden@Oxfordshire.gov.uk**

Since the May election, I have worked hard to represent you all at County Hall. At your Town Council I have listened to the issues and given a regular report on OCC business.

I held an on site meeting with the Northern Area Highways officer to discuss the vexatious question of the dreadful humps up Nine Acres Lane. The officer agreed a scheme to remove the humps near the Slade first, substituting a 'pinching kerb', whose function is to slow down traffic but still allow cars to pass each other. Consultation would follow before the scheme could be added to the works schedule but he warned us that it would be low priority. I paid a visit in September to the Kidlington office and reminded him again of our wish for change and will simply have to persist in badgering him till we get some action! I promise to do so, as removal of those humps would improve the quality of life in Charlbury. The speed sign near the School seem to be working well: we need another on the other side. All credit to those doughty residents who succeeded with this scheme.

I have met with County officers regarding the Spendlove site. They have expressed a desire to build a new library and Adult Education Centre on the site. We still want a space for the performing arts. When the new members of the Gifford Trust are in place, they will meet with the County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council officers to start detailed planning. WODC have assured me that they will still support our desire for such a building with a grant but must obviously see costed plans first.

I am Chairman of the Social and Community Services Committee at County Hall. Our first policy review is entitled "Support for Adult Carers", whose aim is to hear at first hand from anyone in the community who acts as a carer to a relative or friend. If you are a carer I would very much like to meet you. All information would remain confidential but would feed into a policy review to ensure that carers are helped more effectively..

## **Report from Glena Chadwick: W Oxfordshire District Councillor**

**Telephone: 01608 810555; email: chadwick@glena.fsnet.co.uk**

Two main issues have dominated the last few months. WODC's local plan was reviewed earlier this year by the Inspector and he made certain changes. The one concerning Charlbury was to recommend that the quarry be scheduled, not just for light industry (as it was previously) but for a small group of houses (some affordable), as well as some light industry. Views of Charlbury residents were canvassed and the feeling was generally in favour of this proposal. However, at the meeting to reject or ratify all the Inspector's recommendations, the Development Control committee rejected the quarry proposal on grounds of difficulty of access and also withdrew the allocation for light industry.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (a sort of interim budget), was discussed by several committees. It was suggested that the money set aside in what is known as the Preparation Pool for the Charlbury Community Centre, be removed. The argument was that it was no longer the building that was first envisaged and that the money had stayed in the pool far longer than was usual. This decision produced a flurry of activity. I managed to convince most councillors that although the building no longer was to have a sports facility it would certainly be used for arts purposes. It was to be a multi-use centre with all areas used for more than one activity. It would also be important not just for Charlbury but the surrounding area. Unfortunately the decision at Council was to remove the money. The possible positive outcome, however, is that we managed to generate such an outcry; people emailing, phoning, talking to councillors, making excellent speeches, that the Cabinet was propelled into expressing their general support for the Community Centre. They promised that when more detailed plans emerged they would reinstate the money. Grateful thanks to all who helped and we must hold them to that.

Councillor Breakell has been unwell for some time. He is now recuperating after an operation last month, and plans to return to his duties very soon.

## CHRONICLE SMALL ADS

*£5 per small ad  
To advertise in this section  
please ring Jack Potten on 810991*

**HILLTOP GARDEN CENTRE, Witney Road, Ramsden. Have you seen our Christmas display? It is better than ever**

**VIOLIN TUITION given by qualified teacher. Pupils aged 5 — 18 years  
ENQUIRIES ring 01608 810544**



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

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

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

Thank you.

We have a mailing list for people wishing to receive *The Charlbury Chronicle* who no longer live in the town. £2.50 per four issues; £4 per four issues for overseas subscribers. Large-print £2.50 for each copy. Please note that **ALL** cheques for advertising, mailing list or donations should be made payable to *The Charlbury Chronicle* and should be sent to the Treasurer, Dawn Colvin (address in panel on right).

Editor: Lynette Murphy  
Hundley Cottage, Hundley Way  
Charlbury OX7 3QU  
tel: 01608 810549  
fax: 01608 811952

e-mail: [chronicle@huncot.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:chronicle@huncot.fsnet.co.uk)

Assisted by:

Diana Potten (810991)  
Julia Caston (810240)  
Kat Patrick (811660)

Advertising: Jack Potten (810991)  
9 Enstone Road, Charlbury OX7 3QR

Treasurer: Dawn Colvin  
3 Enstone Road, Charlbury OX7 3QR  
tel: 01608 810545

Artwork:

Ann (Gilbert) Buckmaster (810664)

Distribution:

Brian Murphy (810549)  
Robert Caston (810240)  
Jack Potten (810991)

**The Charlbury Chronicle** is produced and distributed free to every household in Charlbury. All those involved in its preparation work on a voluntary basis. **The Charlbury Chronicle** aims to be impartial and independent and cannot be held responsible for any of the views expressed in its pages. The editor reserves the right to alter or adapt any articles submitted for publication although hoping to discuss any major changes with the authors first.

**The Charlbury Chronicle** acknowledges the financial support of the many societies, groups and individuals who generously contribute to its funds. We also acknowledge the support of our advertisers and hope that any reader using their services will mention **The Charlbury Chronicle**.

Printed by Will Print, Oxford