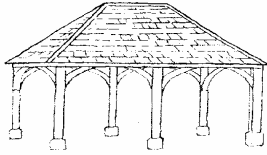


# The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 12 Number 3

September 2008

The *Charlbury Chronicle* was pleased to read that Oxford University was one of the winners of The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education. It was awarded for work done by *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Congratulations to its editor Dr. Lawrence Goldman, a Charlbury resident, who went with others from the university to receive the award in February this year. Dr Goldman is the subject of our Day's Life feature in this issue.

for her three years' hard work on our behalf. Kat has very kindly found her replacement, and we look forward to hearing from Carina Loweth in our next issue.

Don't forget that the *Charlbury Chronicle* is always glad to receive articles from anyone about anything - just get in touch and we'll take it from there.

Lynette Murphy

Judging by the Charlbury Primary School report on page 7 things are going wonderfully well; it sounds a very lively community. Any parent with a child there, or indeed with a child about to start his or her school life there, must be feeling extremely gratified. Congratulations to all who have worked so hard to bring about such encouraging results.

*Please Note  
The deadline for the December  
edition is November 1st.*

There's a nice selection of articles in this issue ranging from litter, local authors, swifts, compost, Charlbury station, fish and lots more!

We have to say farewell to Kat Patrick whose TotBits article in this edition is her last. Her first contribution was in September 2005 and her articles have always been pithy and interesting. We thank her

## **CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET**

Charlbury Farmers' Market will be held on the Playing Close on **Saturday September 13th** between 9am and 1 pm.

The contact address is : Studio One, Sheep Street, Charlbury OX7 3RR. Telephone 01608 811559

The market is held quarterly on Saturdays, and the December Farmers' Market will be held on the 13th.

## CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2008

**SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER IS THE DAY!** *Theme this year is **THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY***

This is the 53<sup>rd</sup> Street Fair – the first was held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1955 – so let's make this one be the best ever!

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

**EGG THROWING COMPETITION ON FRIDAY; FAIRGROUND AMUSEMENTS; STALLS; CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER; MORRIS DANCING; FIRE ENGINE DEMONSTRATION; CLASSIC CAR EXHIBITION; ART EXHIBITION; GRAND EVENING PARADE; BBQ ALL DAY (AND NIGHT!) AND TEAS; DANCING IN THE STREET WITH SLAINTE; DISPLAYS BY CADS AND SHED; PARKING ON WYCHWOOD PADDOCKS; 10K RUN/ 5K FUN RUN/WALK SUNDAY**

Plus many, many more too numerous to mention. 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 12th at 7.30pm** when Charlbury Street Fair in association with CHoC will be showing one of the great Western classics of our time... **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** (Certificate 18) starring Clint Eastwood, Lee Van Cleef and Eli Wallach. Food and beer will be available and tickets will be on sale locally. We hope you join in the fun and come suitably attired!! Watch out for the posters. For more information ring Barry Cooper 01608 819139, 07770 225673

**Egg Throwing** – this will take place on Friday 19th September from 6.30pm, teams of two -see posters around the town and in the pubs and on the Charlbury website.

**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, Alex James (ex Blur)!**

During Alex's time with the Rock Band Blur they enjoyed a string of hits, famously out-flanking Oasis with their No 1 hit 'Country House' in 1995. Having collaborated with among others, Marianne Faithful and Sophie Ellis Bextor in music projects, Alex writes for The Independent and The Observer and has appeared on TV shows The Tube and Have I Got News for You. Whilst enjoying these journalistic pursuits, he has developed a passion for cheese making on his Kingham farm. Charlbury awaits with eager anticipation..... The Fair will be duly opened by Alex at 2pm and then the fun will really begin. Back by popular request are Slainte, who will be playing in the evening – so get your dancing shoes on! 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:** Fancy joining the evening parade? Who will be your inspiration for "Good", "Bad" or "Ugly"? Magnificent prizes on offer! For more information contact Claire Johnson on 07920 841109

**10K and Fun Run:** This will be held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> and will start at 10.30am and go through Cornbury Park. Run or walk the excesses off of the previous day!! For more information please contact Phil Morgan at [philmorgan717@hotmail.com](mailto:philmorgan717@hotmail.com)

**All these details can be found in the Street Fair Programme which along with the Grand Draw tickets is now on sale at News & Things, Cotswold Frames and Five-ways Stores—get yours now!**

**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 Susie Finch 810861 or Vic Allison on 811262. Just a little request – the group who have been organising Street Fair over the past few years feel that we **need some new blood on the committee** to help keep the success of Street Fair going. We need some new ideas. This doesn't involve too much work, so if you could give some time to this worthy cause, we would be very grateful. Help is needed on the day for this Street Fair, but we are thinking more of next year. For all you interested people, contact Susie Finch (*susanna\_finch@hotmail.com*) or any red shirted person at Street Fair this year.

Special **Charlbury Street Fair 2008 Ale** bearing “The Good, The Bad and The Ugly” label is on sale now! £2:50 for 500ml bottle or £30 for a case of 12. Spoil yourself, you know you want to! For more details contact Barry Cooper on 01608 819139, 07770 225673 or email [streetfairale@btinternet.com](mailto:streetfairale@btinternet.com)

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

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### **CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2008 ALE**

**‘award winning ruby brown coloured premium ale with a complex malt and hop flavour and a moreish smack’**

**Cases £30.00 per case of 12 Bottles at £2.50 per bottle**

**Available from 4th July**

**For more information contact:-**

**Barry Cooper 01608 819139 or [streetfairale@btinternet.com](mailto:streetfairale@btinternet.com)**

**All profits go to Charlbury Corner House & Memorial Hall**

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*Margaret Jowett (Chair) 810666*

*Susie Finch (Secretary) 810861*

*Christine Armstrong (Treasurer) 810265*

Charlbury Street Fair is the fund-raising organisation of the Corner House, Charlbury.  
Registered Charity No 304282, which also includes the War Memorial Hall

# LIFE AT CHARLBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

*A report from School Governor Birgit den Outer*

Charlbury Primary School has had an amazing year. We have all worked hard to continue to change the whole environment within school to enhance the pupils' enjoyment and overall learning experiences. We achieved a great deal - not only academically, but also in areas such as the learning environment, sports, health and safety, and music\*. Our fantastic year culminated in the end-of-year SATS results, government tests for 7 and 11-year olds that assess standards of schools. For the first age group, an amazing 95% reached the government target level in tested areas of reading, writing, and maths. Fifty percent of 7-year olds reached a whole level higher than required in reading and maths; 18% in writing.

Results for the second age group also look very promising. However, the *Charlbury Chronicle* reader may have read in the national press about marking problems for SATS papers in this age group, and our school has also been one of the schools affected. We have submitted our test papers for remarking, having carefully remarked them ourselves and expect to achieve even better results on their return.

September 2008 will see the start of an extended school provision: children will be able to choose from a number of after-school activities such as drama, film, Spanish, cookery, arts, as well as go and just chill out or play in the 'My Time' zone, until 6pm every day of term. Charlbury Primary School is the first school in Oxfordshire to trial such a scheme and we are very excited about this new venture.

## **Charlbury School Association**

The CSA had a very successful fundraising year, the biggest event being the Cornbury Music Festival. Our tea and cake tent organisers Clive Brooks, Alison Cherry and Liz Donnelly write: "well, it came, it rained, and now it's all over...we started our planning six months ago, sold 410 cakes and over 4300 cups of tea!!" and made a phenomenal £7,300! This effort could not have happened without the support of the wider community in general and the business sponsors in particular, for which the School is tremendously grateful. A special mention however, should go to our hundreds of visitors who queued in the rain to try one of our delicious cakes!

Last year the monies raised were spent on 20 new computers for the school. This year Jane Holt, the head teacher, has asked that the monies go toward developing the school grounds and in particular towards the construction of an Adventure Trail - a request that comes directly from the children.

\*see our 'three cheers for Charlbury Primary School' report on the Charlbury website

## STOP THE DROP - Gareth Miller wants us all to help

Many readers will have been pleased to read, as I was, of Bill Bryson's excellent campaign to tackle the litter-dropping culture that is so prevalent in Britain today. Bryson is President of *The Campaign to Protect Rural England*. Here is a real chance for the nation to do something about a growing menace. I have written about litter before in the *Charlbury Chronicle*, but little has changed - in fact matters have got worse.

I would hope that everyone reading this will agree that dropping litter is **inexcusable**. Sadly, however, many seem to disagree. Charlbury streets are almost always littered with small quantities of discarded items - receipts, cans, plastic bottles, cartons, cigarette ends, and so on. The vicinity of the Co-op is the worst place, but if you walk in the centre of town any day you will find it on almost every pavement. I hope that we can tackle this problem as a town, and I will shortly be making proposals as to how we might do this, but here are some suggestions for ways in which **YOU** can help NOW:

- Don't drop litter yourself, however small it may be.
- If you see others do it, ask them to pick it up.
- If you see litter in the street, pick it up. Others will see you and follow your example.
- Keep the area outside your house clean. If an area is clean it is more likely to stay clean. If an area looks scruffy or untidy people will be more inclined to drop litter.
- Take responsibility for a small area near your home and encourage others to do so. Don't shrug your shoulders and say there's nothing that can be done about it.
- If you have children, talk to them about it. Encourage them to appreciate our town as a beautiful place and to realise that it is not cool to deface it.
- If you are having a smoke outside the pub, don't stub your butts out on the pavement and leave them there.
- Keep a litter bag in your car. If you are driving along and see a bottle or can by the roadside, stop and collect it.
- If you see litter on our main trunk roads, write to the Council or Highways Agency that has responsibility for that road.
- Write to David Cameron to urge him to support Martin Horwood's parliamentary motion.

There are one or two good folk who regularly patrol the town, and especially Nine Acres. But it should not be the responsibility of one or two people. It is **OUR** town. **PLEASE HELP**. If you wish to find out more about CPRE's litter campaign, visit [www.litteraction.org.uk](http://www.litteraction.org.uk) or [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk). Better still, join up! If you would like to help me, get in touch with me on 811410. Thank you.

## The Royal British Legion – Charlbury Branch

**Branch Tour to The Poppy Factory:** 8 October 2008. If interested please contact Jane Parsons on 810822 as there may be some limited availability.

**The Branch AGM** will be held in the Corner House at 8.00pm on Thursday 16 October 2008. 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 1 November 2008 with raffle, cakes and poppies for sale. For further information please contact Jane Parsons on 810822.

**The Annual Band Concert** will be held in the War Memorial Hall on Friday 7 November 2008 with the excellent "Brass Bits" who were so popular at the Branch Anniversary party in 2006. 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. Tickets may be purchased in advance from the Gallery or on the door. All the proceeds will go to Poppy Appeal and everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike.

**The National Two Minutes Silence** will be at 11.00am on Tuesday 11 November 2008. 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 8 November 2008. Pete Scarrott has kindly agreed to organise the competition. He can be contacted for details on 810921.

**Remembrance Day Parade and Service:** Sunday 9 November 2008. 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/Oxon Branch) under the direction of Pipe Major Steve Duffy (details correct at time of going to press) and commanded by the Charlbury Branch President, Major R N Potter (late Scots Guards). The salute will be taken by Colonel George Ramsay, a Charlbury Branch member, who lives in Chadlington. Colonel Ramsay was in the Army from 1942 to 1967 serving in Italy [World War 2, Egypt, Kenya, Malaya and Germany amongst other places, and was the Commanding Officer of the Scots Guards. 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 6 November 2008. For any further information please ring Nick Potter 810338.

**The Poppy Appeal:** Poppies will be on sale in and around the Town 24 Oct -8 Nov and at Charlbury Station on the mornings of 28 October and 4 November. Mick Charlesworth (late Parachute Regiment) is the new Poppy Appeal Organiser for Charlbury and the surrounding villages; Mick lives in Finstock. Anyone who would like to help with the Poppy Appeal in any way is asked to get in touch with him on 01993 869283.

### **Festival of Remembrance – Royal Albert Hall**

The Branch may be allocated two tickets for the evening performance in the presence of the Royal Family on Sat 8 Nov 2008. The ticket allocation is normally confirmed during September. Any member interested, please contact Jane Parsons on 810822

*For more information about the RBL or for assistance, contact Nick Potter on 810388, Derek Fowler on 811706 or Jane Parsons on 810822.*

## TWO LOCAL AUTHORS WILL BE TALKING ABOUT THEIR RECENTLY-PUBLISHED BOOKS

Our local thriller writer, **Veronica Stallwood**, is about to publish her 15th novel, **Oxford Menace**.

*"When two of Kate Ivory's friends, members of a team working at an Oxford University biotechnology unit, start to receive smoke bombs through the letterbox and discover that slanderous letters about them are being circulated, Kate is intrigued and disturbed. Working where they do, her friends are used to the high security necessary to ward off animal activists. But this time there is a difference: there is nothing random in the choice of victims, and the attacks are growing more sophisticated. "The team is in danger of being disbanded and if this happens the important project they are working on will come to an end. Is this just another phase in the war between scientists and the Animal Liberation Front or is there a different - and dangerous - group at work? And if so, do they have an ulterior motive for trying to sabotage the project? Novelist and amateur sleuth Kate is persuaded to find out who is behind the dirty tricks, before her friends' careers, and even their lives, are put at risk..."*

**Veronica will be talking about the book and signing copies in the Corner House (Morris Room, upstairs) on Friday September 5 at 8pm.** The book can be ordered from Evenlode Books in advance of publication for £15.99 (RRP £18.99, Amazon price £16.99). Tickets £2.50 from the bookshop, with a complimentary glass of wine.

**Print for Victory: Book Publishing in England 1939-1945** is by another Charlbury resident, **Valerie Holman**.

*"The first in-depth study of British publishing during the Second World War. Despite paper rationing and a constant shortage of manpower, it was a period marked by innovation in book design, the advent of new readers in the UK and overseas, and a profound conviction in the power of print. Extraordinary efforts were made to salvage paper and books, and to supply Allied servicemen, prisoners of war and citizens of formerly occupied countries with new publications from Britain. 'Print For Victory' draws extensively on previously unpublished and often uncatalogued archive material, and represents a valuable contribution to the study of publishing history in the twentieth century."*

Valerie is Associate Research Fellow to the University of Westminster's Group for War and Culture Studies. She writes on the history of art, print and publishing, and on the cultural history of war in the twentieth century with particular reference to France.

**Valerie Holman will be talking about her book at the Corner House on Friday, October 3rd at 8 pm.** 'Print for Victory' can be ordered in advance from Evenlode Books, or purchased at the meeting for £27 (cover price is £30, Amazon price £30). Tickets £2.50 from the bookshop, with a complimentary glass of wine.

## **SPARE ROOM FOR A PAYING VISITOR 10 JANUARY TO 6 APRIL?**

Canadian students from the 2009 Atlantic Baptist University Oxford Study Programme will be staying in Charlbury from 10 January to 6 April, while they undertake their studies in a course entitled, 'From Renaissance Art to Victorian Science'.

The local organisers are looking for people willing to assist with home based Bed and Breakfast accommodation in Charlbury, for one (or possibly 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. Most of the students are in their early twenties, and the requirement is for a study bedroom and access to washing and kitchen facilities.

Breakfast materials would be provided by hosts 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 may be possible for students to be moved to another home stay during their time here.

Please contact one of the following for further details:

Madeleine Wheare - 01608 810092 ;  
[mad@wheare.org](mailto:mad@wheare.org)

Marion Greenfield – 01608 810896;  
[mq.littlelees@googlemail.com](mailto:mq.littlelees@googlemail.com)

*(NB Marion is not available during September but accessible at all other times.)*

## **Compost Now for Next Year's Harvest**

Did you know at least 30% of your household wastebins could be composted at home? Home composting can handle far more than just garden waste. Lots of everyday household waste items can be added to the compost bin and within a few months you'll have a supply of good compost to improve your garden soil.

Oxfordshire households can buy two discounted compost bins (from £17) via the Recycle Now Home Composting Campaign. Phone 0845 077 0757 - quote reference HCA2(VOL).

Material for composting is either "green" or "brown". "Greens" are rich in nitrogen, break down quickly and provide heat, whereas "browns" break down slowly and are rich in carbon. The compost process needs an equal mix and during the winter, kitchen waste provides an ideal supply of "greens". Scrunched up paper and cardboard are "browns" and are really useful at trapping air to ensure the process is aerobic. Leaves are natural "browns" but take about 2 years to break down into a rich leafmould. This autumn, sweep up your leaves, water them well, and store them in plastic bags, puncture the bags to let air circulate. You can also use handfuls of them in your compost bin if you are short of "browns", particularly useful next summer to mix with all those "green" grass cuttings.

Don't despair if you have any problems with home composting, I have recently had 2 days training with the Oxfordshire Master Composter Programme so that I can provide local advice, so please contact me on 01608-811057 and I will try to help.

*Christine Elliott, CAWAG*

[www.recyclenow.com/compost/Love Food Hate Waste](http://www.recyclenow.com/compost/Love Food Hate Waste)



## CHARLBURY DAY CENTRE

This Day Centre has been running for over 10 years to provide an enjoyable day out for Charlbury's elderly men and women. We meet in the Garden Room of the Memorial Hall at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesdays and an excellent lunch is provided for a nominal cost. There are visiting speakers, and various entertainments, as well as occasional trips out. Every one seems to enjoy their time with us and the atmosphere is always friendly. So if any of you feel that you might like a change, why not contact our Co-ordinator Ruth Gould on **01993 773010**. She can arrange for you to come down and spend a few hours with us to see if it's 'your cup of tea'. If it is we'll be delighted to welcome you.

We have a good number of volunteers, some helping to supervise at the Centre, others cooking the lunches, and some acting as drivers. We are always on the look out for new faces (helpers, cooks or drivers) so if any of you feel you could help on an occasional basis please contact me on **01608 81910** or **Ruth on the above number**.

***Roger Farrow, Chairman  
Day Centre Management Committee***

### **Charlbury & District Garden Society**

**Visit to Rodmarton Manor Garden,  
The Picton Gardens,  
and Old Court Nurseries**

Tuesday 23 September 2008.

£20 (£23 including Rodmarton House).

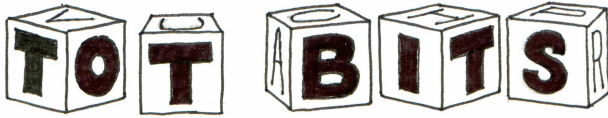
Bus leaves Spendlove Car Park at 8.30am.

For reservations please telephone Sarah Potter on 810388. These visits are very popular and we would be grateful if bookings are paid for in advance.

## **Well Done Charlbury!**

In the past year you have deposited a whopping **2,500 batteries** in the CAWAG collection boxes at the Corner House, the Post Office, and the Primary School. You have also taken **2,500 Tetra Paks** to the CAWAG collection bag at the Spendlove carpark on the first Saturday of each month. Thanks to everyone who has made the effort to do this to ensure their batteries and Tetra Paks are recycled.

*Charlbury Area Waste Action Group  
[www.cwag.org.uk](http://www.cwag.org.uk)*



## Prevent, Practise, Perspective

This article is about burns. In fact, it's more specific than that – it's about scalding burns. You may think it's a bit of a strange article for Tot Bits, and especially strange as it's the last one I'm planning to write before handing the honour over to Carina Loweth, but there's method in my madness. (There usually is!)

In July, my oldest child (who is now 8) accidentally knocked the teapot with her elbow and doused her leg with boiling hot tea. The resulting injuries were second degree burns on her thigh and foot. While we administered first aid, and while she was riding to A&E in the ambulance, and while she was wailing with distress and pain into the early hours of the morning, she was asking us over and over, "Why did this have to happen to me?"

The theology of the answer I won't go into right now. Suffice to say, the mere effort of brainstorming ideas (for nearly four hours) seemed to go some way toward calming her, and it's this silver lining from our clouds that I wanted to share with you, hoping, of course, that someone else might learn from our mistakes.

The first lesson we learned was that the accident could have been so much worse. What if the victim hadn't been a tall, lanky 8-year-old who instinctively jerked mostly out of the way, but instead, her 3-year-old sister, or even the 15-month-old baby? The Birmingham Children's Hospital's Burn Unit was full of thank you letters from just such children, some of whom had undergone treatment for one-, five-, even ten years after toppling over a cup of tea on themselves as toddlers.

It's a salutary reminder to all us parents with young children: watch those mugs; swivel pot handles away from the edges of cookers; push kettles to the back of counters; and, when running bath water, check the temperature before it gets to be a lake of steaming danger, and never leave the children unattended.

That's the "prevention" part of the title. The "protection" part is about the first aid required for burns, and that's because it's imperative that you act quickly if a child is ever burned. A scald can be made worse if clothing traps the hot water against the skin, so start applying cold water to it straight away, preferably running water from something like a gentle shower head. Do not remove the clothes and do not immerse the child in cold water. This should continue for about 20 minutes. After cooling down the injury, then it's a matter of protecting against infection with things like clingfilm, but it's probably best to contact NHS Direct (0845 4647) during the cold-water phase so they can advise your next step. That's because the threshold between treating at home or needing an ambulance is surprisingly low.

Finally, about "perspective". The day before my daughter's accident, she had tripped in the dining room and spilled her dinner across the carpet. I was livid (it was strawberries and liable to stain!). Then, when she had the teapot accident, I was all attention and worry, because this time, her accident had led to an injury. I said things like, "Forget the broken teapot: it's you I'm concerned about," but the day before, I'd intimated that the carpet was more important than she was. The hypocrisy hit hard at 2 a.m. in the Horton, and I just wanted to share this to encourage you



to put your little children first, no matter how annoying their accidents seem. After all, I could always get another carpet or another teapot, but I couldn't just order another Lauren on-line.

*Kat Patrick*

## LITTLE FISHES

**NEW FORMAT!!!** More songs, games, snacks and fun with this group aimed at babies and young pre-schoolers. 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 to enjoy the company, the coffee, and the friendly atmosphere. Best of all, it's free!!! Wednesdays during term-time, 10:15-11:30. Contact Kate on 811579 for more information.

## PRE-SCHOOL

In order to offer parents greater flexibility, Pre-School is pleased to announce that it will be offering extended hours from September 2008, in the form of a daily lunch club until 1pm. Alternatively, you can choose to pick your child up at 11.30 to cover free Voucher Sessions only.

The Pre-School, located in the Old Grammar School on Park Street, is open from 9am every morning (during term-time) but enrolment can be as little as one morning a week to the full five days depending on your requirements. The premises can be hired for birthday parties from 2 p.m. onwards on Saturdays, and at any time on Sun-

days 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.

## 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. Now there's also a monthly visit by the health visitor, Sally Miller, to weigh babies and discuss any issues (don't forget your red book!). £2 per family.

Surely there are more activities for toddlers than just these three???? If you run a group, then contact us for free publicity.

Please send all ToTBits information to:  
**CARINA LOWETH** at  
[ccloweth@btinternet.com](mailto:ccloweth@btinternet.com)

*\*\*see page 17 for a late addition to TotBits*



## **The Church Street Swifts - '..skateboarders in the air..'**

For me, one of the greatest joys of summer in Charlbury is the flight of swifts over Church Street. They swoop and glide over the rooftops with daredevil abandon. They are like skateboarders in the air, among the most accomplished aerobats in the whole bird kingdom. More than any other bird they seem to be flying for the fun of it. And since they are in continuous flight for at least the first two years of life – feeding, sleeping and mating on the wing – they get a lot of flight practice. Perhaps it is not so surprising that they are more closely related to humming birds than to the swallows and house martins that they superficially resemble. The Church Street house martins patronise the Rose and Crown pub on the corner of the street. There is a very successful colony there. But we feel very privileged to have a nesting colony of swifts in Gothic House and next door at Stone House. There is a story attached to this.

For years the swifts used to nest in the wall of our attic, which they reached through the numerous holes in our roof. Two autumns ago we decided that we couldn't live any longer with the leaking roof, and so John Crockford and his sons were signed up to re-slate the whole house. But we didn't abandon the swifts. We asked John to make nesting spaces for them in the gables of the Gothic extension to the house. If you look up from the street you can see eight entrance holes, each about the size and shape of a chicken's egg.

I didn't want to leave it to chance for the swifts to find the holes when they returned from Africa the following spring. So last year we prevailed upon Nick Parker with his experience as an ace musical sound engineer. Nick rigged up a loudspeaker on the roof, and from a CD-player in the attic we played a continuous loop of swift calls that beamed up to the battalion of swifts wheeling overhead. The tape recording, provided by the London Swift Society, is actually the alarm call of a nesting female swift. Although in swift language the message is 'This is my nest – keep out', the circling swifts are curious, and evidently reckon that if there is one nesting site there is just as likely to be another. Sure enough by the end of July last year, I had seen several swifts investigating the holes, though none seemed actually to take the plunge and dive in.

Of the migratory birds, swifts are among our shortest visitors, arriving in mid-May, at least a month after the house martins and swallows, and leaving at the end of July, six weeks before the others. In May this year I waited with bated breath for the swifts to return. To my delight we had a good squadron of the birds over Church Street, and I kept watch eagerly over our nesting holes. I am delighted to report success. From the start of their season, I saw swifts entering the holes – an incredible sight in itself as the birds dive at the entrance, tucking in their wings at the last moment and disappearing inside without stopping.

Over the course of the summer, I regularly saw swifts entering the holes and staying overnight. But it was clear to me that they were not brooding young as they were not coming back often enough to feed them. From my reading I was reassured that this was perfectly normal, and that our birds were immature adults, establishing their territory, and staking a claim on their nests for breeding next year. With a touch of apprehension, of course, about their 14,000 mile round trip to Southern Africa, I am filled with hope that our colony will expand next year.

I should be delighted to share my experience with any Charlbury householder who would like to encourage swifts. If you are planning works on your roof, I hope you will consider making swift nesting holes. There is no risk, of course, to the structure of the roof, and you will be helping the survival of these stupendous birds. Completely wild as they are, they are totally dependent on human structures for nesting sites. You may also like to know that the University Museum in Oxford is one of the world centres of research into swift behaviour, and over 100 pairs nest there each year in nesting boxes which they enter through the ventilation holes of the Museum tower.

*Andrew Lawson*

## ACT NOW Jute Shopping Bags

There are 60 different faces – how many do you have?



Just a reminder . . . you have until Street Fair on 20 September to collect CAWAG's 5p vouchers when you use your ACT NOW jute shopping bag and spend more than £4 in Charlbury shops. Take the vouchers to CAWAG's stall at Street Fair to redeem them and see if you have won a prize in the free prize draw. If you wish you can also donate the money to the School's Eco Project.

## RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

In recent months, West Oxfordshire District Council has ruled on a handful of planning applications for new houses in Charlbury:

- Demolition of stores, garages and existing house at Charlbury Dairy (Thames Street), and construction of 13 new houses - **permission granted (subject to conditions).**
- New house at Stoneleigh, Sturt Road - **approved.**
- New house at 2 Nine Acres Close - **refused.**

The decisions are listed roughly monthly [on the WODC website](#) (look on the right under "uplands").

*This information was taken from the Charlbury website*

## CHARLBURY GARDEN SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW GOES TO THE SCHOOL

As the Memorial Hall is being redecorated, the Annual Show will be held in the **Primary School on Saturday, August 30th**. Exhibitors should stage their entries between 8.30am and 10.45 and the Show will be open to the public between 2pm and 4.30pm for a mere 30p (children free).

There are 99 classes to enter and, as well as cash prizes, there are 17 cups to be awarded. The classes cover flowers, vegetables, fruit, floral arrangements, cookery, handicrafts, photography and childrens' classes. A full schedule is available from Nick Johnson (810507) or can be found in the local shops and the library.

Anyone can enter and you can help to make a wonderful display celebrating the crafts of cooking, making and growing in Charlbury. If any children would like to enter, we will be holding a creative workshop for children to make exhibits on Friday 29 August 2.30 – 4.00 at the Primary School. Children between 5-15 are very welcome to attend though booking is essential (phone Wendy or Geoff on 811006) and there is a charge of £2 per child.

Also if you or your child entered **The Tallest Sunflower Challenge**, you must telephone 811006 on or before 24 August to register your sunflower for measuring . Results will be announced and prizes awarded at the end of the Annual Show.

*Nick Johnson*

## SUSTAINABLE CHARLBURY

This summer has been busy one for SusCha with film screenings, displays and visits to a sustainable farm and new community-owned wind-farm. We are also making progress with our energy project and are looking at the possibility of starting a car-pooling network.

### Events

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September - Apple Pick and Share Event (weather dependent!).

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October – FILM SCREENING- 'The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour'.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November – FILM SCREENING – film t.b.c.

Following the success of our wind farm visit, we will also be holding a public meeting in October to discuss renewable energy and its potential in Charlbury, including information about the renewables programme at Cornbury Park, community-owned wind farms, solar projects and grants. For more details of this and other events, keep an eye on the noticeboards and on our website:

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

You can now also keep updated on all our projects and events by joining the SusCha mailing list. To join, or to put forward your own ideas for a more sustainable Charlbury, email us at :

[contact@sustainablecharlbury.org](mailto:contact@sustainablecharlbury.org).

### **JOB OPPORTUNITY!**

SusCha are looking for a coordinator to work 5 hours per week from October to help with our energy project and spring exhibition events. If you are enthusiastic about tackling climate change and want to make a difference, then contact Dorrie on 07866 663810 or email:

[contact@sustainablecharlbury.org](mailto:contact@sustainablecharlbury.org).

*Dorrie Johnson*

## FURTHER INFORMATION ON TRANSPORT MATTERS

Although the Town Council Report and the Town Clerk's note have mentioned the transport situation in Charlbury, following a conversation with the Editor it was suggested I might elaborate on the subject a little further for those who do not have access to the Charlbury website:

Many will know that the Routes 69 and 20A and the Railbus are up for review by Oxfordshire County Council. It is hoped that Routes 69 and 20A will continue much as before, either with or without subsidy, but after a gratifyingly well-attended meeting in the Memorial Hall on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and a good e-mail response from those affected by the Railbus, the Council has sent a very firm indication to County Councillor Ian Hudspeth of the transport needs of many residents of Charlbury and nearby villages, with an obvious plea that the C1 should be retained. Keen readers of the *Oxford Mail* on July 2<sup>nd</sup> will have seen a photograph of commuters getting on the bus in Charlbury, and a short article headed "Keep Our Link". Should the worst happen, however, and funding be withdrawn, I have been assured by the Transport Department of the Oxford County Council that "should circumstances alter significantly" – for which we may read "should the doubling of the railway line be completed by 2010 with a consequent upgrading of the reliability of the train service" - then they would look again at the situation sooner than waiting for the next planned review.

Mention has also been made elsewhere of the Octabus service, and notices are now up on the town council boards. The County Council are anxious to encourage greater use of this service, (contact tel.no: 01865 876176), so please spread the word to all disabled or elderly residents who find difficulty in using public transport.

*Helen Bessemer-Clark*  
*Transport Rep, Charlbury Town Council*

### **CORNER HOUSE AND MEMORIAL HALL NEWS**

First, a very grateful Thank You to everyone involved in the Charlbury Open Gardens event held as part of this year's Street Fair programme. Tickets, raffle, Jazz Lunch and Teas were all enjoyed and appreciated, and produced an excellent result - a record £2,500.

The work on the Memorial Hall is scheduled to be finished by September 6th. The AGM for the Corner House & Memorial Hall is on October 23rd. The meeting is at 8 pm in the Morris Room. The Committee would be very pleased if the representatives of all users and other interested people could attend.

Bookings for 2009 for the Corner House and Memorial Hall will be accepted from the beginning of September. A reminder that all users are asked to treat the two buildings with care and respect, and particularly to avoid damage to the Hall floor, as it was only recently resurfaced.

*Ann Gilbert*

## News from ChOC: Charlbury's Own Cinema

By the time you read this, in September, the Memorial Hall will be ready for its new blackout curtains. We seem to have enjoyed blazing sunshine on the ChOC film evenings this summer and we would like to say a warm(!) thank you to everyone who came to see our films despite the black plastic and bin liners we used to seal the Hall.

Also for September, some new ticketing arrangements. From the September film onwards the price for individual tickets will be raised by 50p to £4.00. However, carnets of 10 tickets will be available for purchase at the old price of £3.50 per ticket. When you buy the tickets ten at a time like this, there will be no time limit on when, or at which film, you choose to use them. So, you can see there will be a financial as well as a convenience motive for you to buy a carnet of ten!

We hope to bring you some 'hot off the press' films this autumn: *The Oxford Murders*, starring John Hurt on Sunday 14th September and the animation, *Persepolis* on Sunday 12th October. Both films were released earlier this year.

At the August film we will be asking the audience to choose films to screen later in the year from our film list to which you, the audience, contribute. The deadline for this *Chronicle* will have come and gone by then so we'll tell you the result in the ChOC newsletter for September. Newsletters can be found in Charlbury library or a copy can be emailed to you (contact Hilda on 01608 810423).

Look out for September's **extra** film treat: ChOC will be supporting the Street Fair presentation of *The Good, The Bad & The Ugly*, Clint Eastwood, Eli Wallach and Lee van Cleef: Friday 12th September 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall.

ChOC films are shown on the second Sunday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall. For further information about ChOC or any of the films ring Ed on 01608 811196, take a look at the ChOC website <http://www.day-books.com/chocweb.htm> or look out for posters around the town.

## Please Note

### Welcommunity Fund :

The aim of this fund, set up by Cottsway Housing, is to provide small grants for community groups within West Oxfordshire. More information available on 01993 89005 or email [kate.clemmow@cottsway.co.uk](mailto:kate.clemmow@cottsway.co.uk)

### Review of Octabus Dial-a-Ride Service:

This valuable service, which is funded by County and District Councils, is to be reviewed prior to the current funding ending on 31st. March 2009. If you use this service, wish to know more about it, or support its retention please let Neil Timberlake know on 01865 815585 or [neil.timberlake@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:neil.timberlake@oxfordshire.gov.uk) by 22nd September 2008.

## Charlbury Sharecroppers

Do you have apples or pears that will go to waste because you can't pick them, or maybe a glut of runner beans? Would you like to offer to pick? Call 01608-811831 or go to the website [www.cwag.org.uk](http://www.cwag.org.uk) and register with Charlbury Sharecroppers and we will put you in touch with each other.

**Charlbury Area Waste Action Group**





## THE FISH MAN COMETH!

We hear so much these days about our carbon footprints. Probably most of us are now trying to use our cars and public transport less, and walk wherever we can. It occurred to us that some residents of Charlbury might not know of the opportunity to buy fresh fish from Grimsby here in the town **every Tuesday afternoon**. There has been a Fish Man visiting here for about twenty years. A white van parks on the corner outside the Rose and Crown between **2.30 and 4 pm**. The present owner of the round is called, rather appropriately, Brian Fisher, and he has a fine selection of beautiful, fresh fish for sale. So why not get into the habit of buying your weekly fish order from him. If you are out of Charlbury during the day, try and find a friend who will buy for you, it's well worth it.

If you need to put in a special order, you can ring Brian on 07811 254325

## TOTBITS EXTRA .....

### **BOUNCING BALLS**

Are your little ones getting enough exercise? Bring them along to **BOUNCING BALLS** in the Memorial Hall on Friday's in term time. Sessions from 1.30pm to 2.15pm cost £3 per session.

The aim of these sessions for 3-5year olds is to introduce and improve ball skills, to improve hand-eye coordination, to gain self-confidence - and most of all to have fun and exercise! Bouncing Balls are also held in surrounding villages on other days. For more details contact Lisa Wilkinson on 07811 174733.

*See TotBits on pages 10 and 11*

### **Bridewell Organic Garden**

There will be an Open Afternoon  
from 2 - 5pm on  
14th September

## A DAY'S LIFE -

### DR LAWRENCE GOLDMAN

Fellow and Tutor in Modern History at St Peter's College, Oxford and Editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

I am usually up at 6 am. I get a cup of tea for myself and my wife, Madeleine, and take it up to her to discuss what the day holds for us. After that I do twenty minutes of exercises for my back. I never miss breakfast, which is cereal, toast and coffee. I usually try and fit in some grooming for our cats. We are a four cat household, two of whom we rescued after they had been mutilated. They both have only three legs, but this is no disadvantage and Minx, one of them, dominates the household. I like to catch the 7.50 a.m. train to Oxford. My walk down to the station is the best period of the day. It gives me time to think and compose myself and Charlbury is particularly beautiful at this time. I have been the modern history tutor at St. Peter's College since 1990 and presently I juggle three jobs in Oxford: I act as an academic tutor to undergraduates and graduates; I am a university lecturer; and I'm also editor of the

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

I had a very happy childhood in London and went from Haberdashers' Aske's School in Elstree to Jesus College, Cambridge. After that I won a Harkness scholarship to Yale University for a year to study American History and I was also able to travel around the United States. I returned to Cambridge as a postgraduate and did my doctoral work on the history of nineteenth century social science. I then became a Junior Research Fellow at Trinity College in Cambridge. It was during this time that I met Madeleine who was teaching modern languages at a school there: I gate-crashed her birthday party and after a bike ride to Trumpington a few weeks later things began to develop. We married in 1985, the year I was appointed History and Politics Tutor at the Department for Continuing Education at Rewley House, Oxford. I enjoy teaching adults and had five fascinating years there. It really was responsible for our coming to Charlbury because I was sent here in 1988 to teach a WEA adult evening course on the English Civil War. I didn't know the town and had difficulty finding the Old School on the Playing Close and arrived flustered and with little time to spare. Pamela Porter was just about to tell them that the lecturer did not appear to be turning up! I was amazed to find 40 people waiting for me and they were such a lively and responsive audience that when I went home, I told Madeleine what a remarkable place it was. In 1991 when we found that our house in Cowley, where we were then living with our two young sons, was no longer big enough, we decided to come here.

Most mornings I spend my time giving two or three tutorials. The students, who can be from any college, either come as individuals or in pairs and we discuss an essay they have written. It is usually on modern British or American history, my specialities. I very much approve of this method of teaching. It is very labour-intensive but you can get a good debate going and you can watch your students developing. As tutor I have an intellectual and personal relationship with them. When they finish their studies we have them to lunch and tea here in Charlbury: the party usually ends in a great game of football in our garden. They know how fortunate they are to have studied in Oxford. The Oxford colleges are real communities, both socially and academically, and they focus on developing the full potential of each student. The downside is outside the colleges. Whereas Cambridge has benefited from good city planning and thoughtful development in recent years, Oxford's development has been more piecemeal and haphazard with the emphasis on

bars, cafes and nightlife. As Gladstone said after he lost the 1874 election, 'We are borne down in a torrent of gin and beer'. Two mornings a week I give an hour's lecture in the Oxford Examinations Schools building for all students in the university studying that particular subject. Lunch is usually a simple meal in the Senior Common Room or I may meet a colleague at another college. It is not a lavish occasion and is usually finished very quickly.

In the afternoon, I go to the offices of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* in St. Giles. I was appointed editor in 2004. The first editor was Sir Leslie Stephen, Virginia Woolf's father, and the first *Dictionary of National Biography* was published between 1885 and 1900. It was updated every ten years thereafter. In 1992 Oxford University Press determined to produce a new Dictionary. The first *DNB* was showing its age and it was decided that it should be rewritten, which took 12 years. It was the biggest project in the Humanities that anyone knows of, and it produced the longest work in the history of the English language. There are 60 volumes of 65 million words in total and a new volume is due in March 2009. The 55,000 biographies date from Roman times to the present day. 10,000 specialist authors worldwide have contributed to the Dictionary and their work is co-ordinated in Oxford by a team of research staff of the University's Faculty of History. There are also more than 450 advisers organised into 43 panels, from archaeologists to zoologists, who provide us with advice on whom to include - only those who have died are eligible. We are responsible for three annual updates of the dictionary, which is also published online.

The challenge for me as editor is to assess whose work and achievement will last. Once someone has been put into the dictionary, they cannot be removed. It is not just a record of 'the great and the good'. All types of lives are included if they have had an effect on British culture or if they have shaped the future. Criminals such as Myra Hindley and Harold Shipman are in it, as well as people from the worlds of sport and entertainment. The longest entries run to more than 35,000 words for figures as notable as Shakespeare, Churchill and Elizabeth I. My work in the afternoons is to vet contributions and check details. The editor's colour is green for use on the proofs. Generally our authors are accurate and fair-minded and some have a personal knowledge of their subjects. I also have to deal with controversial matters; sometimes relatives and widows are unhappy with what has been published, or a member of the public feels very strongly that someone should or should not have been included. It is very interesting work and calls for a degree of tact and diplomacy, which, as my family would tell you, does not come easily in my case.

There have been some exciting times for the Dictionary recently. When the Queen came to open the Castle site in Oxford in May 2006 she visited our offices. She came to pay tribute to a national project and while with us, at the flick of a key, she added 125 biographies instantaneously to the online dictionary. In 2007 the University of Oxford was one of the 20 winners of The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education. I had to submit the application and so was delighted when it was successful, because it is recognition of the commitment and creativity of the 10,000 contributors. We went to collect the award at Buckingham Place one morning in February. The party included staff from the office, students from the university, the Chancellor of the University, Lord Chris Patten, and the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. John Hood. It was a very enjoyable occasion and Prince Philip was on his usual good form with many pertinent, pithy comments. —————>

I am lucky to work on a project that is accessible to so many people. The Dictionary can be accessed from any public library in the United Kingdom with internet capability, and, of course, from university libraries and educational establishments. For a fee anyone can subscribe to it over the internet and we are aware of its continual usage by the millions of 'hits' from all around the world that are made on its website each month. One very nice professor of theology did try to download and print out the whole thing and we had to point out that this was against the rules!

At 5 o'clock, depending on the academic term we're in, I might return to college to teach a class for one of the special option papers I teach in the History Faculty on the intellectual history of the Victorian age or the history of slavery and emancipation in America. Sometimes I go to hear a paper given by a guest lecturer or I attend a research seminar where a colleague sets out new ideas and information.

I try to catch the 7.19 train home and on my way I often call in to see my father, who lives in Wychwood House. After a life in London he has lived there for eight years and it has been a great success. He has enjoyed being close to his family and likes living in Charlbury. In recent years we have made three trips together to Italy where he fought in the Second World War, to visit the battlefields and cemeteries where his comrades are buried. Both he and my uncle, his brother, fought at Monte Cassino in 1944. My father was in the Reconnaissance, in front of the front lines, trying to find the enemy and hoping they didn't find him first. Although it was a terrible experience and he lost many friends, he found the local Italians charming and the landscape beguiling, and so he likes returning.

I have dinner with Madeleine at 8 o'clock and catch up with the children. We have three; Alex is 21 and studying engineering at Lancaster University, Jonathan has just finished A-levels at Burford School, and Saskia, who did her GCSEs at Chipping Norton will be going to the Cherwell School in Oxford from September. Periodically we asked them if they were enjoying being brought up in Charlbury and the answer was always an emphatic "Yes". Certainly the Shed Theatre has been very important for them, but I do think Charlbury could provide more for young people. During the evening I gradually unwind and Madeleine and I discuss our day. We usually catch the headlines on the 10'clock news and then fall into bed.

I often think how well Charlbury has turned out for us. I am close to Oxford, but not too close, and I like to feel that I can escape work and the university out here. Madeleine considers Charlbury to be the place where she has felt most at home in her life. We can potter in our garden and she and I can get out and go walking in the Cotswolds - nothing too strenuous, but we walk religiously every weekend. All in all, I'm deeply grateful that they sent me to teach a class in Charlbury in 1988.

*Dr Lawrence Goldman was interviewed by Diana Potten*

## **Station improvements welcomed at Charlbury**

Improvement work worth £150,000 at Charlbury Railway Station, funded by Oxfordshire County Council and First Great Western, has now finished, on time and within budget.

Users of the station have been presented with a wide footpath and lighting along the approach road and no longer have to mingle with cars and buses when walking to and from the station. The footpath has step-free access to the station with a low kerb and crossing making it easier and safer for pedestrians.

To improve car parking, the approach road has been made wider and the car park has been resurfaced. Now that parking bays have been marked on the ground the number of spaces has been increased by 40 per cent to 154.

The car park contractor, Apcoa, has replaced the ticket machines with a newer type that can accept credit cards and has relocated them to a more convenient position.

There is also a bus stop for the Railbus service that connects Shipton, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Leafield and Finstock with rush hour trains.

### **Positive feedback received**

Oxfordshire County Council would like to thank station users for their co-operation whilst the works have taken place and is already receiving positive feedback from users who are delighted with the changes that have been made.

Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport Implementation, said: 'I am pleased we have finally been able to deliver the improvements that people in West Oxfordshire had been seeking for several years. The new footpath and extra car parking is already being well-received and I am delighted with that.'

Richard Rowland, First Great Western's Regional Manager, added: "The changes at Charlbury will make a big difference for many of our customers. The improvements would not have been possible without funding from the county council and it shows what can be achieved by working with local councils in our area."

# CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

## Charlbury Brownies and Rainbows

We are currently running two very happy groups and at present both the Brownies and Rainbows have some spaces. For contact details, please see below.

Our activities are very varied, we sometimes join with other units in the district to go on trips and attend events - in October we are going to Longleat Safari Park.

We also do lots of activities and badges, for example this term the Brownies have been working on their Toymaker, Road Safety and Artist badges, and next term we are planning to do both the Aim Hi and the Seasons badge along with lots of new games, crafts and activities.

The Cubs are holding the next Coffee Morning in the Corner House on 27<sup>th</sup> September, which is to raise finances to help to support the Scout Hut. These have been greatly supported by the people of Charlbury for which we are very grateful. We also ran a tombola again at the Cornbury Music Festival which raised funds for the redecoration of the Scout Hut.

We participated in our District Duck Race again in July, raising over £600 towards our District funds. We have run Pack Holiday's for the past 2 years and will be going again hopefully at Easter in 2009.

Also at both Brownies and Rainbows, we would love another person with loads of ideas and enthusiasm to come and join us at our meetings. There will be no need to wear a uniform or attend lots of extra curricular meetings or training sessions if you don't want to, just come and help us to help the Brownies or Rainbows once a week. Call me if you would like to discuss this further.

*Cathryn Taylor, Brownie Leader, 01993 771321 ; Amy Booth, Rainbow Leader c/o 01993 771321*

**Brownies** – 7-10 years - Wednesdays - 6.45-8pm - Scout Hut, Nine Acres Lane

**Rainbows** – 5-7 years - Wednesdays – 5.30-6.30 - Scout Hut, Nine Acres Lane

## Charlbury Bowls Club

Members are enjoying the outdoor season, with friendly games against local clubs. The Ladies are having regular friendly matches with local clubs and are doing well. The Men's Oxford League matches are nearing completion, Charlbury are currently unbeaten this season in Div 4, quite a record! The weather has been kind to us so far, with the hope of more to come. The Club is on tour for a week in August, with many members heading West for a weeks bowling and entertainment.

The Autumn and Winter season starts at the end of September, when we roll down the mats and play indoors in the Clubhouse, this is also a lot of fun and gets us out in the darker nights.

We have a stall at the Street Fair this year, come and say hello! We are always delighted to see new faces, whatever your age come and have a try, there will be someone to show you the ropes! New members are most welcome, all ages; men, women and youngsters. You are never too young or old to play this skilful game.

*David Homewood, Secretary, 811321*

## Charlbury Cricket Club

*On-field activities*

Charlbury Cricket Club won the annual Combe Knockout Cup for the second year running when they beat Freeland off the last ball of the match. Charlbury 2nds came very close to adding to the silverware collection, going down to an agonising defeat by just four runs in the final of the Osberton Radiators Cup. Batsman

# CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

Richard Nash deservedly won the Man of the Match award for his heroic innings of 95 not out. Away from cup competitions, Charlbury's Third Team have been performing admirably in the OCA League this season. Perennial basement-dwellers since their inception in 2005, the 3rds are pushing hard to escape from Division 11 and were handily placed to do so as we entered August.

## *Off-field activities*

The Club has branched out into the world of publishing this summer with the launch of our new book "From the Forest to the Flood: The History of Charlbury Cricket Club". The book tells the story of the Club from its origins in the 1870s right up to the present day and is packed full of fascinating historical detail, nostalgic photographs and amusing anecdotes. Copies priced at £7.99 can be obtained from either Malcolm Harper (01608 810464) or Paul and Celia Faulkner (01608 810656). Later this year the book will be on sale in a number of shops in Charlbury. Please also contact the Faulknors if you would like to buy one of Henry Olonga's CDs. Henry (an ex-Zimbabwean Test cricketer turned singer) came to Charlbury in April and put on a very memorable concert in aid of the Club. His debut CD "Aurelia" costs just £10. Finally, the Club is continuing to fundraise towards the cost of building our new pavilion. We have currently raised £135 000 and have attracted commercial pledges to the value of a further £60 000. It is intended that we will soon approach the Sports Foundation for a grant to help us reach our target.

*Derek Collett*

## **Charlbury Wine & Beer Circle**

The programme for the year ahead includes, each month, either a tasting,

social gathering or a meal. The meetings are usually held in the Corner House during the September to March period, and elsewhere during the summer.

We would welcome any new members. For further information and a copy of the programme ring 810700.

*John Moore*

## **Charlbury Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) presents .....**

Scenes from the life of Moll Flanders, based on an adaptation of the book by Daniel Defoe. This is a saucy, musical, romp, spotlighting the trials and tribulations of Moll's early life.

Performances: Thursday 23rd, Friday 24th and Saturday 25th October 2008

Tickets: £8 Concessions £6

Box Office: 01608 810896

***We suggest that this may not be suitable for children under 12 yrs.***

## **West Oxfordshire Branch of WEA**

The Branch will be offering two courses in Charlbury this Autumn:

(a) The OUDCE/WEA course run by David Grylls at the Friends Meeting House in Market Street on Tuesdays 10.15am to 12.15pm is entitled "The Novella: Great Short Fiction" and will start on September 30th. All enquiries to Patricia Baker-Cassidy on 01327 857473.

(b) A course on "The Pre-Raphaelites" run by Juliet Heslewood will be held in the Morris Room at The Corner House on Thursdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm for 5 weeks starting on September 18th. All enquiries to Linda Stent on 01993 813010.

*To include any articles in this section please contact Julia Caston (810240)*

## NEWS FROM CHARLBURY MUSEUM

*A Report by Charles Tyzack*

This year the Charlbury Museum has been awarded another Heritage Grant by the West Oxfordshire District Council, to help with the restoration of a Post Office lamp from more than a century ago. The restoration is nearly complete, and the lamp will be on display in the Museum by the time of Street Fair. The photograph shows the lamp hanging outside the Post Office in Church Street in 1902.

Until 1892 the Post Office (only a sub-post-office) had been in a small room in Sheep Street, and people had to carry out their business through a small window on to the street, whatever the weather. When, as at Christmas time, the mail was very heavy, the Vicar had to allow the use of the Parish Room to help deal with it. In 1892 the postmistress, Miss Ann Thompson, whose family had run it for many years, retired; and J.A.Bowl, who had a grocery store at the lower end of Church Street, was appointed Sub-Postmaster, and moved the Office to his shop. The wooden Post Office sign he put up outside is also in the Museum. The gas lamp hanging in front advertised both the Post Office and Mr Bowl's shop. The Post Office remained there until 1907, when Mr Bowl resigned as Postmaster, and it moved to premises in the new Rose and Crown building in Market Street.

Mr Bowl was one of the more eminent Charlburians of his day, involved in many of the town's activities, particularly the YMCA. He is commemorated by a plaque on the front of the old YMCA building off Park Street. In the 1920s he retired from business, and handed over the shop to Frank Bailey. The building, no longer a shop, still carries the name 'Baileys'.

This is the fourth year running that the Museum has been given a Heritage Grant, and we are most grateful to the WODC for their support.

*The lamp is shown hanging outside what was once Mr Blow's shop and Post Office in Church Street*



## CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 10K – Back to Tradition!

Last year, foolishly, we meddled with tradition and relocated the Start/Finish to Church Street, outside The Bell. It didn't work! We lost the important atmosphere of a community "gathering" and it messed up the course measurement.

So, this year, on **SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER**, the Street Fair 10K (& its cute little sibling: the 5K) returns to its cultural home; the PLAYING CLOSE and, for the many to whom it really matters, it will be a properly measured 10K!

Sorry for last year's "blip" and for the frustration caused. Hope all of you 'regulars' and many newcomers will turn out to run, jog or walk through that magnificent landscape which is Cornbury Park.

Now for the 'sting' – if you're not going to out pounding the turf, **could you offer us a couple of hours** to help with the Start/Finish registration & timing or to be a the proud wearer of a 'flo-glo' vest as a course marshal?

Volunteers can contact Phil on [philmorgan717@hotmail.com](mailto:philmorgan717@hotmail.com) or Steve on [stephen.andrews@phonecoop.coop](mailto:stephen.andrews@phonecoop.coop) or Pete on [peter.wright@homecall.co.uk](mailto:peter.wright@homecall.co.uk).

Thank you all in advance!

## THOMAS GIFFORD CHARITY

Since the last report in June, the Trustees have taken on board comments made in the public meetings in February to optimize the design of the proposed Community Centre, to make the most efficient use of the Spendlove site, and to achieve the best possible development.

The architect has produced an outline design which the Trustees feel fulfills the widest community needs and have begun to discuss the designs within the town. To date feedback has been positive. All Charlbury community groups and the wider community will be invited to view the design shortly (in the next few weeks).

A developers' draft brief has been agreed and an informal market testing campaign, seeking expressions of interest from appropriate potential developers, will be sent out in early September.

Our special thanks go to all those who helped in making, buying or eating cakes during the recent NGS Open Gardens Day and to those who organised the day. In addition, many thanks to the Sports and Social Club, for recently tidying up the Spendlove site.

*The Thomas Gifford Trustees*

## CHARLBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL

Our funds continue to grow slowly and now stand at over £133,000. We gratefully acknowledge recent donations amounting to £2,205 from three anonymous donors.

There have been three recent events - teas for the National Gardens Scheme Open Day (£440), and a Summer Garden Party given by Sue Way and her mother ( £267 ) and Daphne Clark organised a Soiree which made £300. In the autumn the Trustees will begin the process of involving all parts of the community in its future plans and the Appeal will start to grow towards its final total. Grateful thanks to all.



## Riverside Festival 2008

It had to happen eventually.... After years of allegedly slaughtering goats as offerings to the gods and carrying out naked Pagan dances, we awoke on the Saturday morning of Riverside 2008 to RAIN! Hearts sank and morale was low... well only with the organisers it seems. The good people of Charlbury, Oxford and the surrounding towns and counties arrived in their droves to have a great time. I was stunned as we only had 100 people less than the Sunday, which proved to be gloriously sunny, if not a tad breezy.

I can't thank everyone enough for supporting the Festival in the rain and bringing the sun the following day. I was also humbled by the amount of people who gave their time setting up, breaking down and stewarding the Festival, you all know who you are! The event couldn't take place without this help, and the generous cooperation of the Charlbury Town Council. The Festival is eternally grateful and loves you all.

The quality of music this year was superb, and I would like to thank all the bands that played (for no fee as usual). They brought with them the sort of festival vibe that makes this a very special occasion.

Now, lets look to the future... There were so many young children and toddlers dancing, playing and smiling for the whole weekend. This fills my heart with joy, as these little people are our future. This event and others like it must continue to educate them in social awareness, the importance of communities and an overall respect for the world we live in. As long as we have the love of these little people, we have hope.

*Andy Pickard*

## AMAZING WASTE

Astonishingly, we throw away one third of all the food we buy. WRAP's detailed research shows that 60% is thrown out, often unopened and even before the use-by date, and 40% is thrown out because more is prepared for meals than can be eaten. Surprisingly, households throw away more than 3 times the amount thrown out by supermarkets, but maybe this isn't so surprising. Those bargain offers successfully off-load food nearing the sell-by date onto consumers, but, if we can't actually eat it or freeze it in time, then it's not such a "bargain" after all! When food is thrown out in your wheelie bin it ends up in landfill where it gets squashed down and decomposes without oxygen to create methane – a greenhouse gas 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Food costs more as the price of oil increases. Cheap food was entirely dependent on cheap oil: oil-based fertilisers, tractor fuel, transport farm to factory, energy processing grain into animal feed, transport back to farms to feed livestock, transport to abattoirs, transport to food processing factories, the processing and packaging, transport to supermarkets. All that oil and energy used, just for one third to be thrown out and not even eaten!?? Every calorie of food produced requires ten calories of hydrocarbons.

Around 20% of our climate change emissions are related to the production, processing, transportation and storage of food. If we stopped wasting all this food, it could have a huge impact, the equivalent of taking 1 in 5 cars off UK roads.

*Charlbury Area Waste Action Group*  
[www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)

## JOHN STANLEY'S WEATHER REPORT



Daytime maximum temperatures during **May 2008** ranged from 52° on 25th and 26th to 77° on 11th. The month started with steadily rising temperatures until 11th, after which they dropped disappointingly. The month average was 64.71° which is just 1° above that for the previous 19 years. At night, minimum temperatures ranged from 38° to 54°.

**Spring 2008** (March to May) averaged 56.39° which is just 0.9° below that for the previous 19 years.

25 days in **June 2008** fell within a small range of temperatures between 65° and 73°. The temperature did dip to 57° on 3rd and peaked at 76° on 9th. The average day maximum was 68.03° (19 year average - 69.52°). At night, minimum temperatures ranged from 45° and 58°.

After one day at 77°, **July 2008** continued much as June had ended, 11 out of the next 12 days falling within the 65° to 73° range. It seemed that we were heading for a second consecutive year when July averaged below 70°, then there was a warm, if not hot spell, with temperatures peaking at 83° on 28th. The lowest day temperature was 62° on 9th. The final average figure for the month was 71.19° which is still below the 19 year average of 73.13°. At night, temperatures were between 45° and 61°.

### Just a reminder

Shoebboxes for needy children should only contain **NEW ITEMS** as specified in the leaflets that will be delivered to you shortly.

Please bring your boxes to a Family Fun evening on Friday November 14th at 7pm in the Baptist Chapel.

There will be games and singing as well as Blessing of the Boxes.

## SMALL ADS

**Hilltop Garden Centre:** Bring this issue with you and enjoy a free cup of coffee with a friend.

**Grimebusters Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning:** Your local specialists. Quality work at unbeatable prices. Tel: 01865 726983 / 01993 868924

To place a small ad please ring Jack Potten on 01608 810991

## DO YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO READ THE CHARLBURY CHRONICLE?

Please ring the Editor on 810549

to request a large-print copy  
A large-print copy is always available in the library

## Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir in Concert

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church, Witney.

Proceeds in aid of West Oxfordshire Vetka Association (Registered Charity No. 1103705). Supporting sustainable community development in Chernobyl-affected villages and towns.

Tickets £8.00 from Music Stand, High Street, Witney .

## HOPE & HOMES FOR CHILDREN

There will be the usual opportunity to help this splendid charity whose main aim is to close orphanages, particularly in former theatres of war, and house the children in family units where they can have a firm base of love and care and some hope for a positive future.

Once again Prim Birch will have stalls outside The Stone House in Church Street at the Street Fair on Saturday September 20th and hoping again that people let her have anything that can be sold to raise money for this charity. If you have anything that might be useful give Prim a ring on 810357 and arrangements can be made to collect if necessary.

**Oxfordshire  
Historic Churches Trust  
Ride or Stride 2008  
Saturday  
13<sup>th</sup> September  
10am—6pm**

Please take part if you can, either walking, cycling, or welcoming. Sponsorship forms available in the Churches/Chapels, Meeting House and Post Office in August.

There is now a facility for sponsoring StRiders via the internet. Visit [www.ohct.org.uk](http://www.ohct.org.uk), click on the JustGiving button and don't forget to mention your church so that it gets half of your money!

Further information from Sarah Potter  
01608 810388

## **A Letter from our MP**

As I have said many times, West Oxfordshire is a wonderful place to live, but as always there remain challenges ahead.

Having worked with the District Council and local communities recently to try and prevent a large number of threats to our rural area – for instance the post offices, lock keepers and GP surgeries – I have come to the view that this Government simply does not “get” rural England. It does not appear to understand, for example, that if the dispensing services of GPs are reduced, then the quality of life for patients in rural communities will suffer. Nor does the Government look as though it appreciates the importance of a local village post office in providing essential services and a focal point for village life. Crucially, in terms of the Government’s response to the flooding, we need to ensure that rural communities like ours do not miss out on the important flood defence work that needs to be carried out.

As your local MP, I have been fighting these threats on your behalf. I secured a debate on flooding in West Oxfordshire and secured assurances from the Minister for the Environment on this matter. I am disappointed that I was unable to prevent the closure of ten post offices in my constituency and sincerely hope that my efforts in fighting the Government’s proposals to change GP dispensing services and introduce polyclinics will prove more successful. I was, however, delighted that Thames Valley MPs were successful in halting the sale or lease of 22 lock houses by the Environment Agency. This ill-considered measure could have severely hampered the response to the risk of flooding in West Oxfordshire and I emphatically hope that the Environment Agency’s new review will show that the loss of on-site lock keepers is to be avoided at all costs.

As ever, do get in touch with your thoughts and concerns by email ([camerond@parliament.uk](mailto:camerond@parliament.uk)) or by post (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA). My personal website, [www.davidcameronmp.com](http://www.davidcameronmp.com), is also regularly updated so please have a look if you want to keep tracks on me!

*David Cameron  
MP for Witney*

## CHARLBURY STATION GARDEN MAKES THE NEWS

The garden at Charlbury Station had five minutes of fame in April, when it was featured on *Gardeners' World* on the telly. The four of us who care for the garden were shown pretending to work, while trains drew up and left from the platform. The programme included some of Ron Prew's collection of early photographs of Charlbury Station, as well as interviews with each of the gardeners.

Although the station garden has been cherished for years, notably by the late Henry Cummings, the present initiative was the idea of Roddy Llewellyn. Around the time of the millennium, when Roddy was living in Leafield, he gathered a team of friends to care for the station garden, and put up a flower-pot (still there) inside the station to collect funds. The inaugural team comprised Roddy, Sir Peter Parker, Judge Andrew Geddes and myself. Sir Peter used to turn up on a Saturday morning with his spade and fork in the boot of his Bentley. One Saturday he pierced a water pipe under the flowerbed with his fork. Somehow his experience as former Chairman of British Rail had prepared him for this as he was able to find the stop-cock near the road bridge. When this much-loved man died in 2002, the rail company put up a memorial plaque to him in the flowerbed, and we regard the garden as dedicated to him. His place on the garden team was taken by Hugh Phillimore, the distinguished organiser of events, which include the Cornbury Festival. And when Andrew Geddes retired from the team, his place was taken by the only professional gardener among us, Mark Waters from Leafield.

We meet up on a Saturday morning about once a month. An important element of our gardening is catching up on gossip. It's very social, and there are always friends getting on and off the trains. Mark is an ace clipper of the hedges. Hugh's favourite job (between trains) is clearing up the litter on the opposite side of the track. One major project was the restoration of the goldfish pond. It has proved so successful that the goldfish have bred prodigiously and we are thinking of ways to distribute surplus stock among the needy.



(L to R: Judge Andrew Geddes, Roddy Llewellyn, Andrew Lawson, Sir Peter Parker and a station employee. This picture was taken in 2001.)

*Andrew Lawson*

## **Report from District Councillor Glena Chadwick**

**tel: 01608 810555 email: chadwick@glena.plus.com**

One year on and many people are thinking about the flooding of last July, The Charlbury flood report has just been written and is soon to be made public. It contains an account of what happened and steps that have been taken since then and plans for the future. WODC received £600,000 from the government initially to help with flood recovery and has just received a further £61,000 from the EU. £50,000 has been spent clearing the ditches and culverts that are WODC's responsibility. In September there will be four meetings (trendily called 'roadshows') in West Oxfordshire which will be open to all, to meet officials and representatives from organisations and discuss matters relating to the flooding.

WODC has given the power to its enforcement officers to issue fixed penalties for dropping litter. I must confess that although I am passionately against litter (the area around the Co-op seems to get more awful every day) I spoke and voted against this measure. We were asked to agree with the handing out of fines of £70 for the dropping of one piece of litter; with the possibility that one would be given no chance to atone by picking up the litter and it would also not be taken into account if the person was a first offender and expressed remorse. I was assured that WODC would do it with a very 'light touch' but even so what I have just quoted was what we were being asked to vote for. There should be another way.

I am still involved in the Climate Change working party and have continued to hear some excellent presentations including one recently on carbon neutral houses. The new Local District Framework is being compiled and discussed at the moment and these issues will need to be incorporated into the planning system.

## **Report by District Councillor Mike Breakell**

**tel:01993 868201 michael.breakell@westoxon.gov.uk or mjbreakell@aol.com**

West Oxfordshire is currently preparing its Local Development Framework in accordance with national government policy. This will ultimately replace the existing Local Plan. The Council received a wide range of comments on the Issues and Options consultation which it recently prepared as part of the Core Strategy, and some additional suggestions have since been made to develop land including Charlbury quarry and land adjacent to Charlbury station to provide employment and housing. The Town Council has replied to the consultation and West Oxfordshire will, in due course, carry out further public consultation on all these submissions. At the same time the key issue of providing affordable housing is being considered, and Charlbury Town Council is currently looking at various locations with the support of the rural housing enabler at the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. All the options will then, in theory at least, conform to the Sustainable Community Strategies at District and County levels, and also fit within the South East Plan, where the emphasis is on major growth in established centres like Milton Keynes.

## **CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT No. 48**

The Town Council Annual Meeting with the newly elected Councillors (see the June issue of the *Charlbury Chronicle*) took place on 14th May when Nick Potter and Ron Prew were elected as Chairman and Vice - Chairman respectively for the 14th and 4th successive years. Appointments to the Council Committees and for Council nominations to other bodies were also made. All Councillors sit as Independents even if they are members of political parties. The Council recorded its thanks to former Councillors Carolyn Hazeel and Patricia Perry for their contributions over the last 4 years.

The Town Clerk is Roger Clarke, 9 Hill Close, Charlbury, Oxon. OX7 3SY. Tel: 01608 810608; email [charlburytc@btinternet.com](mailto:charlburytc@btinternet.com). He works on weekdays during normal working hours and is the person to address any problems or queries to in the first instance.

Any organisation which would like to be considered for a financial grant from the Town Council for the financial year 2009/10 must send their request, in writing, to the Town Clerk before 1st November 2008. Late applications cannot be considered. The Clerk can advise applicants on what the Council can support within the constraints of the Local Government Act.

Details of all Town Council meetings are displayed on the Council's three notice boards outside the Corner House, opposite Five Ways Stores and next to the Enstone Road bus stop. Members of the public are very welcome to attend meetings but if they want to address the Council (for up to 5 minutes before a meeting) they should give notice to the Town Clerk beforehand. The Council has a page on the Charlbury website.

Copies of the minutes of the Town Council's meetings are available in the Charlbury Library. The Town Clerk has details of the planning applications to be discussed and would welcome copies of any letters members of the public are sending to the District Council so that the Council can consider the points raised in these when discussing planning applications.

The Council would like to thank members of the Charlbury and District Garden Society for organising and judging the Best Kept Garden competition on behalf of the Council. They



must have had a difficult job as Charlbury residents are rightly proud of their gardens and hanging baskets.

The Council has been concerned about public transport and, aided by helpful suggestions from the public as the result of the public meeting and notices on the web site and at bus stops, we have sent a summary to the County Council and await the results of their deliberations. The Council is totally against any cut backs here.

The Council has opposed the proposed removal of the Ditchley Road telephone box.

Several members of the public have voiced their concerns about the state of the pavements and roads in Charlbury and the Town Council shares their concern. Removing litter is the responsibility of the District Council, and removing weeds from the pavements and gutters and keeping these and the roads in good repair is the responsibility of the County Council. The Town Council has continually complained to these bodies and will carry on doing so. Members of the public could help here by cleaning up after their dogs, cutting back their shrubs and plants to allow clear access to the pavements and roads and by not leaving their dustbins out on the pavements for any longer than is necessary.

*Councillor Nicolette Lethbridge*