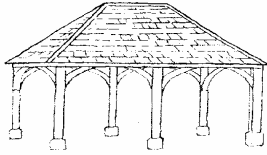


The Charlbury Chronicle



Volume 12 Number 2

June 2008

It was very satisfying to learn that almost 51% of Charlbury's voters went to the polls on Thursday May 1st. As a result, Glena Chadwick was returned as the District Councillor for our area, and twelve Town Councillors were elected. Congratulations to them all and we hope that these next four years will see great things happening in our town.

There was a most unfortunate lapse in delivery of many of the candidates' leaflets, when the company who were paid to do the deliveries either completely failed, or only did a partial job. We have therefore given two pages in this issue to a full description of all the councillors.

We are sorry to hear that Kat Patrick wishes to hand over her TotBits baton, and thank her very much for the splendid work she has done since her first contribution in September 2005. We very much hope that someone else will come forward to do this spot, directed at mothers of pre-schoolers. Whoever volunteers to

edit this section, she will join a long line of distinguished TotBits editors, starting with Alison Holthouse, followed by Louise Fordyce, then Alison Offer, who was succeeded by Kat.

Contributors to the Community Directory which is in our middle pages are reminded that this section is not the responsibility of the editor. We welcomed the Directory to our pages on the strict understanding that it would not add to the editor's burden, so we remind anyone who wishes to submit information to make direct contact by email to chamber@charlbury.info. If you wish to change your entry on the last page of the Directory please email jon@phoncoop.coop

We remind our contributors that the deadline for copy for the next, September edition, is **August 1st**.

Lynette Murphy

CHARLBURY GARDEN SOCIETY

The dates and venues for the two remaining Shows this year are:

SUMMER SHOW: 21 JUNE 2008 at the MEMORIAL HALL

The main classes for this Show are roses, sweet peas and early summer vegetables. There are also classes for other flowers. Schedules from local shops, the library or Nick Johnson (810507) Also children should bring their potatoes grown in the Great Potato Race for the grand weigh in.

ANNUAL FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW : 30 AUGUST 2008 at CHARLBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE)

This is the Society's main Show of the year. There are 99 different classes covering vegetables, flowers, floral arrangements, cookery, handicrafts and photography with 19 cups and cash prizes to be won. There are also special classes for children. Schedules from local shops, the library or Nick Johnson (810507).

Nick Johnson

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME OPEN GARDENS

The gardens at **The Priory, Gothic House in Park Street, Heathfield in Brown's Lane and Lydbrook, Crawborough** are open for the National Gardens Scheme from 2pm to 6pm on **Sunday June 22**



Teas in the Memorial Hall in aid of the Community Centre Appeal.



CHARLBURY MUSEUM NEWS

The Charlbury Museum is open during the summer every Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon. A special exhibition on gardens and gardening is being put together as the year advances - come and see what the latest items are.

PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL NOTE:

The annual Museum plant sale will take place on May 31st, starting at 10 a.m.

Charles Tyzack

CHARLBURY FARMERS' MARKET

Charlbury Farmers' Market will be held on the Playing Close on **Saturday June 14th** 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 future dates are September 13 and December 13.

CORNER HOUSE NEWS

The Committee asked users of the Memorial Hall to pay careful attention to the two following items:

- (a) The restoration of the Memorial Hall ceiling will be taking place in August. The repair is urgent and necessary, the work will begin on August 11th and we regret the inevitable inconvenience of the Hall not being available.
- (b) The other important item is the absolute necessity of a Personal Licensee for events which include alcohol, which is in accordance with the rules of the Memorial Hall.

Now that the summer season is here do remember how very pleasant it is to sit in the Courtyard Garden at the Corner House with its tables and chairs in an attractive setting.

Ann Gilbert

STREET FAIR 2008

CHARLBURY STREET FAIR 2008

This year's theme is 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'

CHARLBURY OPEN GARDENS ON SUNDAY JUNE 8th:

This is the 10th annual Open Gardens Day. To celebrate we are holding a **JAZZ LUNCH** - so come along early for a cool, relaxed, Jazz Lunch with Alan Fraser & Friends in the Memorial Hall at 12.30 pm.

Numbers are limited for the lunch and full details of bookings and prices will be displayed on the Corner House notice board and the Charlbury website, so put the date in your diaries **NOW**.

Garden tickets will be on sale at the Corner House from 1.30 pm and the gardens open from 2-6 pm – great raffle prizes – art displays by the children of Charlbury Primary School – teas and plant sale at the Memorial Hall.

For more information please contact Vic Allison 01608 811262 or email vic.allison@btinternet.com.

This year's Street Fair is to be held on Saturday September 20th, and we will have all the usual stalls, together with the evening parade and dancing in the street until 10pm. It always is a great day, so put this date in your diary and make sure you don't miss it. Organisations wishing to book a stall should contact Teresa on 811000 or by email at t.laughton768@btinternet.com

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF STREET FAIR and OPEN GARDENS, whilst intending to entertain local people, is to raise money for the upkeep of the Corner House and War Memorial Hall – the two community buildings that play such an important part in the lives of so many people in and around Charlbury.

HELP!!

We still need lots of help on Street Fair day. Have you wondered about helping with the Evening Parade – selling draw tickets – making cakes and selling teas, helping on the BBQ – to name but a few!

So to all of you, who enjoyed last 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 Susie Finch **NOW!** I look forward to hearing from you all. (susanna_finch@hotmail.com)

Susie Finch

N.B. Will residents of Church Street and Park Street please note that we have been granted road closure permission for the 20th September 2008 from 9 am to 10 pm

Excuses, excuses - Charlbury station's pavement

Charlbury is no longer 'home' as we recently sold the family house (Willow Cottage in Church Lane), but I came to Charlbury as a four year old. I have never stopped visiting Charlbury, usually by train. We always walk to and from the station, so I was annoyed when the approach road filled with parked cars. I now had small children and was concerned for their safety, especially on dark Friday evenings in the commuter rush.

My first letter asking for a pavement, in June 1995, to Thames Trains was passed to Railtrack. The response included "...both Thames Trains and Railtrack are aware that a foot-path would be useful..." and "...various difficulties such as the narrowness of the road...". At that time one could still walk on the grass verges, by daylight at least, if the road was busy. Too narrow? For what?

In April 1996 I wrote asking how many train travellers arrived and left on foot and by car. Railtrack didn't know, but told me "...it is hoped that something may happen when the car park is resurfaced. This is due to happen sometime in the current Financial Year."

By September 1997 the road had been resurfaced and widened, removing the grass verges. My letter to Railtrack was faxed to Thames Trains who told me "...they are planning to build concrete bollards to create a safe area for walking in the next few months". In February 1998 I tried again. Reply: "...it is unfortunate that you have not been able to report a visible difference for pedestrian users of the station.... new plans to be drawn up are on track to be in place later this year...the matter of pedestrian access to the station is one which is very important. Thames Trains is committed to this, and it will be assessed in the plans that are drawn up." In July 1999 this had become "... the matter of pedestrian access to Charlbury Station is still under review." In October 2000 "...there are plans to extend the car park at Charlbury Station. We will be acquiring additional land to carry out the extension and there are plans to reinstate the footpath." but also that it was unlikely to happen for another 12 months.

I moved from London to Oxford, but increasing visits to Charlbury as my parents aged set me off again. In February 2003 "*in response to an increased demand in customers using the station we widened the approach road to accommodate more parking spaces. Plans were considered to provide a pavement...but with costs estimated at over £500,000 this made the scheme impractical within the terms of our short term franchise. ...we found that the majority of customers arrived and departed by road*". I refrained from pointing out that people on foot also use the road but I know what they meant. People in cars make a fuss if they can't park. People on foot don't (usually) complain. In May 2004, I attended the Cotswold Line Promotion Group AGM in Moreton in Marsh, and was able to raise access on foot to stations with Alison Forster, Managing Director, First Great Western (FGW) (who replaced Thames Trains). She was enthusiastic, especially as she had just walked from the station in Moreton which also had no pavement. She promised to look into it. She seemed genuine. But this led to nothing: the company had other worries at the time.

So imagine my surprise, walking out of the station recently, to find a nice wide pavement joining up with the existing pavement on the main Burford Road... a pity my parents are no longer around to see it.

Rosamund Weatherall, Oxford April 2008

THE BIG SHED ADVENTURE

Thirty-three local teenagers will board a train to Edinburgh this August for an adventure of a lifetime; not only will they spend ten days at the world's largest arts festival, the Edinburgh Fringe; they will also get the chance to perform on stage in front of an international audience. These teenagers are all members of Charlbury's acclaimed youth theatre company Shed, an innovative group run by four dedicated volunteers. For most of these students, it will be the first time they have had to fend for themselves living away from their families. They will share flats in one of the University's halls of residence, shop for their own food, cook their own food, even, heaven forbid, wash their own dishes. In between their performances of Dylan Thomas *Under Milk Wood* they will have the chance to see acts from all over the world.

This isn't the first time Shed has appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe. Two years ago a group of students took a devised play *Victims of Freedom* to the Fringe and it was on the strength of their performances then that Shed was invited back this year. So what can this year's students expect? According to old hand Lucy Hadley, they are in for an incredible time: 'It was fantastic being together as a group. We were staying just fifteen minutes from the centre in five flats of five. And we had to do all our own cooking, so meals were sometimes a bit interesting, one of the boys didn't realise you had to skin and chop an onion before putting it into a spaghetti bolognese whole, and the boys certainly learnt how to stack their dirty dishes pretty high.'

'Edinburgh itself is such an inspiring place, so much going on, wherever you looked. It was hugely daunting finding yourself on stage in somewhere other than Charlbury! But a lot of friends and family came up to support us and we managed to get a reasonable audience each night. Every afternoon before the performance we had to go out on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh and hand out flyers to persuade people to come and see the show.'

Best moment – 'the champagne shower we had at the end of the run, on the Royal Mile, we were all jumping up and down with excitement.'

Worse moment – 'Getting up for a 7.30am technical rehearsal on the first morning, we were all so tired.'

What did the experience give you? – 'It was definitely character forming, it made us more independent; and helped us to pick up skills, not just acting skills, but how to sell ourselves.'

Any regrets? 'I wish I'd taken another Shed T-shirt, we had to wear them all the time to advertise ourselves!'

This year's trip to Edinburgh will cost Shed £16,000. The students are contributing £8000 (£250 each), leaving £8,000 to raise.

Our next Edinburgh fundraiser will be Cafe Couscous on Saturday 14 June. Come and join us at the Memorial Hall for an evening of songs, sketches, supper and more besides; featuring Mose Knows, Shanon Harris, Shed performers and Ian Cox. Tickets, including supper, cost £10 from News & Things or call Trish Fraser on 01608 810276

Kathryn Custance

Parish Boundary Walk 2008

After two 'blank' years it was gratifying to find 30 keen walkers gathering at the Oak Tree on Forest Hill to begin this year's walk. The sky was mostly covered in high cloud but the Met Office radar at 8.30 had shown Oxfordshire in an empty space between a rain area to the north west of us moving away and another over the English Channel moving to pass us by to the south east. So there was hope! Hope that proved justified by dry weather throughout and a sunny afternoon.

Some walkers left us along the way but were replaced by others including, at the Saltway, our Vicar, Judy French, and Associate Priest, Jan Fielden. At the Ditchley Road the party was also augmented by others who had walked out by more direct routes and we all enjoyed lunch on the lawn at The Model Farm, kindly hosted as usual by the Hobil family.

After lunch Judy conducted a short service for Rogation Sunday, and then she and Jan continued with us for part of the afternoon's walk; Jan left us at Enstone Road but Judy continued (through some of the more difficult terrain) to Spelsbury Road. After a few more fences and fields and the inevitable mud of Watery Lane the remainder of the party arrived back at Dyers Hill at about 4.30 after a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

Tony Graeme

FOLLOWING HIS DREAM

On Monday April 7th local apprentice blacksmith David Jones, of Nine Acres Close, was interviewed on the BBC's South Today news programme. It had come to their notice that while he was working at Tooley's Boatyard in Banbury he had decided he wanted to make himself a suit of armour! The *Charlbury Chronicle* asked David for a few words to explain the item "Since the short piece on local BBC news was broadcast, I have had a lot of people ask me, 'why do you want to make a suit of armour'? I can't really answer the question because honestly I can't imagine not wanting to - who wouldn't, given the opportunity? Perhaps that demonstrates particularly narrow vision, but it is something I have always wanted to try my hand at. I am delighted I finally have the chance and I'm currently thoroughly engrossed in the project. There are other incentives of course. I'm searching to apprentice to a blacksmith already operating their own business. I hope the armour will be a good portfolio piece to demonstrate my keen interest in metal working. To be honest I'm not generically fond of television at all - however, again I thought the chance of becoming known as someone looking for an apprenticeship outweighed my dislike of the medium."

MEALS ON WHEELS

Thank you to the volunteers who have helped get Meals on Wheels off to a successful re-start. Between kitchen help, delivery crews and our new cook, Meals on Wheels is delivering meals to over 20 people in Charlbury, Stonesfield, Chilson and Chadlington. We deliver meals on Tuesdays and the price is £2.50 per meal. If you know of someone who would appreciate a freshly cooked meal delivered to their door, please ring Marjorie Glasgow on 01608 810161. We have space for 8 more deliveries.

We would appreciate the help of a few more volunteers in the kitchen or on the delivery route once per month. We also need a reserve cook to help a few times a year when the cook is away on holiday. If you can help, please phone Jan Griffiths on 01608 810 440 or phone Marjorie on the number above.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

April brought about a stunning performance from Shed Theatre's Thursday group. The group of 13 to 16 years olds took on the challenging task of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing at The Memorial Hall. Directed by Teresa Laugh-ton with assistance from Sue Cochrane, the show captivated the audience with moments of high drama and comedy. Despite the ambitious choice of text, the group presented a professional and highly entertaining production of the Shake-speare romantic comedy. The Friday performance that I attended was a sell out and the audience was not disappointed! First on stage was Ciaran O'Connell, who skilfully took on the role of Leonato, the elderly governor of Messina, showing a mature and adept approach to the text. Two other memorable performances came from Sam Conway who played Benedick and Isobel Robertson as Bea-trice. The two characters are in denial about their affection for each other and both Sam and Isobel clearly enjoyed try-ing to outdo each other with competitive insulting banter. Music was brought by Becky Landale with a stunning vocal per-formance that sent shivers through the audience- spellbinding!

However the stars of the show, who had the audience in stitches, were the pairing of James Fox as Dogberry, the constable of The Watch, and Henry Dixon as his sidekick, Verges. Although Henry - at 13, the youngest member of the cast - had few words, his mastery of mime, silently shadowing Dogberry's every move with perfect comic timing, made the show for me.

Bryony Cunningham

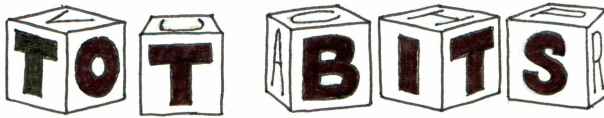
HEARING DOGS FOR DEAF PEOPLE

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People is a charity that trains young dogs and puppies to alert deaf people to everyday sounds, providing greater confidence, security and independence. We desperately need more volunteer puppy socialisers to give temporary homes to our young hearing dogs recruits who need love, support and a firm foundation to their training. All volunteers receive training, expenses, support - and our heartfelt thanks. If you think you could look after a new recruit for a few weeks, teach him basic obedience, introduce him to people and experiences, bring him to puppy classes at our centres, and return him for training as a hearing dog, please get in touch.

Ring 01844 348129; fax 01844 348101;
email puppy@hearingdogs.org.uk; or see
the website www.hearingdogs.org.uk

Bridewell Organic Garden

There will be two Open Afternoons this summer from 2 - 5pm on
13th July and 14th September



LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

Do you know how many libraries there are in Oxfordshire? How many mobile libraries? (Answers below.)

Did you know that you have access to **ALL** of them? The county's database is centralised, which means you can order any book from the collection, and whether it's usually housed in Sonning Common or some dusty storage shelf at central headquarters, you'll be able to have it delivered to Charlbury for the usual 3-week borrowing period. For children, this service is free.

I've used this service extensively when, for example, my son was suddenly very keen on the Jane Yolen books about dinosaurs ("How Do Dinosaurs Clean Their Rooms?", etc.), or when my daughter was in love with Jane Hissey and everything Little Bear. Since the collection and borrower services have become available on-line (you'll need a PIN – ask Penny), I can search and reserve over the internet at http://www.libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/viewpoint_server.sh, but for those less happy with technology, Penny can help you through the process as well.

Some branches hold regular storytime and rhymetime sessions, which you can find out about at <http://kidlib.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/LibraryForKids/>. Occasionally, the Charlbury branch holds one-off read-aloud sessions which are advertised on the Corner House window. These are usually well-attended and include crafts and refreshments.

For young children, there are Bookstart packs available at 12 months, 18-30 months, and 30-47 months. These are

generally supplied by a health visitor or pre-school, but if your child has missed out for some reason, you can obtain them from your local library. All you need is your child's red book when you make enquiries.

Under 4s can also take part in a Bookstart Crawl, where they collect a sticker for each visit to the library, and after receiving 5 stickers, they receive a lovely certificate of their choice.

Finally, each summer, the county libraries run a summer reading scheme. Collecting stickers during July and August lead to a medal and certificate, all of which encourage children to read for pleasure.

Of course, the library isn't just about books – there are DVDs and audio books as well as photocopying and computing facilities. Various leaflets are available about local activities and services, and places like Cogges Manor Farm advertise their upcoming programmes.

Check the website for branch opening times or pick up a leaflet from the library. Better yet, stop by and see Penny this Saturday morning and see what treasures are in store for your toddler.

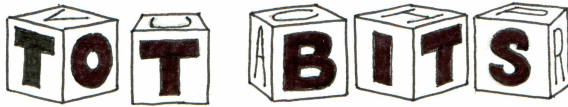
Kat Patrick 811660

kat.patrick@alumni.southwestern.edu

(Answers: 43 & 5 – boy, that's a lots-a libraries!)

MOVING ON

Would anyone like to write Tot Bits in the future? I've enjoyed my stint and would continue except that I'm no longer "in the



loop” of activities and offerings for toddlers in and around Charlbury. If you're interested, please drop me an e-mail or phone me.

LITTLE FISHES

NEW STARTING TIME!!! This great group for toddlers is now starting at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday mornings to allow mums and carers to pick up children from pre-school more easily. Children love to sing the songs and hear the stories, plus exercise their artistic abilities at craft time. You don't have to be someone's mum to bring a child along – childminders, gran-nies, 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!!! Babies are welcome, too. Contact Kate on 811579 for more information.

PRE-SCHOOL

Thanks, and thanks again (!!!) to the Charlbury Beer Festival for their kind donation of £308.52 which was used to purchase four mini-picnic tables to use in the garden. They were made especially by Eynsham Park Sawmill. 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 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.

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.

SPANISH FOR CHILDREN

The Spanish Club takes place every Saturday at the Old Grammar School in Charlbury (the Pre-School). There are several sessions grouped by age and ability where the aim is to provide an enjoyable environment in which the children can learn basic Spanish. For more information and to arrange a visit to a session, ring Elizabeth on 811128 or e-mail her at elivergaravera@hotmail.com.

Kat Patrick, 811660
kat.patrick@alumni.southwestern.edu

LIFE AT CHARLBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are now into the summer term and finer weather is bringing opportunities for the school community to enjoy lots of outdoor activities.

Hula Hoop Tournament

Visitors to the school will have noticed children enjoying hula hooping in the playground. New-found enthusiasm for this fun way to exercise was inspired by our school's entry into a county-wide hula hoop tournament. Children of all ages, girls and boys, practised for weeks in preparation for the event which was entered by fourteen primary schools altogether. Our hula hoop team thoroughly enjoyed the tournament held in Oxford and were delighted to come first, winning a magnificent trophy and a medal and gift voucher for each child.

May Day Festival

Early in May, we held a festival with all sorts of fun for the children, their families and school staff. Classes performed traditional country dances which many of us remembered from our own school days, plus modern variations of their own creation. The top year have been learning Morris Dancing with the Charlbury Morris Men and Wychwayz Border Morris team, and performed on the day. We plan for the festival to become an annual event which will be even more ambitious next year!

Have you got your Eco Bag?

We are always looking for ways to encourage the children to be good citizens, and a hugely important aspect of this is teaching them how to care for the environment through the message of "recycling, reducing and reusing". A practical example of how to reduce use of plastic carrier bags is Charlbury School's very own "eco bag". This attractive jute bag, decorated with children's designs, is for sale in many of the local shops. For a bargain price of £2, you can do your bit for the environment and show children that their actions can make a difference. (*see article from CAWAG on page 17. -Ed.*)

Charlbury School Association

The CSA would again like to thank the wider community for their continued support, this time for our most recent event, the Quiz Night. We plan to hold another later in the year so keep an eye out for the posters. Preparations are also in hand for an exciting Midsummer Concert, to be held at the school, by the acclaimed composer and pianist Lionel Sainsbury. The evening will include Lionel's South American Suite and music by Chopin, Schumann, Scarlatti and Debussy. This event will take place at 8.00 pm on Friday 20 June 2008. Tickets are on sale now at News and Things and from Liz Donnelly tel. 810056. In our spare time we are busy preparing for the Cornbury Music Festival, where we run the Tea Tent. Our target this year is to bake 400 cakes to be consumed over the festival weekend. See you there!

Future parents: for a copy of our school prospectus,
contact Mrs Steele at the school office, tel. 810354.

Suzy Middleton-Heath

GRANDMA'S RECOMMENDATION

Our grandchildren, aged 4 and 2, came to stay with us over the Easter holiday and because it was so cold we looked for some indoor entertainment. We decided on the University Museum of Natural History in Oxford. This had the added attraction of going into Oxford by double-decker bus from the Pear Tree Park and Ride. This was a great success. We managed to get the front seats upstairs and the children were transfixed until we arrived at our stop opposite the old John Radcliffe hospital. From here it was an easy walk through to Parks Road and the Museum. Once inside the children went straight to the dinosaurs and were gazing in wonder at the huge skeletons. The 2 year old could not manage to say dinosaurs but he let us know what he wanted to do by asking, 'More didors'. Our granddaughter was fascinated by the simulated birth of a dinosaur roaring as it came out of the egg. The 2 year old was not so sure about this. The museum received The Guardian Family Friendly Museum Award in 2005 and it is great that there are some things and animals that can be touched either with one figure or stroked with the whole hand. Always having been afraid of snakes, I took the opportunity to stroke the skin of a snake and was amazed to find that it was smooth rather than scaly. When we had looked at much of the ground floor the children wanted to see more and we went up to the butterfly and bug section. On the way up the stairs there is glass panel where you can see bees in the hive. The beautifully coloured replicas of butterflies and the preserved exhibits of flies and beetles held their interest and the glass cabinets are designed so that the two year old can look in from the side.

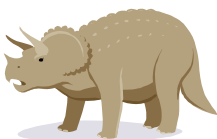
After over 2 hours we decided it was time to walk into the Broad in Oxford for tea. As we came out of the museum we saw the replica footprints of either a Megalosaurus or possibly a Cetiosaurus. These footprints had been found in Ardley, 20 kilometres northeast of Oxford. It was great to compare the size of your foot with that of the dinosaur. After a reviving tea it was time to go home and yes – another ride on the doubledecker. A great day out!

Upside Free entry. Friendly atmosphere. Excellent presentation and there is still the Pitt-Rivers section to explore.

Downside No café or restaurant but one is being planned.

Diana Potten

The University Museum of Natural History,
Parks Road, Oxford.
Tel:01865 272950; www.oum.ox.ac.uk
Daily 10.00-17.00



Reflexology is an ancient complementary therapy which can trace its roots back to the civilisations of ancient China and Egypt some 5000 years ago. Reflexology works on the premise that all organs, glands and areas of the body have reflex points in the feet. Stimulating these reflexes by applying gentle pressure brings about a state of deep relaxation, stimulates the body's own healing process and helps the body return to a natural state of balance and well-being. Reflexology is a holistic, non-invasive therapy which re-balances the spiritual, mental and physical in a single treatment.

Reflexology can help people of all ages. It can bring relief from a wide range of acute and chronic conditions. Many people find reflexology a particularly effective way of alleviating stress and any related symptoms. It can also be beneficial for many common complaints such as asthma, eczema and migraine.

The initial consultation and treatment lasts for an hour and a half, subsequent sessions last for an hour. Following a treatment you should feel thoroughly relaxed and invigorated. You should experience calm and a feeling of well-being, as stress and tension are relieved and your blood circulation is improved, leaving all the systems of your body functioning fully and in their natural equilibrium.

For further details or to book an appointment (including a free initial consultation), please call: 01608 810069 email: info@lucyrobertson.co.uk or visit my website: www.lucyrobertson.co.uk I am a full member of the Association of Reflexologists and studied at the Oxford School of Reflexology.

SUSTAINABLE CHARLBURY

Thursday 5th June: FILM SCREENING: 'The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream'. Come along to this critically acclaimed documentary at 7.30pm in The Cornbury Room at The Bell. Tickets £3, available on the door.

Sunday 29th June: Trip to Friar's Court Farm. We have organized a tractor and trailer tour of this beautiful farm, which practices many conservation techniques. You will be able to see how willow is grown as a biomass crop and solar and wind power in action. The tour itself will cost £6.50 and the farm also offers a selection of homemade cream teas. To book a place or for more information contact Tim Crisp on 810 716 or email tcrisp.wb@virgin.net.

There's still time to get involved in our new project to complete energy audits on homes of different sizes and types in Charlbury. The audit will include a survey by a company who can then offer either grant-assisted or free loft and cavity-wall insulation. We can also help with grants towards new energy-efficient boilers, light-bulbs and the loan of an Electrisave real-time electricity use monitor. If you are interested in having an audit done, please contact either Liz on 811212 or Dorrie on 07866 663810.

Dorrie Johnson

AT LAST - REFRESHMENTS AT CHARLBURY STATION

A long overdue and welcome addition to Charlbury Railway Station has arrived in the shape of a mobile refreshments facility operating on the station car park. A new venture for proprietors Mike and Joanne Horry, and complementing their facility at Moreton-in-Marsh Railway Station, **Diplomats' Refreshments** offers a range of quality teas, Italian style coffee and light snacks.

Why the name Diplomats' Refreshments? Delving into the history of coffee in England, the name of the Elizabethan diplomat Sir Anthony Sherley leapt from the pages. A character of roguish repute he left England with permission to tour Europe. Finally ending up as the self-appointed Diplomat to Her Majesty's Court in Persia, he pocketed some coffee beans, returned home expecting glory only to be sent to the Netherlands - without his coffee!

Diplomats' extends a warm welcome to travellers by rail or foot and intends to send all its patrons to whatever destination - even the Netherlands - with a cup of excellent coffee, tea or hot chocolate. Open for the first train to Paddington until 1040, Monday to Friday, we are a 'work in progress', relying on comments and suggestions from customers to provide the light refreshment and food items they wish to start their journey.

Our mobile facility is also available for hire at weekends.

Mike Horry (07988 588044)

JOHN STANLEY'S WEATHER REPORT: February 2008 was a little above average month at 47.03° (1989-2007 average 46.19°). Daytime maximum temperatures ranged from 36° on 19th to 53° on 22nd and 26th. The night minimum temperature range was between 21° and 46°. **March 2008** was somewhat below average at 49.42° (1989-2007 average 51.44°). Daytime maximum temperatures ranged from 42° on 22nd to 56° on 15th and 30th. At night, minimum temperatures were between 26° and 46°. What a difference a year makes. You may recall that April 2007 recorded a record high average of 62.77°, with 60° being reached on 25 days. **April 2008** was completely different. The average daytime maximum was 55.00° (1989-2007 average 56.69°). Temperatures ranged from 40° on 6th to 67° on 26th and 27th and 60° was only achieved on 4 days. At night, the range was 29° to 50°.

Charlbury now has its own reusable jute shopping bag

Bags are available for £2 from Charlbury School, News & Things, Good Food Shop, Post Office, Cotswold Frames, Evenlode Books, Co-Op, and Londis. Produced by the Charlbury Area Waste Action Group (CAWAG) and funded as a Community Action Group Project - all the money raised goes to the school's Eco Project.

The bags show the faces of 60 children in years 5 & 6 in July 2007. The ACT NOW side shows our enormous footprint on the world - this includes pollution, use of resources, and climate change - it swamps the continents and even affects Antarctica. The other side shows a more hopeful future where we have reduced our impact, the continents are visible again and the future is safe. See www.cwag.org.uk for the original drawings. Over the summer, use the bag in local shops and, when you spend over £4, collect a numbered voucher (each showing a face) worth 5p redeemable at CAWAG's stall at Street Fair in September (or donate to the School). The numbers will also go into a free prize draw for prizes donated by the shops.

The bags were supplied by the Oxford company, Canby, made ethically in India and shipped by sea - a two month trip but a much smaller carbon footprint than flying. Besides being very hard wearing, jute is very good environmentally, it doesn't need pesticides, fertilisers or irrigation (intensively grown cotton uses 1/3 of the world's fertilisers and pesticides). When the bag eventually wears out, the jute can be composted and the plastic lining recycled.

Christine Elliott

CHARLBURY & DISTRICT GARDEN SOCIETY

Congratulations everyone who has taken up the two Children's Challenges this year! There are 83 entrants for The Great Potato Race and 50 for The Tallest Sunflower challenge.

Remember:

1. Potato crops will be weighed at the Summer Show on June 21st between 2pm and 3.30pm.
2. To register your sunflower for judging phone 01608 811006 on or before Sunday 24th August.

Also

Look out for details of a **children's practical workshop afternoon** at the end of August to make something to enter for the Autumn Show on 30th August - a vegetable monster maybe, or create a picture with flowers and leaves, or a clay model and more...

Wendy Clifford
811006

Use it, or lose it!

EVENING BUS TIMES from Oxford (bus station) to Charlbury:

21:45 arriving 22:35

23:45 arriving 00:31



Single fare £3.20
(return £5).

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

ADULT LEARNING COURSES SUMMER 2008

We have lots of learning opportunities planned for Chipping Norton and the surrounding area for the summer term. Courses generally run for 5 – 10 weeks, but if you have less time to spare, we have lots of one-day workshops on offer:

Creative Courses:

Summer Drawing & Watercolour (Mondays, 13:00 – 15:15 at Hook Norton Primary School); **Summer Creative Embroidery** (Mondays, 14:00 – 16:00 at Charlbury Corner House); **Summer Drawing – improvers 2** (Tuesdays, 14:00 – 16:00 at Chipping Norton Adult Learning); **Summer Drawing & Painting** (Wednesdays, 12:00 – 14:30 at Charlbury Memorial Hall); **Summer Drawing – improvers 1** (Wednesdays, 14:00 – 16:00 at St. Hugh's Church Hall, Woodstock); **Weaving Workshop – beginners 1** (Thursdays, 09:30 – 13:30 at Charlbury Memorial Hall); **Summer Acrylics** (Thursdays, 13:00 – 15:00 at Chipping Norton Adult Learning); **Stained Glass – beginners 2** (Thursdays, 19:00 – 21:00 at Chipping Norton School); **Watercolour Painting** (Fridays, 09:15 – 11:15 at Spelsbury Village Hall); **Summer Drawing & Watercolour** (Fridays, 13:00 – 15:00 at Sibford Village Hall).

Computing and Languages:

Computing for Small Businesses (Tuesdays, 19:00 – 21:00 at Chipping Norton School); **Spanish – Practice makes Perfect** (Tuesdays, 19:00 – 21:00 at Chipping Norton School); **Italian Practice Makes Perfect** (Tuesdays, 19:15 – 21:15 at Charlbury Primary School); **Spanish Making it Work** (Thursdays, 19:00 – 21:00 at Chipping Norton School); **French Making it Work** (Thursdays, 19:00 – 21:00 at Chipping Norton School);

Healthy Living/Wellbeing:

Develop your Tai Chi (Wednesdays, 10:00 –

11:30 at Charlbury Methodist Hall); **Introduction to Tai Chi** (Wednesdays, 11:45 – 12:45 at Charlbury Methodist Hall); **Family History – another dimension** (Thursdays, 14:00 – 16:00 at Oxfordshire Museum)

Family Learning Activities:

Performing Arts, the Voice and Movement (Saturday 7th June, 10:00 – 16:00 at Chipping Norton School); **Circus Skills of the Clown and Minor Magic** (Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th July at Chipping Norton School)

One-day Workshops at the Oxfordshire Museum:

Sartre and Existentialism (Saturday 31st May, 10:00 – 16:00); **A Cold and Late Country of Bad Reputation** (Saturday 7th June, 10:00 – 16:00); **Aromatherapy and Massage** (Saturday 14th June, 10:00 – 16:00); **Sickness and Health in Oxfordshire** (Saturday 28th June, 10:00 – 16:00); **Life Drawing – advanced** (Saturday 5th July, 10:00 – 16:00)

For further details, or to enrol, please call our enrolment line on 0845 351 0646 or visit our website at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/adultlearning.

Zoe Proffitt, Admin Manager
Chipping Norton, Charlbury & Hook Norton Adult Learning

CHARLBURY BOWLS CLUB

Members are enjoying the start of the outdoor season, with friendly games against local clubs. The Ladies are having a regular “roll up” on Thursdays, with their matches to start soon. The Men's Oxford League matches start soon and we are hoping for a good year for all our teams. The weather has been kind to us so far, with the hope of more to come.

CLUBS, GROUPS, SOCIETIES

The annual Open Day was held in April, with a good attendance. A few new faces tried their hand at this delightful game, and we hope to welcome many more through the season. 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! We are looking forward to good weather, and an enjoyable summer's bowling. 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

The Club suffered a temporary setback at the start of the year when it became clear that we would not be able to build our new pavilion in time to be used this season. The delay will however enable us to continue fundraising and should ensure that when the building is finally unveiled it will be fully equipped and finished to a very high standard. The current intention is to begin constructing the new pavilion soon after the end of this season, with the expectation that it will be ready for action by the start of the 2009 campaign.

Our fundraising effort was given a real boost in April when Henry Olonga, the former Zimbabwean Test cricketer, came to Charlbury to perform a special concert in aid of the Club. Nearly 150 people packed into St. Mary's Church to hear Henry sing (and talk about his life) and he certainly captivated a highly appreciative audience with his superb singing voice and fund of cricketing stories. Thanks to all those who attended this event: more

than £900 was raised and we are very grateful for your continuing support. We are also delighted that the Eleventh Charlbury Beer Festival will be held at the cricket ground on 12th July this year. The Beer Festival Committee made a very generous donation to the Club as a result of last year's festival and we hope that our mutually beneficial arrangement will continue for many years to come.

Derek Collett

ARTWEEKS 2008

During Oxfordshire's Visual Arts Festival, May 10th to 18th, the following participants from Charlbury were:

Maureen Sparling (botanical watercolours) at 1 Church Lane;

Jenny Haxworth, Vi Welbourn, Jennifer Bartlett (ceramics and pottery) at Providence House, Sheep Street

Joan Marsh (textiles) at Wychwood Cottage, Hixet Wood;

Ian Phillips and John Corlett (photography) at The Bell Hotel, Church Street;

Andy Hopkins (sculpture, carving and installation) at The Garden House, Market Street;

Mark Wilson and Hilary Lade (furniture and wood) at 15 Evenlode Close;

Colin Robson (painting and drawing) 3 Forest Court, Dyers Hill;

Sarah Pulvertaft (jewellery & metalwork) at The Workshop, Rangers Lodge

Maureen Sparling

If you would like to submit information for this section, please contact Julia Caston (810240)

CHARLBURY BEER FESTIVAL "11"

No, it's not the name of a group of wrongly convicted innocents, nor a new cricket team - although cricket is involved - But 12th July does mark the 11th Annual Charlbury Beer Festival and the



CBF committee wants everyone to know! The Cricket connection relates to the decision, after the hugely successful 10th festival was limited by congestion at the Memorial Hall, to move this year – to Charlbury Cricket Club, and we encourage even more of you to join us! What could be better on a July summer afternoon, than to spend it alongside the beautiful River Evenlode, sampling the 40 different English ales and 6 ciders we intend to dispense, taking part in all the fun and listening to good music – and having a chance to watch a great game of cricket. We expect to have the usual activities with children's entertainment, good local food, and a friendly atmosphere, hopefully with new activities like Skittles and Aunt Sally competitions – with prizes – going on all day.

Let's make this the best festival yet, and raise even more money for good causes in Charlbury. The festival has helped with a variety of projects this year at Charlbury Primary School, Charlbury playgroup, Shed Theatre, and Charlbury Cricket Club, and we hope your support will make it possible for us to support even more local activities in 2008 - 9.

If you want more information, or would like to join us as a sponsor please contact us via the stylishly revamped website <http://www.charlburybeerfestival.org/>. Alternatively contact our Chairman, Dave Sangwine.

Dave Sangwine

OXFORDSHIRE FAMILY MEDIATION

Oxfordshire Family Mediation was set up in 1989 to meet an urgent need for a service that helped and supported separated parents to communicate and decide about arrangements for children post separation and to enable them to continue to parent and support their children in the best possible way - at a time when emotional resources may be low and conflict, sadly, high. Children can suffer enormously if they are caught in the middle of family conflict. Children's needs after separation are absolutely central to the focus of the service. We offer:

- high quality professional mediation to parents, to support and enable them to decide all practical matters, such as children's arrangements and finance, by agreement;

- a Children's Service, which offers sessions to children to help them talk through the changes in their families;

- a Schools Link Project, which offers training to school staff and other professionals about the impact of separation on children and how children can best be helped. We will also shortly be taking a drama project into schools in the Banbury area to help children talk about coping with separated parents and following this up with individual sessions to children in the same schools over the next school year.

For more information – if you would like to use our service or if you are interested in supporting Oxfordshire Family Mediation – please contact Emma Knight at admin@ofm.org.uk; tel: 01865 741781



The Riverside Festival to those who attend, has become the highlight of Charlbury summertime. A time to invite friends and family from afar to wile the hours away on an island in some of the most beautiful countryside this land has to offer. A time to listen to music, eat good food, let your children run free and relax. A time to forget Monday mornings at the train station, Wednesday afternoons at the supermarket, your normal clothes..... It's time to dig out your festival hat, sun shades and embarrass your kids with your 'hippy' dancing!

Charlbury hosts one of the last free festivals around, something to be proud of. This fact ensures that it remains one of a kind, not another Reading nor Glastonbury, but a warm friendly countryside gathering. A lot of people put their time into organizing the festival for free. If you feel you can help prior, during or after the festival please call Chris Johnson on 07979503555.

This year's date is 21st and 22nd of June, summer solstice. The times are 2:00 till 10:00, Saturday. 11:00 till 8:00, Sunday. Let us not forget the ethos of The Riverside festival...enjoy...relax...be happy... Be proud.

Andy Pickard

(We are also pleased to announce that we will be running our Riverside Stage again this year at a larger warm, friendly countryside gathering at Cornbury on 5th and 6th of July.)

More Charlbury verse

The new collection of poetry by Charlbury people and those with a close connection to the town looks like being every bit as good as the first volume. We already have more than fifty contributions from around twenty people, with Charlbury-related poems coming from as far afield as Florida and Australia. But we would welcome more submissions still.

Please send by e-mail to John Carpenter via poems@evenlodebooks.co.uk before the end of June.

Rob Stepney

The Burford Singers' summer

concert (Midsummer Serenade) will take place at 7.30 pm on Sunday 29th June 2008 in Burford Parish Church. Conducted by Brian Kay and featuring the Wind Quintet *Harmonie-musik*, the concert will feature music by Bach, Elgar, Ravel, Farkas and Samuel Barber, and *A Cycle round Britain*, arrangements for voices and wind of folk songs from every corner of the UK. Tickets available at the door, or reservable in advance at the Red Lion Bookshop, 122 High Street, Burford.

Any singers interested in joining the choir of 100 members should contact Janet Jeffs, Elmstead, Crawborough, Charlbury. Membership is reviewed in the summer and places may be available from September (no auditions). Next season's concerts will feature Haydn's *Creation*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Monteverdi's *Vespers*. More information available on www.wospweb.com.

Janet Jeffs

Letters to the Editor

From Mr Marty Moon

I would like to thank you for your help in placing my Letter to the Editor in the March edition of the *Charlbury Chronicle*. Mr. Dennis (Den) Welch contacted me and was able to assist me in finding my Winter family historical records. Mr. Welch did this on top of doing genealogical work on his mother's (the Weaver's) side of the family. The Winter family has lived in the Charlbury area dating back to 1774. This earliest record was a marriage record of Samuel Winter and Mary White getting married in Chadlington on June 9th, 1774. Samuel and Mary would be my five great-grandparents on my grandmother's side (Her maiden name was Grace Winter). My great-grandfather was Ted Winter and his father was Charles Winter. Charles Winter moved to the Iowa in the United States with his family of thirteen sons in the early 1880's. If there are any Winter's still in the area, I am most likely related to them. Martha Turner who lived in Enstone was the wife of Charles Winter. I still hope to find out more about Martha Turner and her family, but that gives me something else to do later. My father Ted Moon, may travel to Charlbury either this summer or next. Hopefully, he can meet you and Den Welch. I would like to thank you, the *Charlbury Chronicle*, and Den Welch again.

17070 Foxton Drive

Parker, Colorado, USA 80134

marty.moon@comcast.net

Telephone number: 303-805-4432

From Mr Terry Parsloe

Your article about Amy Gomm in the March edition of the *Charlbury Chronicle* ('*Singled Out*' - *Radio 4 Book of the Week*) was of great interest to me since she was almost certainly my father's cousin. I recall that, as a child and later in

life, my mother and father spoke of her and other relatives in the Gomm family. Since you asked for any information relating to the Gomms, perhaps Rachael Farr might find the following of interest: My father (Darrell Parsloe, born 1907, Milton) was the youngest of ten children born to Adolphe Parsloe (b 1864, Milton) and Selina Louisa Gomm (bapt. Charlbury 1865). Selina had a number of siblings of whom Arthur Ernest (bapt. Charlbury 1873) was certainly one. The following names passed to me by Leah Fowler come from baptism records at Charlbury and are likely to be siblings or cousins of Selina: Charles Frederick (1858), Andrew (1861), George Octavias (1863, Emily (1867) Benjamin Francis (1870, Annie Ellen (1877). Among other Gomm relatives was one who established a furniture business in High Wycombe which became famous for the G-plan range. Other Gomms known to me were Freda Gomm, who lived on Dyers Hill, and one who married C A Stayte, Gents Outfitter in Sheep Street (there is a advertisement for C A Stayte in John Kibble's 'Charming Charlbury' published by Wychwood Press)....' *These are just some of Terry Parsloe's memories and he would be glad to discuss his findings further if anyone is interested. His address is Corrientes, Chemin des Caravasses, Quartier St Paul, 13250 St Chamas, France. His telephone number is (0033) 490504083.*

From Dee Moss

I sent last issue's letter from a US visitor to Charlbury to Ellie in the States. We've been pen-friends for 70 YEARS! War-time food parcels contained boxes of dried fruit which held hidden nylon stockings, first I'd seen. She married the year before me and lent me her wedding dress, saving

Letters to the Editor (cont'd)

me clothes coupons. A few years later she wrote to say they were saving for a special event. As they had cold winters I knitted many baby garments but before they were posted we received a photo of the expected baby - it was a Pontiac car ! Letters flew between us but we've never met, having produced seven sons, three for me and four for her. We had much in common, our faith, love of gardening. Her husband was an accountant, mine worked in a bank. But as the years grew busier our letters dwindled. In the end we were writing for birthdays and Christmas and just special occasions. Then we bought our first pc, and discovered we could email each other. Once more letters fly back and forth, but faster now. When I read the letter describing Charlbury I thought I must airmail it to her so that she learns what a great little town this is.

Little did I think, as a ten year old that my penfriend would enrich my life for so long !

*Heatherside,
Enstone Road*

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

Among West Oxfordshire District Council's Annual Award Winners 2008 was **Steve Deeley**. He received the Sports Person of the Year Award for his 'commitment and continuing support at all levels within Charlbury Town Youth Football Club'.

WHAT'S ON AT CORNBURY PARK

JUNE 28th: Once again Cornbury Park is hosting the launch of the Oxford Shakespeare Company's season with an open air production of **Twelfth Night** on the afternoon of June 28th. As Lady Rotherwick says 'their productions are always magical and fabulously enjoyable for all ages'. Children are very welcome, and you are invited to picnic in the garden beforehand.

Tickets and further information are available from
www.oxfordshakespearecompany.co.uk

JULY 7th and 8th - the Cornbury Festival;

Impressario Hugh Phillimore says 'Something very special we've been waiting for ...After months of negotiation we're totally proud to announce that **Paul Simon** is going to headline the Saturday night of our Cornbury Festival. Other artists over the weekend of **July 5th and 6th** will include Crowded House, 10cc, KT Tunstall, Beverley Knight, The Bangles, Toots & The Maytals, Nick Lowe, and The Beat - more fun than you can possibly imagine!! Check out our website and get your tickets now as this is truly going to be the hottest ticket of the season.'

ChOC: CHARLBURY'S OWN CINEMA

ChOC has been screening films for three years now but this year it came of age with its first AGM! A new constitution was put in place, future strategy agreed and a committee elected. This will put us in a better position to apply for various grants. Putting on a film each month incurs considerable expense, from obtaining the viewing rights to paying for the projectionist and renting the hall. If at some time in the future we can buy our own screen and projecting equipment we hope we can reduce this monthly outlay and increase the scope of our activities.

Another new initiative: carnets of 10 tickets will shortly be made available for purchase at £3.50 per ticket. These will be for use at any film at any time and will overcome the problem of people being unexpectedly left with unused tickets. Tickets for individual films will be available in the usual way.

The current committee consists of Margaret Godel (Chair), Ed Fenton, Hilda Reed, Angela Gwatkin, David Homewood, Judith Dod, and Philip Iredale who has liaised between us and the Memorial Hall Committee. Our saddest news, however, has been the death of Jean Westley who joined us at the beginning of this year. Her passing has come as a great shock to us. We will miss her and our sympathies are with her family and all those who knew her.

Our summer programme: June 15th, *Brick Lane*; July 12th, *Away From Her*, for which Julie Christie won Best Actress awards; on August 10th we hope to show *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. Coming up in September, *The Oxford Murders*.

ChOC films are shown at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall. Tickets can be bought on the

door, or in advance, from News & Things, Cotswold Frames and Evenlode Books. For further information about ChOC or about 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. A monthly email newsletter is sent to all members of our audiences who give us their email addresses. Contact Hilda on 01608 810423 if you wish to be added. For those without access to email, copies are made available in the Corner House.

Hilda Reed



'Walking on Nineacres Recreation Ground,' says **Judy Hollings**, 'I still miss the two seats which were destroyed by vandals last summer, and pondering this senseless behaviour, came up with the following reflection:'

Why do some children feel the urge to
smash and trash things
And wantonly break, not make things?
The police say 'we must catch them in the act
And when we get there, they're long gone
in fact'
I confront them if I dare
They have another need, to scare,
And so they go on their way
with nobody to say
'No' or 'that's wrong of you and bad'
Their anger is intractable, and sad.
We are blamed for letting them be bored
And yet we know this argument is flawed
Their anger, boiling over, comes from
deeper needs
But how to deal with this and who
succeeds
Seems quite beyond the wit of most of us.
And so I sigh, walk on and feeling help-
less, never make a fuss.....

THOMAS GIFFORD CHARITY

A public meeting was held in February at the Memorial Hall to provide an update on the Charity, to introduce the architect selected to assist the trustees in the development of the Spendlove site, and to give those present an opportunity to offer thoughts for community facilities on that site. Since that meeting the trustees and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) have signed a Cooperation Agreement to promote enabling residential development which will generate funds for the Charity to provide community facilities for the town. Under this agreement OCC will fund a new library and adult education accommodation as part of the development. The Charity will also retain ownership of the freehold of Spendlove site and charge ground rents which will provide income to support its primary objective of maintaining the Playing Close. It is further intended to relocate on the site, if possible, the Sports and Social Club as part of the new community facilities. During March a major consultation event was held at The Bell providing sessions for the Sports & Social Club, sports groups, performing arts groups and societies, other potential user groups and interested parties to offer their views to the architect on what they would like to see on the Spendlove site in terms of the shape and nature of the community facilities. Further architect meetings were arranged with OCC staff to discuss their requirements for the new library and adult education rooms and with 'neighbours' of the development site such as the owners of Spendlove offices, the Co-op, WODC (as owners of the Car Park) and the vice-chairman of Nine Acres Management Committee. The architect, David Saxby of 00/: Architects, has taken all this input on board and is in the process of preparing an overall scheme for the trustees to review prior to further discussion with the planners. In this process the trustees are mindful that it is important for the Spendlove scheme to be complementary to existing facilities and other schemes in the town. At the same time the trustees are exploring with potential developers the most appropriate mix of residential development for the site bearing in mind the need to create optimum value for the Charity and the desire to ensure a set of buildings which meets leading sustainable development practices.

As at the end of March the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal had raised over £127,000. We are very pleased that Lynette Murphy and Diana Potten have decided to resume their coordination of the Appeal as we are now over half way to its target. Once the Spendlove scheme has been agreed in outline, the trustees will arrange a meeting of groups interested in the proposed community facilities to secure their commitment to fund raising activities and help move the Appeal rapidly to its target. We thank too West Oxfordshire District Council and Charlbury Town Council for their continued support. The Leader Plus grant of £4500 has supported the architect consultation process and was funded by SEEDA. Your views on the requirements for community facilities on the Spendlove site are always welcome and you can send them to me on trevor.jones@ophiopogon.com or at Heathfield, Browns Lane. The Playing Close is available for public events. We do rely on donations from such events and grants for the use and maintenance of the Playing Close at present – the Town Council has very kindly provided a grant towards grass cutting, but we do have other costs such as maintenance, insurance and charity administration. Remember the Farmer's Market on Saturday June 14th.

The Charity has a new secretary - Helen Wright of 35 Hughes Close (01608 811485). We wish to thank Annette Cooper for her valuable work over the last two years.

Trevor Jones, Chairman of the Trustees



CHARLBURY WENT TO THE POLLS IN THE DISTRICT AND LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON MAY 1ST 2008



Here are the full results:

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
Glena Chadwick (Lib/Dem) 883 votes, held the seat

Gill Hill (Conservative) 639 votes

There was a 51.6% turnout

CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL ELECTION

Nick Potter	741
Susie Finch	643
Ian Cox	597
Valou Pakenham-Walsh	554
John Harrison	552
Reg James	544
Liz Reason	542
Willem Hackmann	520
Ron Prew	515
Helen Bessemer-Clark	509
Gareth Miller	445
Nicolette Lethbridge	425

KNOW YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

It is not unknown to hear people in Charlbury saying that they have no idea who their Town Councillors are. The *Charlbury Chronicle* aims to put that right after this recent election by giving details of all twelve successful candidates. The last election, when there was a choice to be made from 17 candidates, was in 2000. There were not enough candidates to require an election in 2004, so those who were elected in 2000 continued to serve and others were co-opted to take the place of those who stood down. Of our newly elected Town Council some (Nick Potter, John Harrison, Willem Hackmann and Ron Prew) remain from the 2000 election. Others (Susie Finch, Ian Cox, Reg James and Nicolette Lethbridge) were co-opted at various times as vacancies occurred. On May 1st this year there were fifteen candidates for the twelve places.

Nick Potter: Nick is married to Sarah, has three children and lives at Lees Rest. He has served on the Town Council as Chairman since 1995, and has served on all its sub-committees. Outside his Council work, he has wide experience on a great number of committees which reflect his military and farming interests.

Susie Finch: Susie has lived in Charlbury for 25 years, is married to Simon and has 2 children. She has always been involved in aspects of Charlbury life, most notably with CADS and the Street Fair committee. She has served on the Town Council since 2002.

Ian Cox: Ian has lived here since 1996, is married to Sue and has 2 children. He was co-opted on to the Town Council in 2004. Ian works in the construction and development industry, and is a Thomas Gifford Trustee much involved with the new Community Centre project.

Valou Pakenham-Walsh: Valou, born and raised in France, is married to Neil and has lived here for twelve years. She works as an independent translator. She believes that the Town Council is a bridge between the local people and the District and County Councils and is looking forward to learning the workings of local government.

John Harrison: John has lived all his life in Charlbury and has served on the Town Council for twenty years, and for a period was Chairman.

Reg James A retired architect, Reg was co-opted on to the Town Council in 2001. He and his wife Ann moved from Oxford to Charlbury in 1996. His interests lie mainly in planning issues, where he feels his experience is valuable. Aside from his Council activities he produces Energy & CO₂ Emissions software for architects.

Liz Reason: Liz has lived in Charlbury with her husband Steve and two children since 1991. She works as a consultant in energy and climate change, and as a Gifford Trustee she is acting as the champion for the sustainability of the proposed Community Centre. She is a founder member of Sustainable Charlbury.

Willem Hackmann: Willem has lived in Charlbury with Ann and his family since 1996 and chose a house where all his family could live around him. He is a Gifford Trustee and is committed to bringing the Community Centre project to a successful conclusion.

Ron Prew: Ron has been a town councillor since 1995. He is married to Pat and he has lived here for most of his life. He has been Vice Chairman of the Town Council. As Curator of Charlbury Museum he has been responsible for bringing it to its present excellent state.

Helen Bessemer-Clark: Helen is a relative newcomer to the town and hopes to bring 'a fresh point of view to some of the local discussions'. She has served as a magistrate in Norfolk and London; has worked for the Foreign Office; is a Witness Support Officer at Oxford Crown Court and secretary to the Friends of the Ashmolean.

Gareth Miller: Gareth has lived in Charlbury for twelve years, and his children have attended the Primary School. He works as a freelance teacher of English to foreign students, and as a carer for people with learning difficulties. Many will know him as an organist at St Mary's.

Nicolette Lethbridge: Nicolette and her husband John have lived in Charlbury for 22 years. She was co-opted on to the Town Council in 2004. She has been a Civil Servant and a teacher, has worked for the CAB and has been a School Governor.

Lynette Murphy

THE COTSWOLD LINE CAMPAIGN

Oxfordshire County Council is encouraging local people to lobby the government to approve major improvements to the Cotswold Line between Oxford and Worcester.

History of the line

The Cotswold Line was reduced to a single track in many places by British Rail in the early 1970s and ever since then a group of local councils has been campaigning for some of the track to be reinstated. With more trains, and more people using them, delays are a daily occurrence for commuters as trains wait to get on the single track between Wolvercote and Ascott-under-Wychwood, but all that could come to an end in 2010.

Recent announcement

Dave Ward, Route Director at Network Rail recently announced to a meeting in Charlbury that they had chosen a scheme that would see almost 20 miles of new track laid between Charlbury and Evesham, and mean nine out of 10 trains should run on time.

This is now being considered by the Office of Rail Regulation and a final decision is expected to be made by the Secretary of State for Transport in the summer.

With pressure on government finances, Oxfordshire County Council knows that nothing can be taken for granted, and it will be writing to the Secretary of State to make sure she knows the importance of agreeing funding so Network Rail can get on and deliver a scheme that will make a difference to the lives of hundreds of Oxfordshire residents.

Nothing is guaranteed

Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "After years of lobbying, this announcement should be the light at the end of the tunnel. But nothing is guaranteed. We have to make sure the government know how important redoubling is for everyone who travels by train along the Cotswold Line, and from Oxford and Didcot as they also get caught up in the delays. I urge everyone who travels by train to get to and from work to lend their support by writing to the Secretary of State."

Where should you write?

People should write to: Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly MP, Secretary of State for Transport, Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR.

The Oxfordshire Befriending Network who support people living with life-threatening and terminal illness, is currently seeking more volunteers to befriend in West Oxfordshire. Volunteer Befrienders offer 2-3 hours a week to visit someone in their locality who is isolated by illness to offer social and emotional support. Full training and excellent on-going support is given as well as expenses paid. Our next induction training will take place in Witney on Wednesday afternoons starting on March 12th. Interested? Would you like to find out more? Please contact Linda Ridgway on 01865 791781 ext 23.

COMBE MILL - WELL WORTH A VISIT

You might know about Combe Mill - but have you visited and made this wonderful step back in time where you can experience the working environment of our Victorian ancestors with something of interest to everyone of any age? There has been a mill here, on the river Evenlode, since the Domesday book. In 1852, soon after the arrival of the railway, it was modernised as the sawmill and workshop for the Blenheim Estate. The beam engine that powered the machinery stopped working before the First World War, and the water wheel became redundant in the 1950s when electricity came to the area and electric motors could be used to drive the machines. Untouched since then, the engine room was rediscovered by volunteers in the late 1960s who set about restoring the Mill and its machinery.

Now, some forty years later, the work of maintaining the mill goes on. Having seen off threats to redevelop the mill building, Combe Mill Society is now embarked on a program of increased public accessibility and fund raising. This delightful Mill is unusual in being both steam- and water-powered and its unspoilt state means that visitors discover something different each time they explore it.

Combe Mill is open again this year for eight steaming days. They are on the third Sunday of each month between March and October. Next steaming day is on **Sunday June 15 between 10am and 5pm** and we look forward to seeing you. You can enjoy seeing the steam engines running and the line shafting operate the various woodworking machines. Others enjoy trying their hand at making something in the forge but, on the other hand, you might be more interested to see the collections of tradesmen's tools and the collection of historic church clocks. Children are catered for too and can have fun at the craft table.

Refreshments are available and can be enjoyed in the riverside picnic area.

Groups and clubs can book to see the mill in steam at any time provided enough members come to cover the cost of raising steam. Bookings can be made by telephoning 01865 379402.

Special arrangements can be made for school groups and bookings are already being taken. Preferred days for such visits are the Monday or Tuesday following one of the steaming days. Teachers are invited to make an initial visit, at no cost, to learn about the Mill and to arrange their class visit – just call the above number. Or go to our web site www.combemill.com.

Cogges Museum Farm in Witney

is under threat of closure. It is loved by very many of us. It seems not enough of us realised this over the years and have not been there enough to make it viable. For me it has been such a marvellous place to take adults friends, children and whole families. Such an environment is a precious space in our modern world where families too often spend little time together, and I do feel we need to save it and enable it to regenerate and take on a more enlightened educational form. It is also situated on an ancient civilization site that is not only of local value but of national importance and needs to be cared for. It is owned by Oxfordshire County Council who will remain responsible for the upkeep of the buildings and will not charge a rent. They are looking for a substantial partner who will create a project that will be viable. I believe that partner is us, the public. If each person in West Oxfordshire gave £1 to Cogges Trust, Cogges Farm Museum would be set up for a long time to come. Ideas for funds are greatly needed.

To help start off the funding, I have contacted Tim Wonnacott of BBC TV programme "Bargain Hunt" who has agreed to run a workshop at Cogges as a fundraising day that will be humorous and most interesting and enjoyable. At this stage I can say the day will cost £65 with a light buffet lunch. I need to find as many people who are definitely interested to be included in the day and I can then get a definite date. So do contact me, Margie McGregor on 01993-812141 or email me : margie.mcgregor@ukf.net The funds will go to Cogges Trust Charity No. 286319.

Thank you,
Margie McGregor.
(01993-812141).
West Wing, Hordley House, Wootton,
WOODSTOCK. OX20 1EP.

AMAZING MOBILE TIPS!

Did you know that your mobile can actually be a lifesaver or an emergency tool for survival? Age Concern gives the following tips that may come in useful sometime:

The emergency number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you. This number 112 can be dialled even if the keypad is locked.

Does your car have remote keyless entry? If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their mobile about a foot from your car door and have the person at the other end press the unlock button on the spare set of keys, holding the spare keys near their mobile phone. Your car will unlock.

Imagine your mobile battery is very low. To activate, press the keys *3370#. Your mobile will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you next charge your mobile.

To check your mobile phone's serial number, key in *#06#. A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone gets stolen, you can ring the service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be unusable.

NB The editor saw this article in the April Stonesfield Slate and has permission to copy it.

**COMMUNITY FIRST
RESPONDERS
A REMINDER :**

A First Responder can only respond after a member of the public has made a 999 call.

Ambulance Control send a text message to the team, alerting them of any **RED** Calls, which are chest pains, breathing difficulties or any life-threatening conditions.

A Responder can **ONLY** attend when Ambulance Control gives them permission to do so. We cannot attend independently.

Thank you for your support
Carol Hughes (tel: 01993 868710)
Community First Responders
(Finstock, Ramsden & Wilcote & surrounding areas)

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION –
CHARLBURY BRANCH
Tour of the Poppy Factory**

The Branch is organising a tour of the Poppy Factory on Wednesday 8 October 2008. Cost, inclusive of travel and lunch, is £14 per person.

Places are limited, so bookings will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. In the event of over subscription priority will be given to members.

Payment to be made on booking.
Last date for bookings is 19 July 2008.

*For more information please contact
Jane Parsons on 01608 810822.*

**The Oxfordshire Historic
Churches Trust Ride on
Stride 2008
Saturday 13th September**

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride or Stride will be on Saturday 13th September this year. Please put this in your diaries as it is a fun day for all the family. Some people just walk round the 5 churches/chapels in Charlbury! In 2007 Charlbury raised £1,423.30 (not counting Gift Aid). Thank you to all who took part.

Last year Oxfordshire raised over £110,000 and almost 700 people are known to have cycled, walked or welcomed, representing 185 Anglican Churches, 27 Methodist Churches, 13 Catholic Churches, 8 Baptist Churches and 8 other non-Conformist Churches and Friends' Meeting Houses. One lady, in her 79th year, visited 52 churches/chapels in and around Oxford and raised £1,150 from 95 sponsors. Messrs Appleford and Hilsdon from Wootton visited 105 churches which must be a record. Half the sum you raise goes to the church/chapel of your choice. Sponsorship forms will be available in August. For further information please contact Sarah Potter on 01608 810388.

Ruth Taylor (*nee* Fisher, formerly of Park Street) would like to thank very much all those who sent kind messages and expressions of sympathy on the recent death of her husband Jim.

Atlantic Baptist University Oxford Study Programme Jan/April 2008

The Canadian students of this programme are profoundly grateful to the Charlbury community for their support and kindness during their three month stay.

Here are some of their comments:

I am so grateful for Charlbury; every day I walked to the train almost everyone I passed smiled and said hello. This town is so welcoming and friendly, especially the members of the Baptist Church who took us students in, regardless of our church backgrounds. I will remember the three months I've spent here as some of the best days I've ever had. Laura L

I have never experienced a town quite like Charlbury. This town has become my home for the past three months, and I have enjoyed every minute of it. How can we thank you enough, Peter, Mad, Marion AND of course, Andrew! *Rebecca S*

Charlbury is a special place because people recognize you on the street as one of the CANADIANS without you saying a word. The ladies of the Good Food Shop always treat you well and you can see the most random animals all together in one field, including, a rooster stuck in a tree. Megan M

First of all I want to thank my hosts for their love and kindness, and members of the Baptist Church for their special welcome and prayers, especially Ivor and May, Pippa, Jonathan and Eden, Claudette, and Malcolm and Barbara. Special thanks to the Charlbury Museum as well, for showing me a taste of this great town's history. *Bethany L*

The Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers (what a mouthful!) introduced me to a seemingly intangible reality; specifically, I would like to thank Mike Summers for "showing me the ropes", as well as helping us stay online. Also, the Women's netball team in Charlbury was exhilarating to participate in. Alisha O

I will especially miss walking through the fields around Charlbury and watching the sunset. I would like to thank the CO-OP for supplying most of our daily food. We all particularly enjoyed the "special" on chocolate bars! *Heather I*

I would like to send a special thanks to the News and Things Café for providing excellent food and friendly service. Mark S

I am grateful to everyone who came out to our Valentine's Day evening and our Drama Production - we all appreciated your support! A special BIG thank you to Glenna Chadwick for directing us in *SHAKESPEARE CONFUSIONS!* *Jodi O*

Warmest thanks and appreciation to the people of Charlbury for making my stay here one of my fondest memories! Also thanks to First Great Western for improving their train service while we were here. The staff in the Oxford station were patient and friendly while churning out our bulk order tickets. Gabby S

Thank you to Ann Revell for invigilating our exams and generally being a friend to us. My favourite memory was the April snow fall and tobogganing down the hill behind Nine Acres. Such an unexpected thrill! *Sharon H*

Thanks to the fine folks at The Bull and The Three Horseshoes who were incredibly hospitable and entertaining. The trip wouldn't have been the same without some quality downtime at the pub!! Tim S

Charlbury was charming in every possible way. Thank you to The Shed for putting on a fantastical evening of eco-tinged entertainment and letting us squeeze in. Thanks to Hugh for the snowy kayak lessons. And thank you to Glen for your generosity and laughs all round. It has been a beautiful three months that I shall never forget. *Beth C*

The ABU–Oxford organisers are grateful to all those who offered Homestay accommodation:

Lee Belcher, Gill Colman, Jane Corbett, Heather and Mick Donegan, Angela Gwatkin, Elizabeth Hardie, Jillian Harris, Nikki Jackson, Beccy Lee, Greg Rasmussen & Trish Barezzi & Thomas Merckx, Wendy Rose and Betty Stokes.

Also those who entertained our students for Sunday Lunch: Marion Ackrill, Rita Finch, Nicolette & John Lethbridge, Lee Belcher, Hilda & Michael Jones, Gwen Wearing, Hugh & Joan Belshaw, May & Ivor Payne, Rosemary & David Booth, Marion & Harry Speight, Caroline & Harry Dodds, Marion and Andrew Greenfield, Elizabeth Hardie, Pippa and Jonathan Nash.

*Madeleine Wheare - General Coordinator; Marion Greenfield - Assistant Coordinator
Lynn Robson - Academic Coordinator; Peter Colyer - Finance Coordinator*

BURFORD SCHOOL NEWS

Duke of Edinburgh Award:

There are over 160 students at **Burford School** participating in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme starting in Year 9 working for their Bronze Award and up in to the Sixth Form where students complete their Gold Award. On 28th February, Mr Malcolm Evetts and Miss Florence Williams accompanied 11 students from the school to visit Larkmead School, Abingdon to meet HRH Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex. As a United Kingdom and International Trustee of the Scheme he visited Larkmead School to meet students from 10 schools in Oxfordshire who have DoE as part of their extracurricular activities. Burford School was the only school present with students who had achieved their Gold Awards. Amongst these was Mike Staddon (of Charlbury) who helped at Achill Island Outdoor Activities centre in Ireland. **Mike Staddon** said, "The day started with setting up our display boards presenting pictures of our individual experiences. I also tried to figure out exactly what I was going to say about any of my pictures if I was asked. I had never been to any events with royalty before and I found the organisation to be incredible. The Prince had a walking plan for the entire 45 minutes with each school having a 7 minute slot. The Prince was really easy to talk to and throughout our 7 minutes he seemed to show genuine interest in what we had done, which was nice to see!"

British Informatics Olympiad:

The British Informatics Olympiad (BIO) is an annual competition in computer programming for secondary schools and sixth form colleges. Any student who is under 19, in full time pre-university education and resident in mainland Britain, is eligible to take part. The BIO is an organisation founded to encourage students to take an active interest in information technology, and to allow them to meet and exchange ideas, through a challenging competition in computer programming. Congratulations to **Tom Smith** of Charlbury, who recently achieved a distinction in the 2008 competition. Tom was the only student in Burford School to sit the three hour exam. He selected two questions to answer, the first on 'Goldbach Conjecture' and the second on a simulation of the 'Enigma Machine'. He had to write a programme in Visual Basic for each question and then tested the programme by running each with given data. Tom modestly said, "I was very pleased with my distinction, and if I can I would like to read Computer Studies at Cambridge."

Report from County Councillor Sue Haffenden

sue.haffenden@oxfordshire.gov.uk

April and May are the busiest months of the political calendar: local elections keep every activist busy for three weeks, culminating in Election day itself and meanwhile the round of Parish and Town Council Annual General meetings also take place with reports delivered, questions asked and answered as fully as possible. In the Charlbury Division, such meetings began in March in Kingham and end on May 12 in Chadlington and take in Combe, Stonesfield, Fawler, Finstock, Chilson, Spelsbury, Chadlington, Churchill and Sarsden, Kingham and Charlbury itself. The report is basically the same, as I inform people how the County Council spends their Council Tax contributions and the decision making process which informs the Council's priorities. This year, as always, the bulk of the money has gone towards funding older people and the young. One of the questions asked at the Charlbury AGM was about the Council's policies regarding youth activities. To-day the most recent report landed on my desk: Oxfordshire's response to the Education and Inspections Act section 6, which gave local authorities new responsibilities. These were to ensure young people "as far as is reasonably practicable" have access to sufficient educational and recreational leisure time activities which are "for the improvement of their well-being". The duty applies to the 13-19 year old age range and those up to 24 years with learning difficulties.

The Act required undertaking a detailed analysis of current provision and of local needs and identifying and targeting groups at greatest risk of negative outcomes. An enormous collaborative exercise, involving the County and District Councils, volunteer groups and hundreds of young people has resulted in a "Local Offer" of positive activities, ranging from numerous sporting activities to employment training, from educational opportunities to experiences of voluntary work in the community, from participation in the Arts to enjoying such activities as yoga, aerobics and pilates to encourage a healthy life style.

How do young people access these opportunities? The most obvious way is through schools and colleges with extended school clubs providing greater opportunities for youngsters to participate in such activities. Leisure centres, sports centres and clubs and local sports groups also offer youngsters a wide range of life – enhancing opportunities.

By 2010 all children aged 5-19 will be offered the chance to participate in five hours of sport per week, which will be available through school or community providers — a great improvement on the present two hours.

The emphasis is on a healthier, more enjoyable way to fill those leisure hours, and to help youngsters avoid taking risks with drugs and alcohol or being involved in anti-social behaviour and crime. It is an ambitious and idealistic strategy but one which many of us heartily support. Young people, when consulted, identified barriers such as cost and transport, especially in rural areas. The report recognises these problems and promises to work to overcome such difficulties. This work is ongoing and if interested you can find out more by contacting: youthsupportservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk and www.spired.com

Report from District Councillor Glena Chadwick

tel: 01608 810555 email Chadwick@glena.fsnet.

As I start a new term as one of your district councillors I want to thank those of you who supported me. I hope to continue to work for the interests of all the people of Charlbury, Finstock and Fawler. One thing I know I shall be continuing to do is serve on the Climate Change Working party which has been meeting regularly for the last few months. We have been listening to some extremely interesting presentations about subjects like bio-mass energy or the carbon footprint of WODC. It is hoped that we will be able to reduce our own carbon footprint, that is caused by the buildings and vehicles owned by WODC but also to study initiatives which might have a wider application in this region.

Report by District Councillor Mike Breakell

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

Planning is always a complex matter and the system is about to change yet again. The present West Oxfordshire Local Plan guides the difficult decisions that have to be made with regard to current applications for development, by both Officers and Committee Members in the District, but it will be replaced in 2011 with a new Local Development Framework that will help guide decisions until 2026. Although this framework will itself have to fit within the South East Regional Plan that is currently being finalised by the Government.

The new planning system focuses on early discussion with stakeholders, such as land-owners and others residing in, or involved with the local community. Hence West Oxfordshire planners now wish to know what sort of place we want Charlbury and Finstock to be in twenty years time. Anyone can suggest sites for future development for example, and the planners will then assess and consult on such proposals even before any initial decisions are made. The framework will eventually decide where new housing will be allocated. At present Witney, Carterton, and Chipping Norton are favoured locations for new development, but in future Woodstock, Eynsham, and bigger villages like North Leigh or Long Hanborough could be selected or indeed other new locations.

Charlbury and Finstock are surrounded by the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and so it is unlikely that much more housing other than what is considered to be affordable, will be located within or adjacent to Charlbury or Finstock. In fact sustainable communities need to maintain and enhance employment opportunities and other facilities both commercial and non-commercial. Shops and post offices, schools, churches, pubs, village halls, playgrounds and other recreational opportunities including the new Spendlove Centre are all important. This is all proving difficult to finance at present despite living in a thriving corner of South East England where unemployment and crime rates are remarkably low. As a member of the Economic and Social Scrutiny Committee, the Development Control Committee and the Uplands Planning Sub Committee I will always do my best to maintain and improve this situation for the foreseeable future, and am always happy to hear your views. .

What to do with used batteries?

Don't put them into landfill or the black boxes but drop them into one of our special collection boxes

Available at the Corner House, the Post Office and the School



www.cwag.org.uk

Charlbury Area Waste Action Group

Do you have good quality unwanted items in your home?

Bring & Take Memorial Hall Saturday 11 October

Items can be brought in between 9.30am-11am and taken from 10am-12 noon

This is a cashless event where anyone can take items they want at NO cost



www.cwag.org.uk

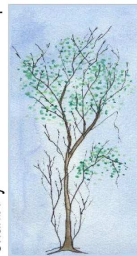
Charlbury Area Waste Action Group

Green Waste Collections

First Saturday every month
10am-12noon
Spendlove Car Park

Bring Tetra Paks along too for separate collection

Charlbury Area Waste Action Group



1st March
5th April
3rd May
7th June
5th July
7th August
6th September
4th October
1st November
6th December

www.cwag.org.uk



CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT NO 47

Town Council: The present Council's Term of Office ended on 1 May and the newly elected Council took office on 14 May (Any emergencies that may have occurred in between will have to have been dealt with by the Chairman of the old Council acting on the advice of the Town Clerk!). Cllrs Amanda Epps and Trevor Jones have retired from the Town Council after 8 years service each and are thanked for their contribution to both the Council and the life of the Town. A list of the names of the new council will appear in Town Council Report 48 (September Chronicle) or if you can't wait until then look at the Town Council page on the Charlbury website or on the Town Council notice boards.

Housing Needs Survey : The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) has completed the Survey in Charlbury and has presented its report to the Town Council which shows that a further 24 Affordable Social Housing Units are needed in the Town ranging from single bedroom flats to four bedroom houses. The next stage is for the Town Council with help from ORCC, to identify a suitable site or sites for these buildings. Suggestions from the public are welcome and can be made to the Town Clerk, Roger Clarke on 810608 or charlburytc@btinternet.com.

Riverside Festival '08: A licence has been issued for the Riverside Festival to take place on 21st and 22nd June on the Mill Field. There has been a major effort to respond to the many conditions that are now necessary for an event like this. We wish the organisers every success and hope that all those who attend the festival contribute to an enjoyable and safe weekend.

Railway Matters:

Station Car Park Improvement work has now been completed: new tarmac and newly marked parking bays, new car park ticket machines, new lights and a new pedestrian footpath along the Approach Road with a marked crossing to the Station building. There is a net gain of about 20 car park spaces.

The Station A cover has been provided over the ticket machine so that it can be seen in the sun and should work in the rain. A new screen showing train details has been installed in the booking office window that faces the Approach Road. The "mobile" food and drink vendor has arrived. There is a possibility that in the future when work for Disabled Toilets has been undertaken to the building then space might be created for a café inside.

Redoubling There is a good chance that the Cotswold Line will be considerably improved by the introduction of dual rails to be in use now as soon as May 2010. The scheme, promoted by Network Rail, still needs Government approval and local support for this proposed improvement to the service needs to be demonstrated. Please write to: Bill Emery, Office of Rail Regulation, 1 Kemble Street, London WC2 4AN

The Town Council will continue to work with First Great Western, Network Rail and OCC public transport staff to do what they can to improve services at the station.

Bus Services: There is a public meeting in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 5th June 2-4 pm as part of Oxfordshire County Council's review of subsidised bus services.

The Annual Parish Meeting: This took place on 11 April - a requirement under the Local Government Act and an opportunity for residents to raise issues with the Council. It was attended by about 40 people who raised a variety of questions on subjects including the public footpath between the Enstone Road and Nine Acres Lane, the Spendlove site, the speed limit and speed indicator devices, street cleaning and surface water disposal. These issues are being followed up by the Council.

The Annual Boundary Walk This took place on 27 April with 30 people taking part. The Council would like to thank Tony Graeme and the Charlbury Society for organising the walk on its behalf, all of the volunteer helpers, the Town Clerk, all the Landowners, and the Rev. Judy French, Vicar of St. Mary's, for taking a short service of Thanksgiving for Rogation Sunday on behalf of Churches Together in Charlbury after the lunch break at Model Farm.

Trevor Jones



THAMES VALLEY POLICE

We need your help!

Thames Valley Police has an office in the Spendlove Centre, and are asking for volunteers to help run it, joining the existing volunteers. We need help with front counter duties which will typically involve: recording lost and found property; recording driving documents; handing out crime prevention literature; taking details of non-urgent enquiries.

The office is open Monday afternoons and Friday mornings but more volunteers will help us to increase these hours. Volunteers can be anyone: over 18 years of age, who is discreet, reliable and trustworthy, who is good with people and has the ability to listen, who can take accurate messages, and who is friendly and approachable whilst still being calm and efficient.

All applicants will be required to complete an application form and give the names of two referees. All volunteers are required to have a police check prior to acceptance onto the scheme, and then have an informal interview with their local co-ordinator. If you are interested and would like to apply, please contact me:

Rosie White, Volunteers Co-ordinator,
Thames Valley Police, 01993 814065
rosie.white@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

SMALL ADS

Hilltop Garden Centre: Spring is here! Come to Hilltop!

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

**CHARLBURY'S
POLICE
OFFICERS**

We now have two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) **Stephanie Blake** and **Wes Smith** who are working out of the Charlbury Police Office at the Spendlove Centre. Opening times are: Mondays and Wednesdays 12 noon to 3pm; Fridays 9am to 12 noon.

To contact your PCSOs
call 0845 8 505 505

New volunteers to staff the Police Office are always needed

**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

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:

lynette.murphy@cchronicle.plus.com

Assisted by:

Diana Potten (810991)
Julia Caston (810240)
Kat Patrick (8116607)

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)
Peter Woolfenden (811296)

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, Abingdon