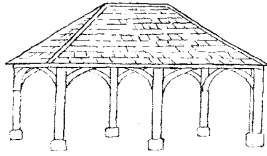


# The Charlbury Chronicle



**Volume 11 Number 2      June 2007**

This issue, the forty second, has a New Look in its centre pages. We have agreed with the Charlbury Chamber of Trade & Commerce that from now on we shall include their **Charlbury Community Calendar** as a regular feature in the *Chronicle*. We welcome this initiative and hope that it shows that the town's trade and commercial life is flourishing and will benefit from being highlighted in this way.

We regret that, due to the sudden illness of one of her children, our TotBits editor, Kat Patrick, was unable to produce her usual lively report on the toddler scene. We are delighted to report that Kat's son is now recovered and safely home from hospital and we hope that TotBits, which has been running since its first appearance in the December 1997 edition, will be resumed in the next issue.

It is good to know that the Riverside Festival is coming back again on June 15/16, and that with the Cornbury Festival (July 7/8) and the Beer Festival (July 14) and preparations for the September Street Fair, Charlbury can look forward to a busy summer.

We are always grateful to receive contributions for the *Chronicle*, so if you have something interesting to say please don't be slow in coming forward.

Please note that the deadline for copy for the September issue is August 1st.

*Lynette Murphy*

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

Firstly, a reminder that the Committee would welcome more people to represent the various regular users of the rooms. Next, it is with reluctance that we make adverse comments about users, but the request that that rooms should always be left as you would wish to find them has not always been followed. The management spends a lot of time and money on the care and preservation of the two buildings and is pleased to have as many bookings as possible. For the most part this is respected and appreciated, but occasionally a room or the new kitchen have been left unfit for use.

Finally a reminder that the gas heater in the Morris Room must only be controlled by the electric ON/OFF switch and the ignition control should never be touched. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

*Ann Gilbert*

## **CHARLBURY MUSEUM NEWS**

Do you know what Veritas Mantles and gas globes are? Have you ever seen a Radiation Gas Iron, or a 1930s electric razor (only for the brave)? These and many other fascinating items are in the special Charlbury Museum exhibition on heating and lighting in Charlbury in times past. There is also an instructive and entertaining collection of extracts from the Oxford Times, and parish council minutes, showing how new technology changed people's lives in often unexpected ways. As one exhibit says, It's a Gas!

And don't forget that the Museum's annual geranium sale will take place on June 9th in the Museum garden.

*Charles Tyzack*

## **JUNE FARMERS' MARKET**

Don't miss the Farmers' Market on the Playing Close on Saturday, June 9th from 9am to 1 pm.

Charlbury Farmers' Market is administered by Thames Valley Farmers' Market Co-operative Ltd and is supported by Charlbury Chamber of Trade & Commerce. The Market is organised by Nick Potter, Roger Watts and Geoff Burroughs.

The contact address is: Studio One, Sheep Street, Charlbury, Oxon OX7 3RR, telephone 01608 811554. Email [rogerw@bfocus.co.uk](mailto:rogerw@bfocus.co.uk)

# RIVERSIDE

**The Charlbury Riverside Festival is Back!**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

**The Mill Field, Charlbury**

Music starts at 2pm Saturday and midday Sunday

**2 stages - Solar Cinema – Bar – Refreshments - Entertainment**

The festival format remains the same. But in order to comply with licensing regulations there are a few conditions that all audience members should be aware of -

- Entrance to the festival is still **FREE**. But in order to monitor audience numbers you will require a **ticket** to gain entry. These are available from local pubs and retail outlets.
- Camping on the Saturday night is available by pre-booked ticket only. The cost is £10 per head and tickets can be applied for online at [www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com](http://www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com). Numbers are limited.
- **NO glass** will be allowed on the festival site. Please feel free to bring a picnic but do not bring any glass bottles or containers. You will be asked to leave these at the gates.
- No dogs, except for assistance dogs, will be allowed on site.
- If you are lucky enough to look under the age of 21 you will require photo ID to prove you are over 18 to be served at the bar. Anyone under the age of 18 will not be permitted to bring alcohol onto the festival site.

Parking is not available.

**All this will not stop the weekend from being two, great fun days out for all the family. We look forward to seeing you all there !**

You can help support the Charlbury Riverside Festival by purchasing a red “I Support Riverside” wrist band. Available from local pubs and shops for £1.

For up to date information on bands and events please visit our website [www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com](http://www.riversidefestival.charlbury.com)

**SUPPORT OUR LOCAL POST OFFICE  
PAY YOUR HOUSEHOLD BILLS AT THE  
POST OFFICE**

**Now you can pay lots of bills all in one place which is quick, easy and convenient,  
as well as free!**

**GAS - ELECTRIC - TELEPHONE - WATER - RENT - COUNCIL TAX -  
ROAD TAX - MAIL ORDER - HOME SHOPPING**

You can ask a member of staff about the wide range of bills you can pay and the different  
payment methods available

---

**Bereavement Support Volunteers  
Sobell House - Make a real difference in your community**

*"You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow  
from flying overhead; but you can prevent  
them from building nests in your hair"  
Chinese Proverb*

Grief is our natural emotional response to bereavement – a complex mix of emotions including sadness, anger, helplessness, guilt and despair. These are powerful feelings, which are physically and emotionally draining, often disrupting everyday lives. Most of us need someone to talk to when someone close to us dies. Sometimes it can help to talk to someone who is independent and who is not also grieving. Bereavement volunteers at Sobell House make home visits to bereaved people, meeting them for the first time between 6 – 12 weeks after their loss. They listen, without criticising or judging. They try to understand each individual person rather than having set ideas about how people should grieve.

**What training is offered?**

Volunteer training provides over 60 hours of preparation, including developing skills needed to support bereaved people such as listening, responding, relationship building and basic counselling skills; developing an understanding of the theory of bereavement and reflecting on personal experience of loss.

Come along to a taster evening on either Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May from 4.00 to 6.00 p.m. or Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June from 6.00 – 8.00 p.m. at Sobell House to find out more.

If you wish to find out more about joining the bereavement service then please contact Jane Elliott or Carrie Bruce on 01865 225878 or email us:

[smsh.bereavementservice@orh.nhs.uk](mailto:smsh.bereavementservice@orh.nhs.uk).

## CHOC: CHARLBURY'S OWN CINEMA

Springtime brought in such a bumper audience that we were able to give two full-house screenings of *The Queen* with a bar in the Cornbury Suite and popcorn on sale!

Films are now shown at 7.30 p.m. on the second Sunday of *every* month in the Cornbury Suite behind The Bell Hotel. In July, however, *Notes on a Scandal* will be shown on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid a clash with the Cornbury Festival.

Drinks are available from The Bell or from the bar in the Cornbury Suite, and for each film there are lively information and quiz sheets. In addition to these extras, at each film-show, two tickets for the following month's film are given away as raffle prizes in a free draw.

Our film for June we will be *Wah Wah*, Richard E. Grant's moving film based on events of his childhood in Swaziland, while for July, August and September we hope to bring you *Notes on a Scandal*, *My Summer of Love* and Alan Bennett's, *The History Boys*.

Details of our forthcoming films are always available on the Community pages of the Charlbury website, [www.charlbury.info](http://www.charlbury.info) and on posters around the town. If you'd like to be kept up to date more directly, join our email list by contacting me on 01608 810423 or emailing [choc@charlbury.info](mailto:choc@charlbury.info).

*Hilda Reed*

---

## ROYAL MAIL COLLECTION TIMES

We thought it might be helpful to let readers know the times of collections from Charlbury's post boxes. Times were changed many months ago, but the old collection times still remain on some boxes. We contacted Chipping Norton Sorting Office and were given the following information on collection times:

Nine Acres Lane: 4.15pm; Ticknell Piece Road: 4.15pm; Five Ways: 4.20pm;  
Woodfield Drive: 4.20pm; Church Street: 4.55pm; Sheep Street: 5pm;  
Post Office 5.10pm

There will still be a final daily collection at the Post Office at 6.30 pm

## **BREAD, BROCCOLI AND BEEF: THE GOOD FOOD SHOP**

To many living or working in Charlbury, **The Good Food Shop** is the place to go to for traditionally baked bread and cakes, cheeses, organic vegetables or filled rolls. However, although the building has been associated with food in one form or another for many years, the selection of goods in the past was more limited. Between the two rooms of the shop, the remains of a bread oven testify to its former use as a bakery and the 1930 edition of John Kibble's 'Charming Charlbury' carries an advertisement for F B Harris, Ye Little Cake Shoppe ('*Our Aim: Your Satisfaction*'). Under successive owners the shop continued mainly as a bakery until the 1980's when it became 'The Good Food Shop' selling almost exclusively health food products. At that time only the 'front room' was in use and the only entrance for residents of the flat above was through the shop.

The present 'Good Food Shop' has been with us since 1991 when, with closure threatened, the late Dr Jo Wetherall bought the freehold of the premises and canvassed ideas on ways to keep the shop in being. As a result, following a meeting in the Memorial Hall, a limited company was formed under the Chairmanship of the late Mike Elliott and with a share capital of £15,000 contributed by local residents interested in maintaining such a valuable asset in town. Few expected ever to see a financial dividend for their investment. The company was launched in January 1992, has continued safely in business ever since and shareholders now receive a small discount on purchases. Alterations to the building shortly before the company took over, including creation of a separate entrance for occupants of the flat, provided more retail space in the 'back room' but there have been increasing demands to meet environmental or health and safety regulations. For instance separate basins so that hands and equipment can be washed separately.

In 1998, when Dr Wetherall decided to sell, the Company raised a loan from shareholders and now owns the premises. However the shop still has connections with its past: Manageress Lynne Stubbles and assistant Ivy McCann both worked there for a time under earlier regimes. Ivy when the shop was still Brown's Bakery and Lynne in the health food days of the 1980's.

Lynne will always try to meet customers' requests for new lines but sometimes this is just not possible; often, for instance, suppliers or wholesalers won't deal in the small quantities involved. Nevertheless the range of goods has been much extended. The shop still keeps health food products and a variety of bread and cakes but you can also buy tinned goods, preserves and cereals as well as organic vegetables. As part of a recent initiative 'Local Food for Locals' they can also now supply you with Foxbury Farm meat and other products. Lynne and her staff can also provide a catering service for parties, receptions lunches etc

**THE GOOD FOOD SHOP, 39 SHEEP STREET, CHARLBURY TEL: 01608 811157**

---

## Adopt A Railway Station In Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire County Council and train operator First Great Western have launched a scheme that will allow local communities to adopt a railway station in the Oxfordshire area. Station adoption has been very successful in other parts of the United Kingdom, but this is the first time that a scheme has been set up in the county. The idea is that local communities are helped to add the little touches to their station that can make all the difference. The hope is that station adoption will bring together individuals and groups, such as schools, youth groups, rail users, parish councils and businesses. In fact, anyone can take part from school pupils to those of retirement age and it is entirely voluntary.

There are four basic options - gardening, station watch, station improvement and local information. Adopters can do as much or as little as they like. Volunteers will add value to what is being done already at local stations and can help create a more attractive, cared-for station that will showcase their community. The county council is backing the scheme with publicity and funding this year.

Listed among the eighteen stations where adoption is available is Charlbury.

People who are interested and want to get involved should contact the Town Council or their local rail user group. It is hoped that by working together to encourage greater use of the railway road congestion can be reduced in the community.

*More information from OCC Rail Development Officer Adrian Saunders, 01865 815080*

---

## HEAT CAMERA MEASURES HEAT LOSS FOR CHARLBURY HOMES

Householders in Charlbury will be able to track heat loss from their homes thanks to a service being offered by local group Sustainable Charlbury which has received a £1000 Co-operative Community Dividend grant from The Midcounties Co-operative for a heat camera that shows where heat is escaping from people's homes. They can then take steps to reduce lost energy.

Sarah Buy of The Midcounties Co-operative, said: "This is a very important project because it is finding ways for local people to make a difference. It is adopting a local co-operative approach to solve a national problem. Our society is also looking at ways to reduce carbon emissions and introduce measures that are environmentally friendly throughout the organisation. We were pleased to give our support to Sustainable Charlbury and hope their example inspires similar schemes in other towns."

## **CHARLBURY STREET FAIR SEPTEMBER 15th 2007**

**This year's theme is 'Magic and Mystery'**

This year's Street Fair is to be held on Saturday September 15th, 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 [teresa@beeb.net](mailto:teresa@beeb.net)

**CHARLBURY OPEN GARDENS IN AID OF CHARLBURY STREET FAIR ON SUNDAY JUNE 3rd:** This is the 9th annual Open Gardens Day. At the time of writing we have ten gardens. All the gardens are in the centre of Charlbury. Tickets and route map will be on sale at the Corner House in Charlbury from 1.30 pm on the day. The gardens are open from 2pm - 6pm.

We are also including **Art in the Garden** which will feature exhibitions and demonstrations in various gardens from local artists and by the children of Charlbury Primary School to coincide with Charlbury Art Week. There will also be teas and plants for sale. Tickets are £3 for entry to all the gardens. For more information please contact Vic Allison 01608 811262 or email [vic.allison@btinternet.com](mailto:vic.allison@btinternet.com).

**BUSINESSES:** If you would like to advertise your business in the Street Fair programme, then please contact Jon MacKay at [jonboy7473@yahoo.com](mailto:jonboy7473@yahoo.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. These two venues are used by the many groups and societies in Charlbury for meetings, sports, Meals-on-Wheels preparation, theatre productions, Toddlers, Day Centre, Library and many more. For further information please contact Susie Finch at [susanna\\_finch@hotmail.com](mailto:susanna_finch@hotmail.com)

### **HELP!!**

Some of last year's committee have retired, so we do need **lots** of help and new ideas in organising the fair and to continue to make it such a success; it's not too much work if we have lots of people to help – and its good fun too (we go to the pub afterwards!). 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 giving even just a few hours of your time. Please don't just read this, and say 'Well, maybe I'll help' – and then forget about it. Contact Susie Finch **NOW** ([susanna\\_finch@hotmail.com](mailto:susanna_finch@hotmail.com))! I look forward to hearing from you all.

*N.B. Will residents of Church Street please note that we have been granted road closure permission for the 15th September 2007 from 9 am to 10 pm*



# National Recognition and No. 10 for Beer Festival

*Rob Stepney*

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be thirtysix real ales, ciders, food and entertainment to enjoy as usual at Charlbury's annual Beer Festival. What makes this one extra special is that it is our tenth.

Since the first of these events, time has moved frighteningly fast. In the intervening years, the Festival has grown steadily in reputation. Its success is a grand example of amateurs becoming experts through sheer bloody-minded enthusiasm.

A decade ago, when a dozen parents met in the primary school staffroom, Dave Sangwine's suggestion of a fundraising beer festival seemed daft bordering on delusional. None of us had ever organised a piss-up in a brewery, never mind in the Memorial Hall. On the other hand, turning beer into money seemed such a great idea. John Merriman advised on the choice of ales, and Tom Page, whose Rose and Crown has featured in the Good Beer Guide since fermentation was first thought of, told us how to keep them in top condition over the crucial days between delivery and consumption.

That said, success, though planned for, was not guaranteed. I well remember the mixture of anxiety and expectancy on that July afternoon in 1998. Fearing a sudden rush, we threw open the doors of the hall a minute or so before opening time. There was nothing outside but a steady summer drizzle.

But there was soon a stream of people, steady on the way in and unsteady on the way out. A thousand pints were dispensed from the 16 barrels. The barbecues sizzled under a beach umbrella. Fun was had, and £1300 profit (an astonishing amount at the time) was made for school funds. The second Beer Festival raised £2000, the third £4000. Now, there are lies, damned lies and business forecasts. But Simon Bennett's statistician calculated that our rate of growth would see us making a million by 2010.

Of course, size is not everything. The Memorial Hall is the largest indoor space in Charlbury, and, along with the garden, it continues to suit us well. Moving to marquees was carefully considered as a way of expanding the event, and rejected as costly and impractical. But there has been innovation. In 2005, the Beer Festival became an independent charity. Though the school remains the principal beneficiary, this allows the committee to give money to other local good causes.

Last December, an article in the property pages of *The Independent* mentioned the Beer Festival among its reasons for moving to Charlbury – deserved national acknowledgement of Dave Sangwine's dream, and all that flowed from it.

## **Attention all Parents!**

### **Bookstart - Free Books for Children**

Do you know that Bookstart provides 3 different gifts for 3 different age ranges containing books and other goodies, and it's all free?

The Bookstart Baby pack is available for babies aged up to 12 months. Your baby will be given a pack by the health visitor at the 8 month health check

The Bookstart+ pack is available for toddlers between 18 – 30 months and can be collected from the library or the health visitor if your child has a 2 year check. So please go to the library and ask for your toddler's Bookstart+ pack.

My Bookstart Treasure Chest is available to 3 year olds and is delivered to your child's pre-school. If your child does not attend a pre-school collect your Treasure Chest from the library.

If you run a pre-school and have not given the Bookstart co-ordinator the number of 3 year olds in your setting, please contact her as soon as possible to ensure delivery by August 2007.

For more information contact the Bookstart Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire on 01865 810243, Or visit the web site at [www.bookstart.org.uk](http://www.bookstart.org.uk)

---

## **Election Results**

### **May 4 2007**

#### **West Oxfordshire District Council**

#### **Charlbury & Finstock Ward**

Breakell (Lib/Dem) 790

Hill (Cons) 579

Marshall (Green) 128

The turnout was 51.2% - the highest in West Oxfordshire

## Cornbury Music Festival

Organiser Hugh Phillimore is pleased to report that plans are well advanced for this year's event to be held on July 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.

Tickets are selling at three times the previous year's rate so there's a good chance that the event will sell out its full 15,000 capacity which would be a huge achievement in its 4<sup>th</sup> year!

The festival will again feature 3 stages including one produced by Oxford Folk Festival on the Sunday and with **Charlbury Riverside Festival** having its own stage for the whole weekend. **Shed Theatre** will also be performing throughout the weekend involving 70 local children.

The festival line-up includes headliners David Gray and Blondie (who headlined the first year), The Waterboys (who will definitely show up this year having agreed with Hugh to not take a show on the day before Cornbury – they were stuck in Lisbon last year), The Proclaimers (who've just had a No.1 with Comic Relief), old friends The Hothouse Flowers, The Feeling, Echo & The Bunnymen, Suzanne Vega, Midlake, Scott Matthews, and rising folk star Seth Lakeman, and many more. Again the Festival will feature a large fairground, 40 shops, 15 high quality food stalls, street performers, children's area and even balloon rides.



Cornbury Music Festival is proud to support local schools, with Charlbury pre-school once again providing the pig roast. Charlbury Morris Dancers are also likely to appear. BBC Radio Oxford and BBC South are media partners again with the event and are now joined by *The Oxford Times* who'll be giving their support. As before, Festival organisers will be liaising with the Town Council regarding traffic management issues and will be operating under strict noise restrictions from WODC Environmental Health Department. It is a priority for the event to minimise any impact on the local community.

Discounted tickets will not be available this year as a new computerised system makes the provision of these more complicated than before. Also, there was some abuse of this offer last year and it is felt that until the event becomes comfortably profitable it's a luxury we can't afford. Hugh adds 'For those who are interested in live music, having a good local festival on the doorstep should be a bonus, especially as it generates quite a major amount of income locally. I'm hoping for another successful event that Charlbury can be proud of !'

**A DAY'S  
LIFE  
Jane Holt,  
Head-  
teacher,  
Charlbury  
Primary  
School**

It is an early start for all of us. My husband is up first at six o'clock and I follow about ten minutes later. I shower and get dressed and then wake our nine year old daughter, Beatrice. We all meet for breakfast about 6.50 a.m. My husband leaves first and as we live in Kidlington he cycles to his job with Oxford University, where he is a surveyor looking after buildings like the Ashmolean. Beatrice and I clear up and get things ready for the day and we usually leave home by about 7.30 a.m. I take her to a childminder in Eynsham, who looks after her until it is time for her to go to school. I then drive to Charlbury, which takes me another twenty minutes but I do not mind as I go through lovely countryside seeing rabbits and deer. I arrive just after 8 o'clock. The cleaners have opened the school and the Office Administrator, Shirley Steele, is in by quarter to eight. The teachers have usually arrived by 8.10 a.m. I say a quick good morning to Shirley and go and check my E-mails. Although they are checked constantly during the day about 15 have piled up overnight – of course some of them are unimportant and are just advertising. Shirley and I meet at 8.20 a.m. We have a two week diary but I always like to check up on the day and see what has to be done, what phone calls have to be made. From 8.30 my door is open and I can see parents and pupils if they wish to talk. I like to walk the school and see what is going on – the whole school does early morning exercise and I think I should be doing it too! When I go back to my office I make a plan of work and a list of things that have to be done. It is a varied programme spending time on the computer or writing policies on such things as confidentiality, behaviour etc. and later I will share these with the staff. These policies have to be updated every two years. What I make sure I do is teach. I love it. In the first two weeks of arriving at the school, I taught every class and got to know every child's name. I have a passion for teaching languages and do french with the older children. We have also taught Mandarin and Spanish in the school but I did not do that. I fill in for teachers, who are on courses and I think it is important to be seen to be following good practices.

I have always wanted to be a teacher. I was brought up in Hednesford in Staffordshire. I had a lovely childhood. It was quite a rural area with walks on the Hednesford Hills and Cannock Chase. I enjoyed sport playing tennis and swimming for the school and a local club. I loved school particularly doing English and languages. I went to France at the age of ten and that combined with an inspirational French teacher made me want to be an air hostess or a languages teacher. Studying German at High school confirmed this: my school gave me a quiet confidence and after being head girl, I felt I could go on to further studies. When I was 18 my Mum had an operation and I had to stay home to look after her. It worked out quite well because when she was getting better, I was able to go and stay with my pen friend in France. The following year I did Business French at Stafford College and also some Business German. It was a year in which I grew up and a friend and I decided to go to Corfu on holiday. It was there that I met my husband, David, who was doing a degree in Scotland. I now started a B.Ed. (Hons) degree in London (Whitelands College). It took five years including one year out in France. David had now moved down to London and we got married in 1989 after I had graduated. I was fortunate with jobs: there was a demand for language teaching. I first went to Stanford Middle School where I had done my teaching practice. The head there was inspirational and she was a language teacher. I later taught in Wimbledon Chase Middle School. I was made Modern Languages co-ordinator and PSE Co-ordinator – it was a fantastic time and I learnt a lot. I also started to become involved in staff development. I loved doing trips to France and would take up to 90 children.

In 1994 my husband had the offer of a job in Oxfordshire. He moved up first and I was able to follow when I got a job at Headington Middle School. Again I was offered some interesting opportunities becoming Key Stage 2 co-ordinator with responsibility for 10 classes and English/ Literacy co-ordinator. In 1997 Beatrice was born and afterwards I returned to teaching in Headington. I then became Assistant Head of Eynsham Community Primary School in September 2000 co-ordinating Numeracy, Assessment and PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizen Education). In the autumn of 2004 I was approached by the Local Authority to be acting head teacher at Cassington Primary while the head was on maternity leave. I was very apprehensive

about it. It was a small school of only 63 but it meant I had to teach a mixed class of 26 (Foundation Stage, Years 1 and 2). I found this quite daunting but everyone was so welcoming and supportive that it was a wonderful experience. While there I was able to study for my professional headship qualification (NPQH). I never returned to Eynsham because the Local Authority asked me to consider being acting head of Charlbury from September 2005 until Christmas 2005. This was then extended to Easter but after a month in the job I was asked by the Staff Governor if I would consider applying for the job. On December 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 I officially became head.

Two mornings of the week at 10.20.a.m we have assemblies for the whole school. I do the Monday morning assembly and my Deputy Head does the Tuesday. It is a time to interact with the children and to get them to think of their values, to consider things like loyalty, kindness, world peace. We recently had a wonderful song about peace and another very good one on Red Nose Day. On Wednesdays each class does a thought for the day. On Thursday afternoons classes take assembly and on Friday afternoons there is an awards assembly. Here awards will be handed out for sporting achievement; there will be Smile Awards for a good attempt at work, for being kind or a loyal friend. The pupils come up and shake hands and are clapped by the others. All members of staff are present. At the end of term we have special assemblies when some parents are invited if their children are performing. I do not stop for a break in the morning but have a coffee and will sometimes make one for Shirley as we are a real team. Shirley is excellent at her job and has been incredibly supportive. I then may draft a questionnaire for parents or children. I consider that we work in partnership with the parents and they must find us approachable. They and the governors contribute to the school in many ways – for instance parents have helped with language teaching; a governor is running cookery clubs and they are very supportive helping with reading or to go on trips. Later in the morning Shirley and I settle down to do the post. It is also a time for monitoring the budget. This has to be done monthly and Shirley is a great help with this. A bursar comes in once a term and we can discuss various matters all together. At lunch time I usually have a sandwich or salad or I may have school lunch. We are proud of our lunch times; school lunch times used to be rather unpleasant and I wanted to create a nicer, more family atmosphere. We now have tables with tablecloths and this is also provided for children who bring in sandwiches. After lunch I sometimes go out into the playground and talk to the children. They are usually very chatty about their lives and what they like doing. The afternoon again is varied. I am either teaching or meeting people coming to school. The other day, we had an Inclusion Audit and advisers came to look at our provision for gifted children and for the less able. They checked what interventions were in place and looked at our structured programmes which are very good. I am also responsible for checking up on building work – unfortunately that is not part of a head's training yet. I've learnt a lot about drains! There are also various projects going on. In December 2006 we received Healthy School Status. This is a government badge of approval that recognises our efforts in the area of healthy living for life. Observers look at school meals, exercise, PSHCE teaching, monitor what is happening in the playground and they discuss issues with parent governors, children and staff. Our success in this area has led us on to becoming an Eco-school. Christine Campbell on the staff wanted to look at the possibilities of recycling and growing vegetables. She now has 4 members of staff helping her, a governor and many children. She has registered the school for an Eco award and the aim is to obtain the bronze award in June. The project is making the children more aware of their environment.

I usually leave school around 5 o'clock. Sometimes in the evenings I have governors' meetings or Charlbury School Association evenings. On occasions I stay in school for these or else quickly go home. I pick up my daughter from Eynsham and am home by 6 at the latest. I will cook supper –my daughter and husband help. Beatrice does her homework and piano practice. I also try and get some exercise. We have joined Esporta in Oxford and I go to the gym, swim and do relaxation. My daughter plays tennis there. In the lighter evenings we will all go for a walk. Beatrice goes to bed at 8.30 p.m. and although I am very anxious to balance my work and home life inevitably there is some school work to do – the school newsletter, my to-do list. I always make sure there is time for David and I to sit down and chat or else to relax listening to music or watching the news.

We are usually in bed by 10.30 pm and I sleep well.

I consider that I was really privileged to have been in the right place at the right time and to have come to Charlbury. I feel honoured to have been given the position of headteacher of Charlbury Primary School. I have a very supportive staff, very supportive Governing Body, very supportive Parents and interesting, articulate pupils. Our recent OFSTED inspection confirmed that we are all in partnership together and that over the last 18 months the school has gone from strength to strength.

*Jane Holt was interviewed by Diana Potten*

---

## LEARNING TO ADD UP ALL OVER AGAIN

The dire warnings about climate change are linked to the huge volumes of 'greenhouse gases' that humans are emitting into the atmosphere. There are several – carbon dioxide, methane, and several with unpronounceable names. The scientists running these huge climate models have been learning fast about which gases are having which effects, and what the different sources of them are.

The gas which is emitted in the largest quantities is carbon dioxide, or CO<sub>2</sub>. This is often shortened to 'carbon'. And that's why we keep being asked the question "How big is your carbon footprint?" Of course, CO<sub>2</sub> is a gas, so it makes more sense to ask "How big is your carbon bubble?" Scientists and governments have been trying to answer this question over the last few years, and are getting better at the answers all the time. In effect, while over the last few centuries we have got counting money down to a fine art, we now have to do a crash course in counting carbon to the same degree of accuracy.

**"How big is your carbon bubble?"** is a question that we also need to answer as individuals. Because although climate change is a global issue, surprise surprise, it's actually us who are causing it. And that's why we too need to learn to count all over again. Sustainable Charlbury is here to help people count their own carbon. There was a workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> May for an initial group of enthusiasts. As more people get trained, we will offer help to all the households in Charlbury to count their carbon – and then work out what action they can take to reduce their emissions.

**The big picture** - In this country, we omit CO<sub>2</sub> every time we use electricity or gas (or burn coal, barbeques and bonfires for that matter). We are personally responsible for at least 50% of all the emissions because they relate to how we use buildings and what we do in them - and transport.

If we add in the emissions related to the food and other goods we buy and our work roles, that personal total can rise to 70%!

What does this mean? It means that, when it comes to climate change, you have more

power than you thought to do something about it.

*Test 1: Imagine your average day, and list the occasions when you use energy. What do you conclude?*

*Test 2: Imagine your same average day, and think what you would do differently if you were trying not to emit CO2. What would change?*

**A few basics:**

**On average, every person in the UK is responsible for emissions of 11.5 tonnes of CO2 every year.** That's 3000 balloons *each* day, for *each* person.

Think about your home. If you could see and touch CO2, and it were piling up, how soon before there'd be no room for you?!

And if you take a long haul flight, you shoot way beyond the annual average in just one day – a return flight to New York emits 4 tonnes CO2 per person, a return flight to Australia emits 10 tonnes. That's why flying gets such a bad press.

Next time, we'll look at energy use and emissions from your home. How do we use energy? How could we save energy – and money – if we made a few simple changes.

One simple example. If you have ever delivered newsletters to homes in Charlbury, as I did this week, you would be *amazed* at how many people have keyholes and letter boxes which lets the cold air breeze straight in, and the warm air slink out. You wouldn't leave a broken window, would you, but how different is leaving your keyhole and letterbox? To be continued.

*Liz Reason, Sustainable Charlbury*

## **CHARLBURY BEST KEPT GARDENS**

The Horticultural Society judge all local gardens annually and awards are made to the best in each of four categories. The winners for 2007 are;

Large Garden: 15 Sturt Road  
Medium Garden: 2 Shilson Lane  
Small Garden: 18 Little Lees  
Containers: Bramley House, Market St.

The Town Council are grateful to the Horticultural Society and their Judge for undertaking this on its behalf.

# CHARLBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE APPEAL

## Our latest total – £115,000!

We have just received a wonderfully generous pledge of £30,000, so that we can now announce that our total raised stands at over £115,000. This amazing gift comes from great supporters of our Appeal (who wish to remain anonymous) and our gratitude to them knows no bounds.

During the last quarter there have been other monies raised – Charlbury Arts Society voted to give us £50; we held a very successful Bridge Drive at Chadlington Village Hall where we made £825; Daphne Clark gave one of her splendid Cabaret Evenings in her home and raised £391. Again this year, we will organise the teas on July 15th when some local gardens are open for the National Garden Scheme (see advertisement on page 10), so we will be asking for volunteers to make lots of cakes to feed the hungry hordes.

Thanks to those people who have sent in their hints for our Appealing Household Hints. Louise Littledale has asked for lots more and would be delighted to hear from anyone with their ideas on household, cooking, gardening, decorating or any other useful hints. You can either write your suggestions and place them in the *Chronicle* box on the table in the hall of the Corner House, or ring Louise on 810426

On a personal note, I am taking this opportunity to say that I am stepping down as Coordinator of the Appeal. We had our first event, the wonderful Royal Engineers Band Concert, in April 2004 and since then have organised many, many different ways of raising money and our total has slowly crept up the Appeal Thermometer outside the Museum. I really feel that the time has come for someone else to take over with new ideas and initiatives. There is a very positive feeling now about the future of the project and I am sure that it will be possible to reach our £250,000 target before too long. Trevor Jones has identified this sum as an absolutely crucial element in bringing the project into being. It would be impossible to mention the many people who have worked so hard at making the Appeal a success, but I hope they know how much their efforts have been appreciated and how encouraging it has been to work with them. In particular, however, I must mention the Deputy Coordinator Diana Potten, and our Treasurer Richard Neville, who have worked so hard and been wonderfully supportive from the very beginning of this endeavour. I shall of course continue to support the Appeal in any way I can and I look forward to the day when Charlbury will have the new community centre that it so badly needs.

*Lynette Murphy*

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



## THOMAS GIFFORD'S CHARITY

The trustees held a public meeting at the Memorial Hall on the proposed development at the Spendlove site owned by the Charity. At the meeting trustees explained the current outline proposals, the work carried out analysing community needs and the importance attached to a sustainable development. This report summarises the key points.

The experience of the last 10 years and expert advice has shown that there is a need for the inclusion of private funding to enable the development of the site to create value which can then be used for the benefit of the community. In this context we have been in discussion with the local authorities and are close to reaching an agreement whereby the trustees, OCC and WODC agree in principle to provide better community facilities using enabling development (primarily residential development) to make the scheme affordable. The development of the site is envisaged to include:

- Residential development (probably one and two bedroom flats) above a new library and adult education space funded by Oxfordshire County Council on the ground floor – this building would be located in the area of the existing Sports & Social Club building.
- A new Sports & Social Club facility to be provided with significant support from the Sports & Social Committee, on the first floor of a building in the Nine Acres corner of the site with a multi-use community meeting facility in the ground floor.
- A community hall facility linked to this building, the size and nature of which will be dependent on the available funding.

The initial results of a needs analysis based on questionnaires from user groups, other venues in town and some local residents were shared. These will be used to help formulate the specific proposals for the community facilities. In particular, the analysis highlighted the excess demand for current facilities in the Town, the requirement for another and larger space for meetings, events, drama, active/sporting pursuits and the need for facilities with better access for the disabled and infirm.

Our initial feasibility for the overall funding of the community facilities is based on reaching our previous local fund-raising target of £250,000. With funds from the residential development, WODC and Charlbury Town Council this would allow us to build basic community facilities but we would also seek further third party funding for further improvements. Lynette Murphy and her colleagues have done a tremendous job raising over £115,000 for the Charlbury Community Centre Appeal. We believe that with a firm feasible project a fundraising campaign for the balance will be achieved; we will be looking for more volunteers to take this forward when we have an outline plan in place.

I would like to thank the many residents that have been supportive and constructive as the new trustees seek to take the Charity forward. We will be looking for your participation and involvement as more detailed plans are developed.

Trevor Jones  
Chairman of the Trustees

## HOME AT LAST!

*Newcomer Rachel Brushfield finds Charlbury the perfect place to live*

About 12 years ago, I sat down and thought about the ingredients for my ideal home. What I really want, I thought to myself, is a gorgeous sweet place, surrounded by green, with a station nearby and fast trains rather than ones stopping at every lamppost, no need for a car, a good range of local amenities, a friendly and eclectic community with lots of activities, good food within walking distance and culture nearby.

Last March, I decided to have a creative weekend with 4 friends. I gave my virtual PA the task of sorting out accommodation, and as we lived at that time in Kent, Sussex, London and Bristol respectively, she found just one cottage available in a place called Charlbury, somewhere I'd never heard of.

First to arrive and staying in Pound Cottage, I tumbled out of this cute station with one platform, headed up the hill feeling happy and anticipatory. The cottage was perfect and during the weekend as we explored the town, I felt immediately at home.

Back in London after a heart-expanding weekend, I sat on my sofa, thinking here I am currently commuting between my West London home and central London office, waking up to sirens rather than birdsong, when in about the same travel time I can move to Charlbury. It was a very quick and no-doubt decision. My friends and family thought I was being very hasty, when as a person who thinks things through and knows what she wants and helps others to do the same (career coach), I had put my dream on the back-burner of my thoughts for 12 years, and felt like Cinderella who could go to the ball after all.

The next few months were the toughest of my life, with my first buyer and first purchase falling through, a cancer scare out of the blue, living surrounded by packed boxes for 3 months waiting for my managing agents to do their job, and a relationship split, all at once. My luck turned again the day my new home came on the market, very fortuitous as I had discovered that property sold faster than hot cakes at the Cornerhouse.

I finally moved on 20 October 2006 into 8 Wellington Cottages, with my real fire, sunny garden and beautiful view of green.

I absolutely love it and as I had to have an operation just before Christmas, which meant I couldn't drive or lift for 6 weeks, I got to know my lovely neighbours quicker than I would have done, needing help to shop and with my dustbins. Lucky too that I chose a home with a bus stop right outside! January was tough, but on the positive side I stayed put for once and soaked up my new home.

So, how do I feel about Charlbury now, 8 months on? We're still in the honeymoon phase of our relationship. I love coming home to the station; I adore my cottage and the view; I cherish the fact that people say hello rather than blank each other; I smile when traffic jams are caused by people waiting for the other car to pass first; I feel blessed.

So if you see me in my garden, keep up that dying British tradition, stop and say hello.

# Life at Charlbury Primary School

## **“It takes a village to raise a child”**

The school has recently embarked on a project to engage the wider community in school activities. As part of The Knowledge Well project, as it is known, we have started to write to the many talented people that Charlbury and the surrounding villages count among their residents. With a view to support or expand the curriculum, we ask them to come to school and share their particular skill, experience or knowledge with the children, in areas such as acting, radio and television, music, conservation, geology, electricity, farming, and many more! We recently had Chadlington-based composer Lionel Sainsbury talk to children about composing music as well as performing some pieces of his own work. If you feel you can contribute to children's education in this way or know of someone who could, please contact Mrs Steele at the School office (tel. 810354) for more information and a form.

## **Eco School: we are on our way!**

Charlbury Primary School has set out on the road of environmental awareness! Firstly, just before Christmas, we received Healthy School Status. This is an official government badge of approval that recognises our efforts in the area of healthy living. Furthermore, we are now in the first phase of becoming an Eco-School. As part of an international initiative and supported by a wide variety of partners, an Eco-school is one in which children have become more aware of their environment and their impact on it. In going through the process of following the programme, the school will become a more stimulating place in which to learn whilst reducing the environmental impact of the whole school on the community.

Pupil involvement and ownership is a key part of the Eco-Schools programme. The children undertake an informal review of their environmental practice in their class, meet with experts in the field of sustainability, energy, farming, etc., and are invited to think along on how to improve environmental awareness at school. Becoming an Eco-School fits in well with our school's environment-conscious approach to learning. The younger children go to 'Forest School' whereas the older children may have biology lessons by the wild life pond in our school playground. Year 6 spends a week at Yenworthy, an outdoor education centre in North Devon. Very soon, all children will start helping to grow fruit and vegetables in a new vegetable garden for use in the school dinners.

*Birgit den Outer, Parent Governor*

# CLUBS, DRAMA, SPORT,

## Charlbury Brownies

We are having a great time at the moment!! We are looking forward to our first Pack Holiday in July. We will be going to Jubilee House near Oxford, a building which is owned by Girlguiding Oxfordshire and towards which the girls have done a lot of fundraising in the past.

We have done a wide selection of badges and activities in the past year, encompassing new sections of the Brownie programme.

We delivered around 275 plants on Good Friday this year, along with the Rainbows and raised the funds ourselves to buy them by holding a Coffee Morning in the Corner House. Many thanks to all who supported us and for all of the kind thank you notes that we receive each year – the Brownies enjoy doing it.

On Bank Holiday Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Family Fun Day on the Playing Close between 2 and 4.30pm. This has been arranged by the Wychwood Division of Guiding and is open to everybody, not just those connected with Guiding. It costs just £5 per family, with refreshments provided. There will be lots of fun activities and many very good prizes to win. It begins with a hat parade if you would like to make your own and join in (though not obligatory!!) Come and join us and enjoy a family afternoon.

We do have spaces in our pack at the moment, so please do contact me if you would like any further information.

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

*Cathryn Taylor, Brownie Leader  
01993 771321*

## Charlbury Rainbows

I am Amy Booth, and am part of a team who run a lively Rainbow group at Charlbury Scout Hut (9 Acres Lane) Wednesdays, 5.30 to 6.30pm.

At the moment the girls have been working really hard to earn lots of badges, we've been on walks, played lots of games, cooked, made crafts, learnt all about South Africa and our Rainbow promises and still have so much more the girls want to do.

We would love for more girls aged 5-7 years to join us in our adventures as Rainbow Guides.

If you would like any more information about joining our friendly group or know someone who would be interested, please don't hesitate to contact me

*Amy Booth, Charlbury Rainbow Leader  
07811102619 or 01993868272*

## Tuesday Evening

### Men's Badminton

We are a small group who meet at the Memorial Hall every Tuesday at 8 pm. We play social badminton for 2 hours and afterwards rehydrate at The Bull, along with our one non-playing member, where local and national affairs are debated and put to rights. All members are 60 plus (bar one) and most of us carry the scars of a lifetime of not too serious sporting endeavour. We also have two social events involving our spouses/partners, one in the summer and the other just before Christmas, held at one of our houses.

To qualify for membership of this group you should preferably be over 60, like a “serious” but social game of badminton, enjoy a pint and a chat, but above all have a sense of humour!

Should you wish to hear more or talk about joining us please ring me on 01608 810032 or email me at <mailto:charlmere@tiscali.co.uk>.

*Richard Cocks*

## **CHARLBURY CRICKET CLUB**

Following numerous cricketing successes in 2006, this summer promises to be another exciting one for Charlbury Cricket Club. Exciting developments are also taking place off the field. The club are actively seeking detailed costings for the extension to the current pavilion, for which planning permission has been granted, and are working on plans to refurbish the existing building. An appeal will be launched as soon as the costs are known, and a special working group is starting to draw up a series of ideas for fundraising events.

The club are also discussing the possibility of seeking charitable status in keeping with the new legislation on healthy community sports adopted last November, as this could create a number of favourable financial opportunities.

Finally, if you have some free time on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, why not come down to the ground and watch some cricket this summer? You would be very welcome.

### *News from the Youth Section*

The Youth Section season began at the end of April and we are hoping for more good cricket this year from youngsters living in and around Charlbury. Boys and girls are welcome to join and details can be obtained either from the club’s website

[www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk](http://www.charlburycricketclub.co.uk) or from the Youth Section Secretary, Geoff Lowe, on 01608 810580. New this year, we have a “Tots” group for 3–5 year olds, which meets at the Club on Saturdays from 10.30 to 11.15, and also a women’s team which is open to players of all standards, from novice to expert.

*Derek Collett*

---

## Atlantic Baptist University Oxford Study Programme

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:

*From the moment I set foot in Charlbury, I knew it was a particularly unique TOWN. Amidst the movie-like setting and the beautiful English landscape, the 'Charlburian' character left the most wonderful impression.*

*The people here are extraordinary. **Melissa F***

Thank you for making us feel at home, the dinners, friendly faces, greetings, and most importantly our hosts who welcomed us into their homes with open hearts! I will surely miss the beautiful green landscape that made outdoor exercise so enjoyable. **Caroline T**

I will miss the hospitality of my host Liz and of our Sunday lunch hosts. My experience here has been unforgettable. **Alanna G**

*I couldn't have asked for a better host than Liz. The production of Harlequinade and Gosforth's Fete was really cool. Special thanks to the Rose and Crown - my first formal introduction to Charlbury life. Thank you to The Bell for pretty much everything, except for karaoke and the resulting CD...!! I never expected to meet such good friends here. **Kaitlyn G***

I am going to miss those lovely green walks, seeing the town come to a stop when snow swoops in, hearing the beautiful birds from every corner, singing songs of praise with other community members in church, hearing the bells ring throughout the town, drinking tea and eating "pudding", and of course all those lovely chats that I had with many of you. Charlbury is a beautiful place. Thank you for welcoming me here and making your home my home. **Monica**

*Special thanks to my hosts for taking such good care of me, also to the Library for returning all our books to Oxford. Also to Mike Summers who helped us get online and stay connected. **Julie K***

My favourite part of England was living here, in Charlbury. The people at the Baptist Church have been so welcoming and kind. I was privileged to know Betty Stokes, one of the most fascinating people I've ever met. She lit up my days and I will miss staying in her home. **Maria S**

*I especially love the ladies at the Good Food Shop who regaled us with some great conversation... and good food! It has been wonderful to be part of a community with so much culture and energy. **Niki H***

The community is very friendly and welcoming and it reminds me of small town Canada. I'll especially miss the countryside here in the morning **Meaghan M**

*Thanks for all the great people at the Post Office, who were so helpful to me. **Leah E***

Thanks to Dave Murphy for taking us on scenic walks through the countryside and for teaching us how to create beautiful pictures. Thank you also to John Harrison for printing them out for us. **Leslie N**

*Thanks to Ann Revell for patiently invigilating our exams and for her general support. We also really appreciated the help of the staff at the Railway station. **Heather A***

Thank you to those who went out of their way to make us meals, drive us to different locations and events, and to all those who opened their homes to us, especially Lee. **Bethany VW**

*Charlbury is a magical place, full of pleasant people and friendly dogs! Special thanks to the coffee shop, where Monica and I were treated to a second, larger piece of chocolate cake! **Emily C***

The ABU—Oxford organisers are very grateful to all those who offered Homestay accommodation and to all those who entertained our students to Sunday Lunch.

Peter Colyer, Finance Coordinator  
ABU Oxford Programme (UK) January to April 2007  
Lynn Robson - Academic Coordinator  
Madeleine Wheare - General Coordinator

## Michael Moss's Charlbury Quiz

Each of these questions refers to a place name in Charlbury. At the end, re-arrange the initial letters of each answer to reveal a popular refreshment centre. Answers at the end.

1. Do you find old English coins here? (7,4)
  2. Bovine crossing county track (11,3)
  3. Fleet chalet (6,7)
  4. Take the gravity out of a headache (7)
  5. Tree that is moon-shaped (3,8)
  6. The cold dairy churn (8,4)
  7. Bronte Hero at this site (9,5)
  8. Did Charles 1st hide here (5,3,7)
  9. Giving the ewe a present we hear (5,6)
  10. The Iron Duke knocks out goats etc (10,8)
  11. 43,560 square yards (4,5)
  12. Place of worship very near (6,5)
  13. Upset colder Tory (3,7)
  14. Little margin on this path (6,4)
  15. Sounds like a well-balanced cargo nearby (8,5)
- 

### **Meals on Wheels - a vital service to the community**

Do please let the organiser Marjorie Glasgow know if there is anyone who would like to receive Meals on Wheels on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ring her on 810161

## Community First Responders

*Carol Hughes explains about a new initiative which has started in Finstock*

There is now a First Responder team up and running in the Finstock, Ramsden and Wilcote area. This area has now been extended to cover Leaffield, Hailey, Charlbury, North Leigh & Stonesfield.

**What is a Community First Responder?** A Responder in the community is a volunteer who, after intensive training by the Ambulance Service and a Criminal Record Bureau check, goes into the community ahead of an ambulance, after a 999 call has been made. Whilst waiting for the ambulance, a Responder can offer help & assistance in cardiac arrest, breathing problems, chest pain & minor injuries. The kit that is carried consists of an Automated External Defibrillator, oxygen, breathing help & first aid equipment.

A Responder has ongoing training with workshops every month, with a compulsory update every 6 months. When someone dials 999 for an ambulance, if the ambulance control believe the patient is in a life-threatening condition, they dispatch an ambulance immediately. If appropriate, they will also alert any Responder who is available in the community, who would proceed to the address given, assess the situation, help where possible, hand over to the ambulance crew when they arrive, stay and help if needed, or leave and put themselves on call again.

We are currently fundraising for the kit (which costs £1,700) and we are collecting spent printer cartridges and old mobile phones for the British Heart Foundation & Ambulance League of Friends who fund this scheme. A collection box has been placed in the Doctors' Surgery, or you can ring for a free collection from anywhere in the area. We have just done a tabletop sale in Witney and raised £105 to go towards the kit and will continue to fundraise at local events if we can.

We hope you will support this worthwhile community service.

First Responders Coordinator: Caroline Booth (01993 868272)

*Carol Hughes (tel: 01993 868710)*

---

**ON THE WOOLLEN TRAIL:** For almost 1000 years Witney was dominated by the wool trade, earning a world-wide reputation for high quality blankets. Now you can follow this fascinating story with the Witney Wool & Blanket Trail, a new booklet celebrating this rich heritage with a circular 3 mile walk around the town. It is available free from Witney Visitor Information Centre, 26a Market Street. Visit [www.witneyblanketstory.org.uk](http://www.witneyblanketstory.org.uk)

**HELP BEAT VANDALISM:** People are being encouraged to report vandalism to help fight the problem in West Oxfordshire. Last year over 40% of reported crime in the District was vandalism. To report any incident of vandalism call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or the Police on 08458 505 505



**Voices Unlimited**  
**9 months on and all's well**

Now under the official title of 'Voices Unlimited' Charlbury's Community Choir/Singing Group is sounding splendid. Numbers have risen steadily since its start in May 06 (50 on the list and 20-30 per session) as has the level of confidence. Four part harmonies resonate around the walls of the Friends Meeting House with ease on Tuesday nights and we all go home feeling much uplifted. We went as a group of 16 people to a mass choir event in London last Sept as part of an event called 'Sing for Water' (a fundraiser for Water Aid). Many thanks to anyone who sponsored us and especially to the Baptist Church for their donation. We donned our velvets and sparkly bits for a Xmas sing at a residential home in Witney which was a lovely thing to bring to the folks there.

If you feel moved to give the group a go...do come along. The numbers of men are growing (we are delighted to announce) - so if you are male and thought you might be a lone voice - be encouraged!

Tuesdays term time 7.15—9.15pm,  
Friends Meeting House, Charlbury  
Cost £4-£6 (commitment/concessions depending)

Contact Kath for info 01608 811293

---

**CHARLBURY WEATHER** — *John Stanley's quarterly report*

**February 2007** was another warmer than normal month, with daytime maximum temperatures ranging from 35° on 8th and 9th to 53° on 20th. The month average maximum was 47.25°, which is 1.12° above that for the last 18 years. During the nights, temperatures dropped to 20° on 6th/7th, but remained as high as 44° on 23rd/24th.

**Winter 2006/7.** The average maximum temperature during the December to February period was 47.23° equalling the record set in the first year that I kept records (1989/90). This is 2.84° above the 17 year average.

**March 2007** continued the warm trend with a daytime maximum average of 52.19°. The 18 year average is 51.40°. The daytime temperature ranged from 60° on 17th to 42° just 3 days later on 20th. At night, the temperature dropped to 28° on 20th/21st, and 29° on 21st/22nd. These were the only two air frosts during the month. Generally, night minimum temperatures remained in the 35° to 40° range, but the highest was 46° on 16th/17th.

**April 2007** was the eighth consecutive month to record above average temperatures. An exceptional feature of April 2007 was a very long period of temperatures above 60°F on 23 consecutive days, running from 8th to 30th. Before this, temperatures ranged between 47° on 3rd and 60° on 2nd and 5th. The highest day temperature was 70° (April record 75° in 2003) on 15th. 2007 and it was by far the warmest April at 62.77° (average 56.35°), the previous record being 58.63° in 2002. The lowest night temperature was 33° and the highest 52°.

---

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – CHARLBURY BRANCH

### **The Poppy Appeal:**

A Poppy Appeal Organiser is urgently needed for Charlbury and the surrounding villages. For more information please telephone the Branch Secretary, Jane Parsons, on 810822. Please also contact Jane if you would like to help with the 2007 Poppy Appeal in some other way.

### **Assistance :**

For further information about the work of the Legion, how to join or how to obtain assistance, please contact Nick Potter [Branch President] on 810388 or Derek Fowler [Branch Chairman] on 811706.

*Jane Parsons, Branch Secretary*

---

## **SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2007 - BLENHEIM FARM DISCOVERY DAY and 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 2pm to 4pm**

Come along to Charlbury's Blenheim Farm Community Nature Reserve for a fun-filled discovery afternoon for families.

There will be guided walks and activities for families.

This wonderful site was generously donated to BBOWT, your Local Wildlife Trust, by Don and Pamela Porter in 1987, and this year we are celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! This is a fantastic opportunity to find out more about its history, experience the wildlife and possibly even get involved with looking after it.

No need to book, just come along, join in and help us to celebrate this lovely reserve and its wildlife.

Location on the eastern edge of

Charlbury: OS sheet 164; SP365195

The reserve is accessed either from the footpath on the southern edge of the Centenary Woodland or from the footpath up from the bottom of the dip in The Slade.

*Christine Elliot*

For further information please contact Helen d'Ayala at BBOWT - 01865 775476

## OXFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCH TRUST STRIDE

Over the past years many people in Charlbury have taken part in the OHCT Ride & Stride, but equally there are probably some people who have never heard of it.

The Stride happens every year on a Saturday early in September; this year it will be on Saturday September 8th. Every church and chapel in Charlbury has been helped financially by the Trust, and the annual Oxfordshire Stride usually raises around £100,000. Last year Charlbury raised £1,408.70 (more with Gift Aid added) and half of the amount you raise goes to the church or chapel of your choice.

Originally cyclists got sponsorship and cycled round as many churches and chapels as they could between 10 am and 6 pm to be greeted by Welcomers at the churches. Now walkers (striders) are included and some people get the bus or train into Oxford and walk round as many churches or chapels as they can find there. Charlbury is an ideal introduction for young families as they have the opportunity to walk or cycle round five churches and chapels. One year my family managed to cycle from Charlbury to Spelsbury, Chadlington (church and chapel), Shorthampton, Leafield, Finstock and home. All sorts of routes can be planned in advance and sponsorship forms will be available in August in the churches, chapels and Charlbury Post Office.

I hope this will encourage people to take part as it is a very happy occasion especially when the weather is fine. If cycling, please remember to wear helmets and bright clothing, and please don't forget to put Saturday, September 8th in your diary!

*Sarah Potter*

## CHARLBURY BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

On Saturday June 30th. Coffee Morning & Sale, including Fair Trade goods, at the Corner House for Church Funds, 10 am.-12 noon.

**Operation Christmas:** Last November 80 filled shoe boxes were delivered to the Baptist Church, but this year we would like the town to fill at least 200! So can you all please start knitting hats, scarves, or gloves for children of all ages, or start collecting crayons, pens, rubbers, toiletries, and small toys. Also we shall need LOTS of empty SHOE BOXES! More details available in the September issue of the *Chronicle*.

---

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHARLBURY:** Junior Heroes Holiday Club, July 30 to August 3rd, 10-12 noon at Charlbury Methodist Church. Ages 5—11 years. Further details from Christine Pearce on 810846

**Answers to the quiz** (1) Tanners Lane ; (2) Oxfordshire Way; (3) Armada Cottage; (4) Hanover; (5) Elm Crescent; (6) Ditchley Road; (7) Rochester Place; (8) Royal Oak Cottage; (9) Sheep Street; (10) Wellington Cottages; (11) Nine Acres; (12) Church Close; (13) Old Rectory; (14) Narrow Lane; (15) Evenlode Close.

Initial letters when rearranged spell *The Rose and Crown*

## CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPORT – No. 43 *by Councillor Trevor Jones*

**Annual Parish Meeting:** This took place on 20<sup>th</sup> April. It is a requirement under the Local Government Act and is an opportunity for residents to raise issues with the Council. The meeting was attended by some 45 people who raised a variety of questions on a number of subjects including recycling of commercial waste, the impact of the proposed Spendlove development and future TV reception. These are being followed up by the Council – in particular a working party will be set up to consider the implications of new community facilities (including the library) on the Spendlove site, on the commercial businesses in the town centre and how these can best be dealt with. The Council apologises that the date published in the March edition of *Charlbury Chronicle* was incorrect. The date was published in the April edition of the Leaflet and placed on the local notice boards.

**Housing Needs Survey:** It is hoped that an insert will be supplied with this edition of the Chronicle with a housing needs survey (if not it will be the next one). We would appreciate all households completing and returning this survey, which will help us access the views of Charlbury residents on housing requirements and the needs for affordable housing.

**Riverside Festival '07:** At the time of writing we expect a licence to be issued for the Riverside Festival to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June on the Millfield. 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.

**Planning:** Government has been strongly promoting increased delegation of powers to planning officers by local authorities to improve speed of decision

making. WODC have recently changed their approach to delegation such that Town and Parish Councils can no longer ask for household applications to go to the Planning Committee. The Town Council has expressed its concern at this change but in any case will continue to robustly present its views on such applications to the planning officers. On a specific matter the Council continues to raise its concerns about the way in which the developer at Greystones appears to disregard the planning conditions set for the housing development there.

**Permissive Footpath Closure:** The Permissive footpaths on Wigwell Nature Reserve and Nineacres Recreation Ground was closed to the public on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2007. This is a legal requirement.

**Overhanging Branches:** As branches and other vegetation grow at this time of the year, please cut back where they create obstructions to pavements and other rights of way. It can be dangerous particularly for the elderly to be forced on to the road.

**Rights of Way:** Residents with gates opening on to Oxpens Allotments and Nine Acres Recreation Ground are reminded that this does not create a right of way.

**Wheelie Bins:** These can cause obstruction on narrow pavements and black bin bags may sometimes be more suitable. Bins can be unsightly if not stored away when not in use so it would be appreciated if they are stored away where this is possible. The Town Clerk Roger Clarke (tel. 810608) can advise on how to obtain a smaller bin or black bags.